

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

Committee on Water Resources
Twelfth session
Amman, 22-24 March 2017

Information note*1. Background*

The Committee on Water Resources was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/26 of 24 July 1995. The decision to establish the Committee on Water Resources took into account the importance of the participation of ESCWA member States in the planning, development and monitoring of ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. The Committee held its first session in Amman in 1997, the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth sessions in Beirut in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2004 respectively, the seventh session in Muscat in 2007, the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions in Beirut in 2008, 2011 and 2013, and the eleventh session in Amman in 2015. The Committee will hold its twelfth session in Amman from 22 to 24 March 2017.

2. Objectives

The twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources aims to provide ESCWA member States with an intergovernmental forum to discuss issues related to water resources in the Arab region. The focus of this session will be on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with respect to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs and the water-energy nexus. The agenda of the session also comprises items on regional cooperation on shared water resources and climate change adaptation in the Arab region, in addition to regular items, namely the review of progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session and the water-related activities undertaken under the ESCWA programme of work since that session. The Committee will also have before it the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of water resources.

3. Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session includes annotations for the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/L.1. The proposed organization of work will be presented in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/L.2.

4. Participants

Representatives of ESCWA member States will participate in the meetings of the session. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions and civil society organizations are also invited to

attend the session as observers. Participating Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

5. Date and venue

The twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman from 22 to 24 March 2017. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 22 March 2017 and the opening session will convene at 9.30 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude by 12 noon on Friday, 24 March 2017.

6. Language of the session

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some parliamentary documents. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

7. Accommodation and transportation

Kempinski Hotel in Amman is offering preferential rates to participants. Participants should provide the ESCWA secretariat with details regarding their travel, including airline, flight number and date and time of arrival and departure, in order to enable the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for room reservation and airport pick-up with the hotel management, if so requested.

8. Entry visas

ESCWA may coordinate with the Government of Jordan to assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour, scanned copy of their passport containing all the required information to the ESCWA secretariat.

9. Correspondence

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

Ms. Roula Majdalani
Director
Sustainable Development Policies Division
ESCWA
Riad El-Solh Square
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: + 961-1-978-502
Fax: + 961-1-981-510
E-mail: majdalani@un.org

Ms. Carol Chouchani Churfane
Chief, Water Resources Section
Sustainable Development Policies Division
ESCWA
Riad El-Solh Square
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: + 961-1-978-518
Cel: + 961-3-769-466
Fax: + 961-1-981-510
E-mail: chouchanicherfane@un.org
