
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

6th ESCWA Technology Center's Technical Committee Meeting
Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan 2-3 October 2018

Information Note

I. Background

ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC) is a specialized regional centre and a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) established in 2010 by ESCWA in implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 5/2010 on July 2010. ETC is hosted by the government of Jordan at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman, Jordan.

The Centre's mission is to assist ESCWA member countries and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world, and to contribute to the conversion of the economies of member countries into economies based on scientific and technological knowledge. The main objectives of the Centre is to strengthen the capabilities of local, national and regional stakeholders operating in member countries to develop, transfer, and adapt technology; and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of such technologies. The Centre also aims at enhancing the technological and scientific knowledge content of major economic sectors in member countries. In accordance with the ETC statute, a technical committee is formed annually consisting of experts from member countries and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (more information in the box below)

As per the statute of the Centre, the Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Executive Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Executive Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Board at its next session.

The chair at each meeting of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the majority vote of those members of the Technical Committee present and voting.

II. Context of ETC Technical Committee

In 2015, the international community has committed to an overarching sustainable development agenda that is based on an integrated and holistic approach to development notably through The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), The Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where technology transfer and adaptation is a key driver and a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development.

At the regional level, ESCWA has prioritized technology for development by mainstreaming it under a number of thematic areas notably natural resource management technologies, ICT, knowledge economy, technology for inclusive development while also looking into internet governance and technical and socio-

economic challenges related to the adoption of frontier technologies. These issues are being dealt with by different divisions within ESCWA, primarily Technology for Development, Sustainable Development Policies, Economic Development and Integration Divisions.

Within this context, ETC is focusing on appropriate, affordable and environmentally sound technologies and technology transfer for SDGs achievement. ETC is particularly zooming in on SDGs, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 (please see box of related SDGs). The main approach for delivering on the sustainable development agenda is working through a network of partners including the private sector, primarily young entrepreneurs, startups, and academic scientists and researchers

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Furthermore, ESCWA member countries mandated ESCWA secretariat to organize the 30th ministerial session during 25-28 June 2018 under the theme of technology for sustainable development in the Arab region. Three high level roundtable discussions were organized during the session to emphasize the importance of integrating technology and innovation in national development plans and ensuring technology inclusiveness leaving no one behind. In addition, the roundtables' discussions focused on Arab countries priorities that govern policy and regulation within the 4th industrial revolution and emergence of frontier technologies.

The ministerial session concluded with the adoption of the Beirut Consensus which highlighted the following key messages (for the full document please visit the following web link:<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/1800279.pdf> .):

- The great potential for current and emerging technology and innovation to contribute to sustainable development in advancing the structural transformation of economies, enhancing productivity and creating decent jobs in the Arab region.
- The importance of capacity development to innovate, and adapt technological breakthroughs.
- The importance of working on technologies associated with natural resources management where a potential exists for efficiency improvement, in particular water and energy efficiency, renewable energy leading to food security and environmental sustainability.
- Support the development of technological ecosystems that are adapted to the socioeconomic, environmental and political context of Arab countries that are able to attract private sector

investment and foster innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship.

- Building strong partnerships with civil society in pioneering and promoting technology towards participatory policymaking.
- Promotion of cooperation and regional integration in technology and innovation through ESCWA programmes.
- The member states emphasized the use of technology to achieve global Climate change targets.

III. Objectives of the meeting

Within the above background, ETC is organizing the sixth technical committee meeting during 2-3 October 2018 in Amman, Jordan. The aim of this technical meeting is to provide guidance on the focus areas of the centre and on its work program for 2019 based on the outcome of the ministerial session and key regional technological priorities.

The deliberations of the two-day technical meeting will produce a set of key messages, and recommendations reflecting the participants' views. These key messages and recommendations will advise the preparation of ETC 2019 work program and will be included in a meeting report to be presented during the 8th meeting of ETC Board of Governance (BoG) in November 2018.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- Discuss the translation of the outcome of ESCWA ministerial session (including Beirut Consensus and the outcome of the high level three round tables) into priority areas that could be included in ETC work program for 2019.
- Deliberate on technology priorities and needs of member countries that fall within ETC strategic objectives and areas of intervention.

IV. Participants

Participants in the meeting include technical experts from the region in various developed and emerging technologies, representing stakeholders from the academic and research institutions, industrial, public sector, and related UN organizations. International experts and organizations will be also invited to participate in the meeting.

V. Organization of the meeting

A. Date and venue

The Meeting will be held during 2-3 October 2018 at Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at 9:00 am on 2nd October 2018 to register for the meeting which will promptly start at 9:30 am with the opening session. The meeting will conclude on Wednesday 3rd October 2018.

B. Language of the session

The meeting will be conducted in the Arabic and English languages. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be available.

C. Registration

Invited experts are kindly requested to submit their completed meeting registration form (attached) before 5th September 2018.

D. Travel

Air travel reservation and ticketing for sponsored participants will be arranged by ESCWA. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the least expensive route in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. Participants attending the meeting at their own cost are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to cover the cost of their hotel, meals and incidental expenses, in addition to a fixed terminal expenses allowance to cover their airport transfers.

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to bring with them on the first day of the meeting their passport, a copy of their airline ticket and original boarding pass. Participants from Palestine are also requested to bring their bridge crossing fee receipt. Sponsored participants will be asked to complete a bank details form to allow for the electronic transfer of their sponsorship entitlements following the meeting.

E. Accommodation

The meeting will be held in Kempinski hotel Amman. Preferential rates for participants accommodation at Kempinski (Single Room-70 JOD, Double Room-75 JOD, Res: Hasan.Alrantisi@kempinski.com, rates are subject to 10% Service Charge and 16% Sales tax). Participants are requested to arrange their own accommodation. Entry

F. Visas

Participants are requested to secure their own visas for travel to Jordan, as may be necessary. ESCWA can coordinate with the Government of Jordan to assist in obtaining entry visas only for those participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send ETC a request with a color scanned copy of their national passport containing all the required information no later than 5th September 2018.

VI. Correspondence

Inquiries and completed registration forms should be submitted to the following officials:

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