

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

Committee on Women
Twelfth session
Muscat, 8 December 2024



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Leaving no woman or girl behind in the Arab region

8. Leaving no woman or girl behind in the Arab region.
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Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Committee on Women opens at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 8 December 2024. The representative of Oman, the country hosting the session, will deliver a welcome statement, followed by an opening statement by the representative of the ESCWA secretariat.

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 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 applies 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 shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted in documents E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/L.1 and E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/L.2, respectively, or with the required amendments.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities on women's issues under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee at its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/3)

The Committee will review activities on women's issues implemented since its eleventh session, held in Beirut on 10 and 11 October 2023, including activities under the ESCWA programme plan and those undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eleventh session.

The Committee is invited to review the progress made and express its views and recommendations.

5. Technical cooperation activities (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/4)

The Committee will take note of the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat since the eleventh session of the Committee on Women at the request of member States in support of their efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women. These activities include advisory services, field projects and capacity-building activities.

The Committee is invited to take note of those activities and discuss technical cooperation needs and priorities for the coming period.

* 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.

6. Supporting the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/5)

The Committee will review the activities undertaken in support of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, established pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its seventh session (Muscat, 20–21 January 2016). The activities carried out are based on the terms of reference and priorities of the Subcommittee and on the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its eleventh session.

The Committee is invited to take note of implemented activities and make suggestions regarding avenues to continue supporting the Subcommittee in the coming period.

7. National action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its eleventh session (presentations by representatives of member States)

Representatives of member States will make presentations on national actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee at its eleventh session. They are invited to highlight their countries' needs for completing implementation, in order for ESCWA to determine its interventions in this respect for the coming period.

Representatives of ESCWA member States wishing to give a presentation or make an intervention under this item are invited to submit a request in advance to the Committee Bureau.

Leaving no woman or girl behind in the Arab region

8. Leaving no woman or girl behind in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/6):

The Committee will discuss a core principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the principle of “leaving no one behind”, from the perspective of women. It will provide a comprehensive overview of the status of the most marginalized women and girls in the Arab region, including by age, disability, geographic location, and migratory status. The Committee will also examine the situation of women and girls in conflict-affected countries, who suffer from forced displacement and food insecurity, and are at increased risk of violence and sexual exploitation. The Committee will review urgent interventions proposed by the ESCWA secretariat to ensure that no woman or girl in the region is left behind.

The Committee is invited to provide comments and recommendations on the proposed interventions.

9. Socioeconomic situation of Palestinian women and girls (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/7)

The Committee will review the complex situation of Palestinian women and girls in the occupied Palestinian territory during the period 1 July 2022–30 June 2024, as they face the negative effects of occupation, political violence, and human rights violations. The Committee will also examine the compounded impact of Israeli policies on women and girls, including increased settlement activity, and threats of eviction and house demolitions, particularly in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. In addition, it will address the consequences of the 17-year Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip and the current war. In this context, the Committee will discuss recommendations put forward by the ESCWA secretariat aimed at improving the situation of Palestinian women and girls, such as ensuring a comprehensive humanitarian response that is sensitive to their needs.

The Committee is invited to comment on these recommendations.

10. Regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 30 years in Arab countries (E/ESCWA/C.7/2024/8)

The Committee will examine the regional review process for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Arab countries thirty years after their adoption. The review process was based on a participatory work programme that included undertaking regional activities and meetings, and providing technical support to countries in preparing their national reports and periodic reviews of progress achieved. The Committee will review the outcomes of the consolidated Arab report on this topic, including national achievements and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Committee is invited to discuss the outcomes of the consolidated report and comment on ways to move forward in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region.

11. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Women

The Committee will agree on the date and venue of its thirteenth session.

12. Other matters

This item will cover any other matters that the Committee may wish to raise and discuss.

13. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its twelfth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption.
