



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/L.1  
25 October 2013  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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

Committee on Women  
Sixth session  
Kuwait, 4-5 December 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**

1. Opening of the session.
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  - (b) Gender mainstreaming in public institutions in the Arab countries.
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  - (b) Preparations for the 20-year review of progress in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20).
7. Programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of advancement of women.

8. Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee on Women.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session.

## ANNOTATIONS

### 1. Opening of the session

The sixth session of the Committee on Women is held in Kuwait on 4 and 5 December 2013. The opening session begins at 10 am on Monday 4 December 2013, and is chaired by the Sudan which is assuming the presidency of the fifth session of the Committee on Women. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will deliver the keynote speech. A representative of Kuwait, the host country will also make a welcome statement.

### 2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA provides that member countries 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.\* Pursuant to that rule, Iraq shall chair the sixth session of the Committee on Women, following the Sudan which chaired the fifth session from the day it was held on 19 December 2011 to 4 December 2013, date of the sixth session. The Committee shall then elect, among its members, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, which apply to subsidiary bodies, provides that at the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Committee shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. Pursuant to that rule, the provisional agenda shall be submitted to the Committee on Women, in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/L.1, and the proposed organization of work shall be submitted in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/L.2. Both documents may be adopted by the Committee as submitted or following amendments.

### 4. Progress achieved in the field of advancement of women since the fifth session of the Committee on Women:

- (a) Implementation of activities related to the advancement of women under ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, and pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its fifth session (E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/3)

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this item, which includes a review of the activities and programmes undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women since the fifth session of the Committee. Those activities and programmes were implemented in the framework of ESCWA programme of work in the field of advancement of women for the biennium 2012-2013, and pursuant to the recommendations addressed to the secretariat which were made by the Committee at its fifth session. It should be noted that the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its fifth session included recommendations addressed to member countries, and

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

others addressed to the secretariat. The implementation of recommendations addressed to member countries will be reviewed under item 4 (b).

(b) Actions taken by member countries in the field of advancement of women pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its fifth session

Member country representatives shall give presentations on national actions taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Women at its fifth session, and challenges faced in that regard. The secretariat asks member country representatives to identify in their presentations the support needed by their countries to implement the recommendations. Member country representatives wishing to give a presentation should submit a request in advance to the Committee bureau. The sequence of presentations shall follow the order of registration of requests.

5. Regional issues:

(a) Frameworks for combating violence against women in the Arab countries: national laws and international standards (E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/4)

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this item which focuses on combating violence against women and the protection of victims. It also highlights the need to criminalize gender-based violence. Member country representatives are invited to discuss these issues and agree on recommendations on the ways to combat violence against women and girls in the Arab region.

(b) Gender mainstreaming in public institutions in the Arab countries

The secretariat will give a presentation on national initiatives and experiences in mainstreaming a gender perspective in public institutions in the Arab countries. It will highlight the main challenges and obstacles faced by national machineries for the advancement of women and propose recommendations in that regard drawing on a number of successful experiences. In the following discussions, member country representatives will present the experience of their respective countries in mainstreaming gender in public institutions summarizing their achievements and the challenges faced.

6. International issues:

(a) Arab women and gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/5

The secretariat will give a presentation based on the document submitted to the Committee under this item, which reviews women and gender issues in the post-2015 development agenda and the priorities of the Arab region with regard to women empowerment and gender equality. The review concludes with a set of recommendations and proposed regional policies within the post-2015 development agenda.

(b) Preparations for the 20-year review of progress in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20) (E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/CRP.1)

The secretariat will review the action taken in the regional process of reviewing the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries (Beijing+20). This review aims to identify the roles and stages for the preparation of national reports and subsequently the regional report on the subject. It should be noted that this regional report will form the Arab section of the global report on the review and assessment of the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action 20 years after it was

adopted. The regional report will be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session to be held in New York in March 2015.

7. Programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of advancement of women (E/ESCWA/ECW/2011/IG.1/6)

The Committee will take note of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of advancement of women, which includes the expected achievements and performance indicators. The secretariat will present the strategy and vision of the ESCWA Centre for Women with regard to the implementation of the programme of work amidst the challenges facing the Arab region and their repercussions on the status and rights of women.

10. Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee on Women

Member country representatives shall agree on the date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee on Women.

11. Other matters

This item covers any other issues that the Committee members may wish to raise and discuss.

13. Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session

The Committee shall consider and adopt the draft recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session.

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