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

Technical Committee  
Seventh meeting  
Amman, 18-19 March 2013

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**

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## ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the seventh meeting of the Technical Committee will convene at 10 a.m. on Monday, 18 March 2013 at ESCWA Technology Centre, Amman, Jordan.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Pursuant to rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply 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 on the basis of the provisional agenda". According to that rule, the provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting will be presented to the Technical Committee in document E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/L.1. The secretariat has prepared the provisional agenda in coordination with the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy, the body responsible for coordination with ESCWA, given that the United Arab Emirates, in its capacity as chair of the twenty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is currently chairing the Technical Committee pursuant to the terms of reference of the Technical Committee which stipulate that the chairmanship of the Committee shall coincide with the chairmanship of the Commission session.

Also, the proposed organization of work will be presented to the Technical Committee in document E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

3. Proposed ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/3)

The proposed ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 presents the overall orientation for the programme of work, the objective, expected achievements and indicators of achievement of each of the seven subprogrammes included under ESCWA programme of work, and the proposed activities to be implemented under the regular budget and those financed by the United Nations Development Account and by extrabudgetary resources. In preparing the proposed programme of work, the secretariat has taken into account emerging priorities at the global and regional levels. The Committee is invited to review the proposed programme of work and provide guidance in that regard and approve it with a view to submitting it to the Governments of member countries, and then to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption at its sixty-seventh session in December 2012.

4. Building capacity of member countries: good practice in technical cooperation activities and regional advisory services (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/4)

This document presents examples of projects and services implemented under the technical cooperation programme. Those activities constitute the practical aspect of the analytical and normative work undertaken by ESCWA. They consist of sharing information and experiences with member countries and harnessing practical expertise in formulating government sustainable economic and social policies and initiatives and in developing implementation plans and programmes, including workshops, fellowships and study tours, upon the requests of member countries and according to their needs. In that endeavour, ESCWA adopts an integrated and multidisciplinary results-oriented approach. Representatives of member countries are invited to take note of those activities and offer opinions and recommendations to improve them.

5. Regional and global priorities (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/5)

(a) Progress achieved in the preparation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/5(Part I))

This document reviews the progress achieved by the United Nations regional commissions in the preparation of the joint report on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 from a regional perspective. It gives an outlook of the preparation process at the regional and global levels, the targeted goals of the report, the role of each party involved in the preparation, in addition to the actions taken so far according to the agreed time schedule, and the United Nations bodies to which the report shall be submitted as well as the submission mechanism. This activity is included under ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013. Representatives of member countries are invited to take note of the progress achieved in that regard and offer their comments;

(b) Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/5(Part II))

This document addresses the participation of ESCWA and its member countries in the Rio+20 Conference. It contains an analysis of the outcome document “The Future We Want”, in particular the regional dimension of sustainable development in its three pillars: economic, social and environmental. The document emphasizes the importance of regional action to translate the outcomes of Rio+20 into viable national and regional programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development responding to the needs and priorities of the Arab region.

6. Revision of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/7)

The Technical Committee will consider the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA following the admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to its membership pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/1 of 10 July 2012. In ESCWA resolution 302(XXVII) of 10 May 2012 concerning the requests from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to become members of the Commission, the secretariat was requested to submit a recommendation to the Council that those requests be approved. In that resolution, ESCWA also requested the secretariat to invite all other Arab countries to become members of ESCWA and to coordinate with the relevant United Nations entities and the League of Arab States the re-designation of ESCWA to become the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Arab Region. The Technical Committee will revise the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA pursuant to its resolution 302(XXVII).

7. Progress achieved in the work of the secretariat (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/6)

The secretariat will present the following documents to the Technical Committee; representatives of member countries are invited to take note of the progress traced in those documents and offer suggestions and recommendations in that regard:

(a) Implementation of resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/6(Part I))

This document presents the action taken in implementing the resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2012) concerning the various areas of work under the mandate of ESCWA and the issues of importance to member countries;

(b) Implementation of recommendations made by the Technical Committee at its sixth meeting (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/6(Part II))

This document presents an overview of the actions and activities undertaken by ESCWA pursuant to the recommendations of the Technical Committee at its sixth meeting (Beirut, 1-2 December 2011);

(c) Implementation of recommendations made in the evaluation of the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/2012/C.7/6(Part III))

This document presents the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations that were made as a result of the evaluation of the intergovernmental mechanism of ESCWA and its subsidiary bodies. The secretariat had initiated this assessment pursuant to resolution 291 (XXV) concerning the frequency of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, which was adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session (Sana'a, 26-29 May 2008) and which requested the secretariat to carry-out an in-depth evaluation of the intergovernmental structure of ESCWA in the light of programme priorities as identified by member countries and the ongoing United Nations reforms to be reviewed at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission. For that purpose, the secretariat commissioned an independent expert to conduct the evaluation. The expert started the project towards the end of 2009. A preliminary report was prepared and submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010). The evaluation report was completed in July 2010. Its contents and recommendations were presented to the Technical Committee at its fifth meeting (Beirut, 6-7 April 2011). The Committee approved most findings of the evaluations and took note of the recommendations to be implemented taking into account the work environment and rules of procedure of ESCWA. A summary of the recommendations including the action taken for their implementation was presented to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

8. Date and venue of the eighth meeting of the Technical Committee

The Committee will decide the date and venue of its eighth meeting.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Technical Committee at its seventh meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its seventh meeting for discussion and adoption.

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