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

Committee on Water Resources  
Tenth session  
Beirut, 20-22 March 2013

**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 countries 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 and 2004 respectively, the seventh session in Muscat in 2007, the eighth session in Beirut in 2008, and the ninth session in Beirut in 2011. The Committee will hold its tenth session in Beirut from 20 to 22 March 2013. During this session, the Committee will commemorate the tenth anniversary of holding its sessions and will celebrate the World Water Day, which is observed annually on 22 March.

*2. Objectives*

The tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources aims to provide an intergovernmental forum to discuss the challenges and obstacles confronting the region in the area of integrated water resources management, focusing on regional approaches for addressing water supply and sanitation, climate change and shared water resources management.

Given that 2013 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 65/154 of 20 December 2010, the International Year for Water Cooperation and that the 2013 World Water Day shares the same topic, the theme of the tenth session of the Committee shall be "Regional Water Cooperation". Discussions with ESCWA member country representatives during the current session will thus address the issue of regional cooperation in monitoring and reporting on water supply and sanitation, assessing climate change impact on water resources and managing shared water resources in the Arab region. Member country representatives will also review the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session and work undertaken by ESCWA in the field of water resources under its programme of work since that session, in addition to ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015.

*3. Agenda*

The provisional agenda for the current session includes items and annotations related to the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/L.1.

#### 4. *Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member countries 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 tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 20 to 22 March 2013. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 March 2013 and the opening session will convene at 10 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude at 3 p.m. on Friday, 22 March 2013.

#### 6. *Language of the session*

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

#### 7. *Accommodation and transportation*

Following coordination with ESCWA, the Markazia Monroe Suites Hotel in Beirut 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.

#### 8. *Entry visas*

ESCWA may coordinate with the Government of Lebanon 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:

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