

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

Thirty-first session  
Cairo, 16-18 December 2023



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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12. Implementation of resolutions and recommendations made by the Commission at its seventh special session and adoption of reports on Executive Committee meetings held since the thirtieth session.

13. Reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies:
  - (a) Report of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (Alexandria, Egypt, 20–21 October 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.5/2022/9/Report](#));
  - (b) Report of the fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development (Beirut, 14–15 November 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/11/Report](#));
  - (c) Report of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 16–17 November 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/7/Report](#));
  - (d) Report of the third session of the Committee on Trade Policies (Tunis, 7–8 March 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.6/2023/11/Report](#));
  - (e) Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Beirut, 8 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.2/2023/7/Report](#));
  - (f) Report of the fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 19–20 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/9/Report](#));
  - (g) Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 20–22 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.3/2023/9/Report](#));
  - (h) Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Women (Beirut, 10–11 October 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/8/Report](#)).

#### **Management issues**

14. Programme performance in the period 2020-2023.
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#### **B. Ministerial segment (18 December 2023)**

17. Opening.
18. Arab vision 2045: striving to fulfil aspirations through deliberation, determination and action
  - (a) First round-table discussion: premises and pillars of the Arab Vision 2045.
  - (b) Second round-table discussion: initiatives and projects of the Arab Vision 2045.
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#### **Annotations**

##### **A. Senior officials segment**

1. Opening

The thirty-first session of the Commission will be held in Cairo. It will comprise two segments: the senior officials segment, which will begin at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, 16 December 2023, and the ministerial segment, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, 18 December 2023, at the League of Arab States headquarters. The Chair of the thirtieth session will give the opening address at the senior officials segment, and the representative of the ESCWA secretariat will give a welcome address.

2. Election of officers

Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission provides that member States shall chair the sessions of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations,\* and that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, elect from among the representatives of its members two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall remain in office until such time as their successors shall be elected and be eligible for re-election. Tunisia chaired the thirtieth session.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8, article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Chair according to rule 12, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. Pursuant to that rule, the Commission will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for the session in the present document E/ESCWA/31/L.1, and with the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/31/L.2. The Commission may adopt these two documents in the form in which they are submitted or make amendments thereto.

4. Consideration of requests by States Members of the United Nations and/or its specialized agencies that are not members of ESCWA to participate as observers in the thirty-first session of the Commission (E/ESCWA/31/3)

Under this item, the Commission will be presented with requests received from States Members of the United Nations and/or its specialized agencies that are not members of the Commission to participate as observers in its thirty-first session, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV), paragraph 4, and rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

The Commission is invited to consider and approve these requests.

**Governance in the light of global and regional developments**

5. The governance challenge of the Arab region (E/ESCWA/31/4)

The Commission will discuss the challenge of development governance in the Arab region using a comprehensive index developed by the ESCWA secretariat, which measures shortfalls from desirable achievements in three areas: quality of basic human development as represented in the three traditional components of the Human Development Index; environmental sustainability; and governance.

The Commission is invited to review index findings and analysis of the governance challenge and comment thereon.

6. Governance of natural resources: extractive industries as an engine for sustainable development (E/ESCWA/31/5)

The Commission will review the current status of extractive industries in the Arab region, and the challenges and available opportunities for transforming these industries into catalysts for sustainable development. The Commission will also discuss disparities in supply and demand for energy transition materials in Arab countries, and recommendations to align development in extractive industries with the region's energy transition objectives.

The Commission is invited to comment on means to improve the governance of natural resources in the Arab region.

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\* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

7. Economic governance: market competition challenges in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/31/6)

The Commission will discuss the main challenges that hinder effective market competition and adequate competition law and policy implementation. It will review market structure in Arab economies, gaps and strengths of current competition laws in Arab countries, and the interlinkage of competition, anti-corruption and good governance.

The Commission is invited to make recommendations on ways to improve competition in Arab economies.

8. Governance of recovery and prevention: essential State functions and processes (E/ESCWA/31/7)

The Commission will review the core functions performed by a State in conflict prevention and recovery processes. It will also discuss recommendations on reforming the public sector with a view to ensuring that it assumes its role in prevention; promoting social cohesion and inclusion; and investing in human capital for achieving sustainable development.

The Commission is invited to express its opinion on ways to ensure that the State and public institutions assume their role in conflict prevention and recovery.

### **War on Gaza**

9. War on Gaza: social and economic repercussions (E/ESCWA/31/8)

The Commission will be presented with an overview of the immediate impact of the Israeli war on Gaza in terms of human, material and economic losses, and of preliminary estimates of some of the enduring economic and social repercussions, both on Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory. These include implications related to deprivation, multidimensional poverty, unemployment, monetary poverty and gross domestic product. The Commission will also review the economic and social landscape in the occupied Palestinian territory prior to the war and the repercussions of the Israeli occupation on living conditions therein.

The Commission is invited to share its views on ways to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the context of the war on Gaza.

10. War on Gaza: tenets and essential elements for sustainable recovery (E/ESCWA/31/9)

The Commission will discuss a proposition by the ESCWA secretariat on tenets and essential elements for guiding reconstruction and recovery processes in Gaza, and the development process in the entire occupied Palestinian territory.

The Commission is invited to comment on this proposition and on ways to ensure sustainable recovery in Palestine.

### **Work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

11. Outcomes of the 2023 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (E/ESCWA/31/10)

The Commission will consider the outcomes of the 2023 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held on the theme “Solutions and actions” in Beirut and online, from 14 to 16 March 2023; and its key messages to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held in New York and online from 10 to 19 July 2023.

The Commission is invited to take note of the Forum’s messages.

12. Implementation of resolutions and recommendations made by the Commission at its seventh special session and adoption of reports on Executive Committee meetings held since the thirtieth session (E/ESCWA/31/11)

The Commission will review measures taken by the ESCWA secretariat to implement the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the seventh special session held in Amman on 20 and 21 December 2022. The Commission is invited to take note of implementation progress, comment thereon, and present on national implementation measures (to check resolutions and recommendations addressed to member States, kindly consult the report of the seventh special session of the Commission contained in document [E/ESCWA/S-7/17/Report](#)).

Under the same item, the Commission will also consider the reports of Executive Committee meetings held in the period between its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, namely the fifth meeting (Beirut, 18–19 December 2018, [E/ESCWA/EC.5/2018/14/Report](#)), the sixth meeting (Marrakech, Morocco, 15–16 June 2019, [E/ESCWA/EC.6/2019/16/Report](#)), the seventh meeting (Online, 21 December 2020, [E/ESCWA/EC.7/2020/5/Report](#)) and the eighth meeting (Amman, 23–24 December 2021, [E/ESCWA/C.8/2021/13/Report](#)) of the Executive Committee. The Commission is invited to review and adopt these reports.

13. Reports of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (E/ESCWA/31/12)

The Commission will consider the following reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies that were not presented to the Executive Committee, on sessions held in the period between the thirtieth and the thirty-first ESCWA sessions:

- (a) Report of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (Alexandria, Egypt, 20–21 October 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.5/2022/9/Report](#));
- (b) Report of the fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development (Beirut, 14–15 November 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/11/Report](#));
- (c) Report of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 16–17 November 2022, [E/ESCWA/C.1/2022/7/Report](#));
- (d) Report of the third session of the Committee on Trade Policies (Tunis, 7–8 March 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.6/2023/11/Report](#));
- (e) Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Beirut, 8 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.2/2023/7/Report](#));
- (f) Report of the fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 19–20 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/9/Report](#));
- (g) Report of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 20–22 June 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.3/2023/9/Report](#));
- (h) Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Women (Beirut, 10–11 October 2023, [E/ESCWA/C.7/2023/8/Report](#)).

The Commission is invited to review these reports and endorse recommendations contained therein.

### **Management issues**

14. Programme performance in the period 2020-2023 (E/ESCWA/31/13)

The Commission will review an overall evaluation of ESCWA under its programme of work since 2020, and the outcomes and lessons learned in implementing the six subprogrammes.

The Commission is invited to provide comments and recommendations on the overall performance of ESCWA.

15. Financial status of the Commission (E/ESCWA/31/14)

The Commission will review the financial status of ESCWA subprogrammes, including financial allocations and expenditures under the regular budget, the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources.

The Commission is invited to take note of the financial status of ESCWA and comment thereon.

16. Proposed programme plan for 2025 (E/ESCWA/31/15)

The Commission will consider the ESCWA proposed programme plan for 2025. It will review the overall orientation of the plan and the work of each subprogramme.

The Commission is invited to review the proposed programme plan for 2025 and provide recommendations, as necessary.

### **B. Ministerial segment (18 December 2023)**

17. Opening

The opening session of the ministerial segment will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 18 December 2023, at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo. It will comprise opening remarks, including an address by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA Rola Dashti and an address by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul-Gheit.

18. Arab Vision 2045: striving to fulfil aspirations through deliberation, determination and action (E/ESCWA/31/16)

ESCWA selected the “Arab Vision 2045: striving to fulfil aspirations through deliberation, determination and action”, developed in collaboration with the League of Arab States, as the theme of its thirty-first session. As part of its proceedings, the Commission will hold the following two round-table discussions to review the Vision’s premises and pillars and suggested initiatives and projects to implement it:

- (a) First round-table discussion: premises and pillars of the Arab Vision 2045 (E/ESCWA/31/16/CRP.1);
- (b) Second round-table discussion: initiatives and projects of the Arab Vision 2045 (E/ESCWA/31/16/CRP.2).

The Commission is invited to actively participate in the discussions and provide its views on the Arab Vision 2045.

19. Date and venue of the thirty-second session of the Commission

Rule 1, paragraph (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission provides that the regular sessions of the Commission shall be held every two years, at a time to be determined by the members of the Commission. The Commission is expected to hold its thirty-second session at the UN House in Beirut in 2025, unless it receives an invitation from a member State wishing to host the session.

20. Other matters

The Commission will discuss any other matters added by its members under this item at the time of the adoption of the provisional agenda.

21. Adoption of the recommendations and resolutions of the Commission.

The Commission will consider the draft recommendations and resolutions for discussion and adoption.

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