

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

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



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

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2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

**Follow-up issues**

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**Water security in the Arab region**

5. Improved groundwater management through innovative knowledge tools.
6. Midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade in the Arab region.
7. Water sector finance.
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**Programmatic issues**

9. Proposed programme plan for 2024 in the field of water resources in the light of regional priorities for the period 2021–2025.
10. Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources.
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Joint meeting with the Committee on Energy  
on the theme “Advancing the climate change agenda in the water and energy sectors”  
Beirut, 20 June 2023

### Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will open at 9 a.m. on Monday, 19 June 2023. The representative of the country that chaired the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will make a welcome statement, and the representative of the ESCWA secretariat will deliver the opening address.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.\* Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. The Committee shall also elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from representatives of member States.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee on Water Resources shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as set out in documents E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/L.2, respectively, or in amended forms.

### Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its fourteenth session to the ESCWA secretariat (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/3)

The Committee will review the activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of water resources, including activities under the ESCWA programme plan and those pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee at its fourteenth session.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and to provide guidance to the ESCWA secretariat on the way forward.

The Committee is also invited to make brief interventions on progress in implementing recommendations it made to member States at its fourteenth session ([E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/6/Report](#), para. 3).

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

## **Water security in the Arab region**

5. Improved groundwater management through innovative knowledge tools (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/4)

The Committee will be briefed on ongoing efforts for improved groundwater management in the Arab region through innovative knowledge tools, and on the support provided by the ESCWA secretariat in this area of work, including developing the Arab Groundwater Knowledge Platform and assessing the impact of climate change on groundwater. The Committee will also review planned capacity-building activities aimed at supporting member States in groundwater management.

The Committee is invited to make suggestions and recommendations on the improvement of integrated water resource management in the Arab region.

6. Midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/5)

The Committee will be briefed on the Arab region's engagement in the midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade, both at the regional and global levels, including through commitments made within the framework of the Water Action Agenda.

The Committee on Water Resources is invited to provide suggestions on areas of work that it would like the ESCWA secretariat to pursue, so as to fulfil the Water Action Decade and accelerate the achievement of water-related goals.

7. Water sector finance (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/6)

The Committee will consider the current sources of finance in the water sector in the region. It will also explore innovative sources of finance and ongoing and future initiatives in that regard.

The Committee is invited to take note of current work, and to make proposals on the way forward to increase access to finance for water sector actors.

8. Round-table discussion: Progress towards water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/7)

The Committee is invited to take stock of current progress in implementing water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the region, and to make interventions on national progress in implementation and relevant challenges and opportunities.

## **Programmatic issues**

9. Proposed programme plan for 2024 in the field of water resources in the light of regional priorities for the period 2021-2025 (E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/8)

The Committee will consider the proposed programme plan for 2024 of the ESCWA secretariat in the field of water resources, which was prepared in the light of regional priorities for the period 2021–2025, as discussed by the Committee at its fourteenth session and summarized in document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/CRP.1](#).

The Committee is invited to take note of the plan and to make comments and recommendations thereon.

10. Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its sixteenth session.

11. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that Committee members may wish to discuss.

12. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its fifteenth session

The Committee will review the draft recommendations of its fifteenth session for discussion and adoption.

Joint meeting with the Committee on Energy on the theme  
“Advancing the climate change agenda in the water and energy sectors”  
Beirut, 20 June 2023

As part of the proceedings of the fifteenth session of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources and those of the fourteenth session of the ESCWA Committee on Energy, the two committees will hold a joint meeting on the afternoon of 20 June 2023 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the theme “Advancing the climate change agenda in the water and energy sectors”. Member State representatives are invited to participate actively in the discussion, which will be based on document E/ESCWA/C.3/2023/CRP.1 - E/ESCWA/C.4/2023/CRP.1.

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