

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/L.1
19 August 2011
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic
Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region
Seventh session
Beirut, 4-5 October 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Progress of the negotiations of the Doha Development Round in the area of services over the last ten years: a regional perspective.
5. Review of action taken in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development since the sixth session of the Committee:
 - (a) Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session;
 - (b) Activities related to liberalization of foreign trade under ESCWA programme of work;
 - (c) Activities related to economic globalization and financing for development under ESCWA programme of work.
6. Financing for development: Progress achieved in implementing the Monterrey Consensus and mitigating the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development in ESCWA member countries.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development.
8. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The seventh session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 October 2011, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut. The representative of Saudi Arabia, in his capacity as Chairman of the sixth session of the Committee, will give the welcome statement. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA will deliver the opening address, which will be followed by a statement by the Minister of Economy and Trade in Lebanon, under whose auspices the session will be held.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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".* Pursuant to that rule, Yemen shall assume the chairmanship of the seventh session of the Committee, succeeding Saudi Arabia, which assumed the chairmanship of the sixth session, from 6 July 2009 to 4 October 2011. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur among its member representatives.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "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". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda for this session in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/L.1. It will also be presented with the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Progress of the negotiations of the Doha Development Round in the area of services over the last ten years: a regional perspective (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/3)

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with a report prepared by ESCWA secretariat on the progress of the negotiations of the Doha Development Round conducted in the area of services over the last ten years from a regional perspective. The services sector was selected to be the focus of the report for its effective contribution to the growth of other sectors, creation of employment opportunities, poverty reduction and sustainable development in the countries of the ESCWA region. The report is based on the package of documents about the negotiations of the Doha Development Round, issued by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in April 2011, in which it presents a review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda since 2001. ESCWA report summarizes the part related to the negotiations on services in the WTO documents, presents the stances and priorities of member countries with regard to the services sector, and proposes actions required in order to make progress in that field.

* ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

5. Review of action taken in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development since the sixth session of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/4 comprising the following three parts:

(a) Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/4(Part I))

This document contains a review of the activities implemented and measures taken in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development, pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixth session. Member country representatives are invited to take note of what has been achieved and make comments and recommendations in that regard.

(b) Activities related to liberalization of foreign trade under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/4(Part II))

This document contains a review of the activities related to the liberalization of foreign trade, which were implemented by ESCWA under its programme of work since the sixth session of the Committee. Member country representatives are invited to take note of those activities and make comments and recommendations in that regard.

(c) Activities related to economic globalization and financing for development under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/4(Part III))

This document contains a review of the activities related to economic globalization and financing for development, which were implemented by ESCWA under its programme of work since the sixth session of the Committee. Member country representatives are invited to take note of those activities and make comments and recommendations in that regard.

6. Financing for development: Progress achieved in implementing the Monterrey Consensus and mitigating the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development in ESCWA member countries (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/5)

This document contains a review of the progress achieved by member countries in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002), and the recommendations of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, 20 November - 2 December 2008). It also presents an overview of the efforts exerted by those countries to mitigate the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development pursuant to the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (New York, 24-26 June 2009).

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.2/6)

This document presents the proposed outputs and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development during the biennium 2012-2013, under subprogramme 3 on development and economic integration which is implemented by the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The programme of work was prepared in line with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 adopted at the

twenty-sixth session of ESCWA (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010). Member country representatives are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development and provide comments and recommendations in that regard.

8. Date and venue of the eighth session of the Committee

The Committee will discuss the date and venue of its eighth session which will convene in 2013.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its seventh session, which includes the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.
