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Committee on Women
Third session
Abu Dhabi, 14-15 March 2007

REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ON ITS THIRD SESSION
ABU DHABI, 14-15 MARCH 2007

Summary

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Committee on Women held its third session at the headquarters of the General Women's Union, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 14 and 15 March 2007.

During the session, the Committee considered the items on the agenda under three main themes. The first dealt with the advancement and protection of Arab women living in conditions of war and armed conflict. Under the second, on the status of Arab women, challenges and future prospects, a round table was organized to discuss the progress made by Arab countries towards improving Arab women's status through implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; the Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005; the Beirut Declaration - Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, which was adopted by the Arab countries at the second session of the Committee on Women in 2004; Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security; and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 3, on promoting gender equality and empowering women. Challenges, obstacles and prospects were identified with regard to full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly. Under the third theme, the programmes, the Committee considered the report of the ESCWA Executive Secretary on the activities undertaken by the Centre for Women between the second and third sessions of the Committee on Women, as well as the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of the advancement of women.

This report contains a summary of the discussions on each agenda item and the recommendations issued by the Committee.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.....	1	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AT ITS THIRD SESSION	2-4	3
A. Recommendations to ESCWA member countries.....	3	3
B. Recommendations to ESCWA.....	4	4
II. TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION	5-32	5
A. Arab women, armed conflict and prospects for development	5-11	5
B. Round table: Arab women: status, challenges and future prospects.....	12-26	6
C. The report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women between the second and third sessions of the Committee on Women	27-29	9
D. Proposed programme of work in the field of the advancement of women for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009.....	30	9
E. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Committee on Women.....	31	9
F. Other matters	32	9
III. ADOPTION BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE REPORT ON ITS THIRD SESSION	33	9
IV. Organization of the session	34-42	10
A. Venue and date of the session.....	34	10
B. Opening	35-37	10
C. Participants	38-39	10
D. Election of officers.....	40-41	10
E. Agenda and proposed organization of work.....	42-43	11
F. Documents	44	11

LIST OF ANNEXES

I. List of participants	12
II. List of documents.....	18

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Women held its third session on 14 and 15 March 2007, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within ESCWA of a committee on women, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2003. The ESCWA resolution stipulated that the Committee on Women should hold its sessions biennially, with effect from 2004, and that an inaugural session should be held before the end of 2003. The inaugural session was held on 4 and 5 December 2003, while the second session was held from 8 to 10 July 2004. The third session was held in Abu Dhabi on 14 and 15 March 2007, at the kind invitation of Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairperson of the Arab Women Organization, Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Institution and Chairperson of the General Women's Union in Abu Dhabi.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AT ITS THIRD SESSION

2. Guided by ESCWA resolution 278 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on increasing the role of women in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peace building, are the Beirut Declaration - Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, which was adopted by the ESCWA Committee on Women at its second session, and having considered the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Advancement of Women Under War and Conflict Situations, which was held the day before the Committee session, namely, on 13 March 2007, the Committee on Women issued the following recommendations :

A. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

3. The following recommendations were made to member countries :

(a) Existing laws and legislation which discriminate against women should be reviewed and updated and new laws should be promulgated on personal status, penal issues, nationality, labour, and social and public life, that are consistent with the international women-related instruments and, in particular, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

(b) Countries should accede to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;

(c) Laws should be enacted to protect women living in conditions of insecurity, war and armed conflict, by punishing and bringing to justice the perpetrators of all attacks and crimes against women, as set forth in international humanitarian and criminal laws;

(d) Protection and support should be provided for women living in conditions of insecurity, war and armed conflict and programmes should be devised to support women, including legal aid, basic needs, relief and rehabilitation services, justice and reparations;

(e) The gender perspective should be mainstreamed in all ministries and Government bodies, including in development plans and public budgets at the central and local levels;

(f) Reservations to international women-related conventions and treaties should be reviewed and action taken to withdraw them and implement those instruments;

(g) Training courses should be organized on gender mainstreaming, protection of women and commitment to equality and justice for State employees and, in particular, the local police and judiciary;

(h) Civil society should be supported as a partner in realizing democracy, broadening political participation and disseminating the culture of equality and equity;

(i) Mechanisms for the advancement of women should be provided with the funds necessary to enable them to achieve their mandates;

(j) Measures, including quotas, should be taken in order to increase women's representation in parliaments, local councils and political decision-making;

(k) Awareness must be raised of women's rights and their effective role in various social spheres and, in particular, in the economy and building the future;

(l) Attention should be paid to young men and women and youth leadership in women's movements and plans, programmes and legislation should be devised to assist in raising their awareness and involving them in public life.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESCWA

4. The following recommendations were made to ESCWA:

(a) The Commission should work in close cooperation and coordination with the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and other relevant parties on the following issues:

(i) Preparations for Beijing + 15;

(ii) Evaluation and follow-up of Beijing + 10;

(iii) Supporting the efforts of Arab countries to implement the resolutions and recommendations of regional and international conferences;

(iv) A harmonized position should be developed by Arab countries and reflected in the relevant international forums, conferences and reports submitted to the United Nations;

(b) Efforts to advance the status of women and support women's issues should be intensified by providing a forum for dialogue and joint action among decision makers and civil society organizations, including women's movements;

(c) Support should be provided for mechanisms concerned with the advancement of women by organizing training, providing technical assistance and consultancy, carrying out studies, facilitating communication and the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, helping States withdraw reservations to CEDAW and raising decision makers' awareness of that instrument;

(d) A study should be carried out in cooperation with the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and UNIFEM on legal awareness of the protection of women living in conditions of war, and legal follow-up in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes against women;

(e) Obstacles to women's participation in the economic field must be highlighted with a view to their removal, and that participation must be increased;

(f) In partnership with United Nations and Arab regional organizations, a database of gender disaggregated information should be established in order to assist informed planning at every level;

(g) With United Nations and Arab regional organizations, ESCWA should provide training and rehabilitation services designed to empower women and improve their performance in fields in which ESCWA is active;

(h) ESCWA should work continuously with the media to remove all stereotypes of Arab women and raise awareness of international conventions on women's rights.

II. TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

A. ARAB WOMEN, ARMED CONFLICT AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 5)

5. The Officer in Charge of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development/Economic Commission for Africa, Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo, presented a study on women in post-conflict Rwanda. She highlighted the terrible suffering experienced by women as a result of the inter-tribal genocide and conflict, which led to the murder of some 800,000 persons in 1994. During that period, women had to bear the burden of caring for injured, displaced and disabled persons, children and ageing persons in a patriarchal society where women are subject to harassment and have to suffer the effects of sexual violence, rape, forced marriage and pregnancies inflicted by soldiers and hostile tribes, in addition to HIV/AIDS and other health problems to which women are particularly susceptible.

6. However, in the face of those difficulties, women in Rwanda were able to contribute to the recovery of their country. Through strong commitment and cooperation, women substantially contributed to the rebuilding of their society. Their efforts were complemented by the cooperative attitude of the Government and civil society. A strong political will was demonstrated to ensure the participation of women, who represent half of society, especially in view of the fact that a large number of men had been killed or left the country during the war.

7. Women also assumed a significant role in public administration and political life. They represent 49 per cent of members of parliament, 44 per cent of Supreme Court judges, some 30 per cent of local court judges, 40.2 per cent of local administration heads, 28 per cent of executive positions and 26 per cent of district councils.* Through their contribution to public and political life, women have been able to influence the amendment of several laws that secure the interests of women, including a law on the participation of women in the economic field and a large number of laws that grant women additional rights in marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance and property.

8. In the presentation on women in Rwanda, it was also mentioned that the new constitution, as amended in 2003, set a 30 per cent quota for women's participation in decision-making. Efforts to combat sexual violence, and pressure exerted by society in general and women in particular led to the establishment in 1998 of the International Court to Combat Sexual Violence in Rwanda. As a result, many persons were convicted for having sexually abused women during the armed conflict of 1994.

9. Notwithstanding the significant achievements that have been made by women in Rwanda, major challenges remain, including continuing poverty and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, some inherited traditions and customs continue to restrict the activity and progress of women in Rwanda, particularly in rural areas.

10. During the discussion, participants raised the issue of the national reconciliation mechanism. The speaker emphasized the inclusive nature of the process: the national reconciliation committee comprised the Government, national courts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In reply to a question on

* Women have also been appointed to such important positions as President of the Supreme Court and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank.

performance monitoring, Ms. Ruzvidzo said that indicators were being developed to measure economic and social development rates in Rwanda.

11. Under the same item, the Committee considered document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/3, and noted the main recommendations addressed to Governments, NGOs and international organizations by the Expert Group Meeting on the Advancement of Arab Women Under War and Conflict Situations.

B. ROUND TABLE: ARAB WOMEN: STATUS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS
(Agenda item 6)

12. The round table was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women of Bahrain, Ms. Lulwa Al-Awadhi. She emphasized the importance of the discussion as the basis for streamlining the forthcoming work of the Arab countries at all levels. She said that the focus should be on critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action and that the discussion should conclude with a set of practical proposals and specific recommendations to Arab Governments, civil society organizations and ESCWA. Four papers were presented on the following: Arab women's movements, with the emphasis on future prospects; Six Years after the First Arab Summit on Arab Women: Achievements and Challenges; successes achieved in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Beirut Declaration in 2004-2006; and obstacles, challenges and future prospects.

1. *Arab women's movements: future prospects*
(Agenda item 6(a))

13. Under this item, Ms. Farida Bennani, a consultant to the ESCWA secretariat, reviewed the ESCWA report entitled "The Status of Arab Women in 2005: A History of Arab Women's Movements" (E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.1). She briefly detailed the origins of those movements in the Arab region and their main features, the mechanisms that had governed them in the past, their developmental stages, visions and mandates, enabling and disabling factors, role and impact.

14. Ms. Bennani then summarized the critical analysis of Arab women's movements, referring to strengths and weaknesses, and drawing up a set of conclusions on future prospects. She specified that women's movements in the Arab region should attach due importance to intellectual and cultural dimensions when calling for reform aimed at achieving full equality, and intellectual interpretations should be derived from the specific conditions of the Arab region, with due consideration being given to global intellectual developments and the provisions of international conventions. She pointed out that women's movements required a democratic environment, at both the internal and external levels, in order to function.

2. *Six Years After the First Arab Summit on Arab Women: Achievements and Challenges*
(Agenda item 6(b))

15. The Director General of the Arab Women Organization, Ms. Wadouda Badran, made a presentation based on document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.2, concerning achievements and challenges six years after the first Arab Women Summit, and gave a summary of the outcome of the first conference of the Arab Women Organization, which was held in Bahrain from 13 to 15 November 2006. She said that the Arab Women Organization had been established pursuant to the recommendations made by that Summit which was held in 2000. The Summit had also recommended that forums should be organized in order to consider ways of activating the role of women in the development process in the Arab region. As a result, eight forums had been held on the following topics: women and the law; women and politics; migrant women; women and the media; women and the economy; women and education; women and armed conflict; and women in science and technology. The aim of those forums was to formulate practical recommendations for improving women's status and participation in all fields.

16. Ms. Badran noted that the first conference of the Arab Women Organization had reviewed country and regional achievements with respect to implementation of the recommendations made by the eight forums. Increased awareness of women's issues had led to significant achievements in all the fields covered by the forums. However, those achievements remained fewer than hoped, given social and cultural complexities largely caused by religious interpretations and such external factors as occupation.

17. Some important recommendations that were made on the advancement of women included: activation of the media in order to provide balanced coverage of Arab women and their issues and struggles, with a view to strengthening women's role and participation; amendment of legislation in order to achieve justice and equity for women; addressing cultural considerations which hinder the enforcement of some legal texts; the establishment of centres for monitoring, investigation, study and research on all issues of concern for women; the broadening of women's participation in decision-making at all levels; the building of partnerships between all formal and informal bodies concerned with women's issues at the national and international levels.

*3. Successes achieved in implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action
and Beirut Declaration in 2004-2006
(Agenda item 6(c))*

18. Under this sub-item, the Committee considered E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.3, which set forth the achievements realized and obstacles and challenges faced by Arab countries in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Beirut Declaration between the second and third sessions of the Committee. The document was based on the outcome of the questionnaire sent by ESCWA to Arab Governments in July 2006, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.3/Supp.1. The questionnaire included questions on the following: Government mechanisms for the advancement of women; national legislation and international treaties; the participation of women in senior management and decision-making; empowering women to participate in the political arena and economic activity; establishing a database with gender disaggregated statistics; and women in the media.

19. The questionnaire showed a slight improvement in such areas as education, health, media and women's political participation in elections. However, the questionnaire revealed that improvement is needed in the role of women in the economic, political and technological fields, and that no progress has been made in the implementation of CEDAW, because of reservations that render ratification meaningless.

20. Conclusions stressed the need to strengthen national women-related mechanisms, provide them with the necessary human and financial resources and intensify efforts to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into national policies, strategies and action plans on women.

*4. Achievements, obstacles and future prospects
(Agenda item 6(d))*

21. Under this item, Ms. Islah Jad, a consultant to the ESCWA secretariat, presented E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.4. She reviewed the achievements of Arab countries since the Fourth World Conference on Women in the critical areas of concern set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, namely, poverty, education, health, women's human rights, mechanisms for the advancement of women, women in the labour market and the economy and in positions of power and decision-making.

22. It was made clear that, in spite of the significant achievements in some areas, there remained major obstacles and challenges to full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Beirut Declaration. Such external obstacles as war and conflicts caused by occupation, undermine the development process in some countries and destroy efforts aimed at the advancement of women and elimination of discrimination against them. Moreover, globalization is widening the gap between winners who benefit from privatization policies, and losers, mostly women of rural, poor and marginalized areas, who suffer the harmful effects.

Internal obstacles include the unequal distribution of resources between rural and urban areas and legislation, policies and practices that discriminate against women. In respect of the labour market, public office, political participation and property rights and within the family: many laws continue to consider women as subordinate to men, which exposes them to the clutches of poverty.

23. The document contained proposals on preventing war and restoring peace and security to the region, improving the position of women in the economy; building and activating national mechanisms for the advancement of women; increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making; formulating legislation to provide better protection and more services for women workers, including child care facilities in institutions that employ more than 30 women; monitoring the implementation of labour laws, including provisions on equal pay for equal work, and enacting legislation to protect women workers in the private and informal sectors. A further proposal called for the monitoring of reviews of reservations to CEDAW and promotion of issues related to the advancement of women in all State and civil society institutions.

24. Set forth below are some of the proposals considered and agreed upon by participants:

(a) There is a need to join forces in collecting statistics and data on Arab women. Wars and exceptional circumstances should not be permitted to obstruct endeavours and achievements related to the advancement of women;

(b) There is a need for closer coordination between regional organizations working in the field of women and for joint programme coordination meetings with the aim of avoiding duplication, harmonizing efforts and agreeing upon topics to be included in periodic questionnaires addressed to national women mechanisms, in order to ensure that those questionnaires meet the needs of those regional organizations;

(c) Integrated social policies should be adopted and the necessary institutional mechanisms established to protect achievements and withstand any attempt to reverse gains; and women's issues should be treated as an integral part of the concerns of society as a whole;

(d) The appropriate intellectual and cultural foundations for the advancement of women should be developed, in order to ensure that progress made is consolidated and has a solid intellectual and cultural basis;

(e) Men should be involved in efforts to empower women, as main partners in the development process, in any effort for the advancement of women, and men and youth should be invited to participate in discussions on women-related issues;

(f) National laws should be brought into line with international conventions, the legal knowledge and awareness of society should be raised, and legal culture should be translated into behaviour and practice;

(g) Particular attention should be paid to young women and alternative youth leaders should be created. The needs of that age group should be taken into consideration. Linkages should be established between the training and educational specializations and employment opportunities available to women; efforts should continue to eradicate illiteracy among women and raise their legal technical and vocational awareness; attention should be paid to all women in Arab societies, including non-Arab women workers; and there should be cooperation with the media in order to correct stereotypical images of Arab women throughout the world.

25. Some participants drew attention to the fact that some information, figures and statistics had changed since publication of the reports and studies, and needed to be updated in a way to reflect such changes.

26. At the end of the meeting, ESCWA presented awards to Ms. Wadouda Badran, Director General of the Arab Women Organization, and Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Regional Coordinator of UNIFEM, in appreciation for their efforts with regard to Arab women's issues.

C. THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE
FOR WOMEN BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD SESSIONS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
(Agenda item 7)

27. Under this item, a representative of the ESCWA secretariat introduced, with reference to document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/5, the activities undertaken by the Centre for Women between the second and third session of the Committee on Women, and, in particular, implementation of ESCWA resolution 264(XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the implementation of the Beirut Declaration. Mention was made of the studies prepared by ESCWA, the meetings and training sessions organized for member countries and NGOs, the manuals, publications and information kits issued in order to strengthen communications with, inter alia, Governments, national committees and ministries, in order to support women's issues and facilitate the exchange of information and views.

28. Also reviewed were the advisory and training services provided by the Centre for Women to Arab countries, at their request. Those services largely focused on gender mainstreaming, preparation of CEDAW national reports, strategic planning, the empowerment of women and gender equality.

29. A documentary film on the Centre for Women was shown, and the electronic forum it had established for national women mechanisms was demonstrated.

D. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
FOR THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009
(Agenda item 8)

30. A representative of the secretariat introduced this item by providing a general overview of the proposed programme of work on the advancement of women for the biennium 2008-2009, based on document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4. The activities of the programme of work were designed according to the general orientation of subprogramme 6 that will be implemented by the Centre for Women as part of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009. The proposed programme was presented for consideration and adoption by the Committee. Member countries were invited to extend all support needed for implementation. The Committee adopted the proposed programme in the form in which it was submitted.

E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
(Agenda item 9)

31. It was decided to hold the fourth session of the Committee on Women at ESCWA headquarters, Beirut, in November 2008.

F. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 10)

32. The Committee did not consider any matter under this item.

III. ADOPTION BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE REPORT ON ITS THIRD SESSION

33. The Committee adopted the draft report on its third session as presented in E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.7.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE SESSION

34. The Committee on Women held its third session at the headquarters of the General Women's Union, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 14 and 15 March 2007.

B. OPENING

35. The session was opened by Ms. Maysa El-Shamsi, Consultant to the Chairperson of the Family Development Institution in Abu Dhabi. She made a statement on behalf of the sponsor of the session, Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairperson of the Arab Women Organization, Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Institution and Chairperson of the General Women's Union in Abu Dhabi. She welcomed participants with the hope that the session would be successful, and that efforts would lead to a prosperous future for women and families and greater security and peace for all human beings.

36. Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, made a statement in which she thanked Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak for her sponsorship of the session, which proved her support for women's causes and advancement. The Executive Secretary welcomed participants.

37. Ms. Noura Khalifa Al Suweidi, President of the General Women's Union, Abu Dhabi, who had assumed the chairmanship of the second session, congratulated participants on the opening of the third session of the Committee on Women.

C. PARTICIPANTS

38. The session was attended by representatives from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Palestinian delegation could not attend because of the closure of the Rafah crossing. Representatives of the following States Members of the United Nations non-members of ESCWA attended the session in the capacity of observer: Mauritania and Tunisia.

39. Representatives of national councils, bodies and committees and institutional mechanisms specialized in women's issues from Arab countries also attended the session, as did representatives of the following United Nations bodies: the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNIFEM Regional Office for the Arab States, the International Labour Organization Regional Office (ILO), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Representatives of regional and national governmental and non-governmental organizations, research centres and institutes also attended the session as observers, as did experts on women's issues. The list of participants comprises annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

40. Pursuant to rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission, which stipulates that "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”, Ms. Lulwa Al-Awadhi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women of Bahrain, assumed the Chairmanship of the session.

41. Ms. Ghada Hamdan, member of the Executive Bureau of the National Commission for Women of Lebanon, and Ms. Faten Abdel-Rahaman Mahmoud, Minister of State for Women’s Affairs of Iraq, were elected as Vice-Chairpersons, and Ms. Asma Khader, Secretary- General of the National Commission for Women of Jordan, was elected as Rapporteur.

E. AGENDA AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

42. At the second meeting of its third session, the Committee on Women adopted the agenda for the session as laid out in E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.1, as follows:

1. Opening of the third session of the Committee on Women.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
4. Proposed organization of work.
5. Arab women, armed conflict and prospects for development.
6. Women in the Arab region: status, challenges and future prospects.
7. The report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women between the second and third sessions of the Committee on Women.
8. Proposed programme of work in the field of the advancement of women for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009.
9. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Committee on Women.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Women on its third session.

43. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work presented in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.2.

F. DOCUMENTS

44. A list of the documents submitted to the Committee on Women at its third session comprises annex II of this report.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Ms. Lulwa Al-Awadhi
Secretary General
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Izzat Bint Abd Al-Rahman Al Khalifa
Officer -in-charge
International Cooperation Administration
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Suha Hassan Falamarzi
Director of the Secretary General's Office
Supreme Council for Women

Egypt

Ms. Jinat Farouk Al-Samalouti
Suzanne Mubarak Women's International
Peace Movement
Professor at College of Economics/Cairo
University

Iraq

Ms. Faten Abd Al-Rahman Mahmoud
Minister of State for Women's Affairs

Jordan

Ms. Asma Khader
Secretary General
Jordanian National Commission for Women

Kuwait

Ms. Ikbal Jassem AlRameidin
Director of Women and Children's Department
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Ms. Amna Al-Sanioussi
General Supervisor
Women and Children's Department
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Ms. Siham Abd Al-Wahab Al-Farih
Women's Affairs Committee

Mr. Ahmed Al-Bustan
Special Advisor to Chairman of Women's Affairs
Committee
Director of Administration and Educational
Planning
College of Education/Kuwait University

Ms. Huda Abd Al-Mohsen Al-Shayji
Director of Legal Section of Women's Affairs
Committee
Director of Legislation Department

Ms. Dalal Faysal Al-Zabn
National Committee for Family Affairs and
Missing Persons

Lebanon

Ms. Ghada Hamdan Hadib
Member of the Executive Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Mirna Nicholas Azar
Chief of Legislative Committee
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Joumana Abou Al-Rous Moufarrej
Director of Administrative Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Oman

Ms. Sireen Bint Ali Bin Mustafa Al-Kadi
General Director of Women and Children's
Affairs
Ministry of Social Development

Ms. Amal Bint Saeed Bin Ahmed Al-Shanfari
Director of Women's Department
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Yunes Bin Khalfan Bin Saif Al-Maashari
Deputy Director
Department of Public Relations and Information
Ministry of Social Development

Qatar

Ms. Noor Abdallah AlMaliki
Director of Department of Women
Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Wadha Ali Sweidi
Member of Women's Affairs Committee
Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Saudi Arabia

Ms. Latifa Suleiman Ibrahim Abouniyan
Women's Social Issues Office in Riyadh
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ms. Hanan Saad Ibrahim AlJumaima
Social Worker
Women's Social Issues Office in Al-Sharqiyah
Ministry of Social Affairs

Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Bushra Kanafani
Media Director
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Syrian Commission for Family Affairs

Ms. Ghada Al-Jabi
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Labour
Expert
Syrian Commission for Family Affairs

Ms. Razan Al-Omry
Director of Social Affairs and Labour
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

United Arab Emirates

Ms. Noura Khalifeh AlSuwaidi
Director
General Women's Union

Ms. Ahlam Saeed Allamki
Director
Studies and Research Administration
General Women's Union

Ms. Miryam Salam Al-Munzari
Social Researcher
General Women's Union

Ms. Shaikha Muhammad Saeed AlMulla
Dubai

Ms. Amina Ibrahim Al-Dabbous
Executive Director
Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid
Al-Maktoum Children Creativity Award
Women's Development Association

Ms. Fatima Al-Hay Biyat Al-Kobeissi
Family Development Foundation/Wathba Branch

Yemen

Ms. Iman Abdallah Al-Hamami
General Director of Women's Issues
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

Ms. Rushaida Al-Hamdani
Chief of Women National Committee

Mr. Sultan Ahmed Ali Al-Kaisi
Director of the Office of President
Civil Status and Civil Registration Authority

Ms. Iman Yahya Mohsen Al-Nashiri
Branch Director
Women National Committee in Dhamar

B. STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS NON MEMBERS OF ESCWA

Tunisia

Ms. Naziha AlAbeidi AlZawabi
Director of Women's Affairs
Ministry of Women, Family and Children's
Affairs

Mauritania

Ms. Nabghouha Bint AlTalamid
Secretary
Secretariat for Women's Affairs

Mauritania (continued)

Mr. Ibrahim Fal Walad Muhammad Al-Amine
Consultant
Secretariat for Women's Affairs

Ms. Amanat Bint Beyda
Consultant
Secretariat for Women's Affairs

Ms. Yansurha Bint Muhammad Mahmoud
Director of Promotion of Women
Secretariat for Women's Affairs

Ms. Saydeh Bint Ahmad
Director of Family and Social Work
Secretariat for Women's Affairs

Mr. Muhammad Abd El-Hamid Al-Korshi
External Relations Officer
Embassy of Mauritania in Abu Dhabi

C. UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Economic Commission for Africa

Ms. Thokozile Rozvidzo
Officer-in-charge
African Centre for Women and Social Development
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

D. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Fateh Azzam
Middle East Regional Representative
United Nations House
Beirut, Lebanon

E. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Ms. Haifa Abou Ghazaleh
Regional Director
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Mouzah Al-Utaibah
Programme Coordinator in United Arab Emirates

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Faysal Abd El Kader Muhammad
UNFPA Representative in Egypt

International Labour Organization

Ms. Simel Esim
Officer-in-charge of Women's Affairs
Regional Office for the Arab States
Beirut, Lebanon

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RELATED BODIES

Arab Women Organization

Ms. Wadouda Badran
Director General
Egypt

National Population Council

Ms. Ahlam Abda Ali Abd Al-Rahman
Director General
Women's General Administration
Secretariat General
Sana'a, Yemen

G. REGIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Women Organization of Jordan

Ms. Emily Nafa' a
Director
Jordan

Arab Centre for Cultural Development

Ms. Nada Mo'zen Al-Ayoubi
Secretary General
Lebanon

Arab Family Organization

Ms. Sawsan Osman Abdellatif
Deputy Director
Egypt

Mr. Ahmad Abdel Rahman Hamouda
Consultant
United Arab Emirates

H. NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

General Federation of Jordanian Women

Ms. Anas Mousa Al-Saket
President
Jordan

Ms. Nadia Kamel Wafa' Al-Dajjani
Executive Committee Member
Jordan

Human Aid

Ms. Dalal Atoum
President
Jordan

Association for the Advancement of Women

Ms. Afra' Al-Hayy Mubarak
Executive Director
Advancement Office for Consulting and
Training
United Arab Emirates

Ms. Aysha Ahmad Al-Zawadi
Administrative Board Member
United Arab Emirates

Federal National Council

Ms. Fatima Ham ad Al-Mazroui
Member
United Arab Emirates

Mandela Institute for Human Rights and Family Affairs

Ms. Bathina Mattar Dakmak
Director
Palestine

Lebanese Family Planning Association

Mr. Toufik Osseiran
President
Lebanon

The Lebanese Collective for the Protection of the Family

Ms. Maha Munir Fat'ha
President
Lebanon

Mr. Yehia Mustafa Al-Mubsher
Legal Consultant
Lebanon

Imam Sadr Foundation

Ms. Thuraya Baalbaki
Administrative Director
Lebanon

Lebanese Council of Women

Ms. Fa'ika Turkiyah
President
Lebanon

Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against
Women

Ms. Laura Sfeir Shandar
President
Lebanon

Human Rights Commission

Ms. Hessa Bint Abdel Aziz Al-Mubarak
Dean, University Studies Centre for Women
King Saud University
Saudi Arabia

Ms. Amal Salameh Al-Shaman
Associate Professor, Educational Administration
Section
King Saud University
Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Women's Union

Ms. Wafa' Ahmad Ali AlFakih
President of Training and Projects Department
Yemen

Ms. Bilqis Hussein Al-Ribahi
Executive Office Member
Yemen

Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights

Ms. Amal Al-Basha
Forum President
Middle East and North Africa Regional
Coordinator
Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Yemen

I. UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH AND STUDY CENTRES

United Arab Emirates University

Mr. Ali Saleh Bin Tamim
Member of Educational Board
United Arab Emirates

Ms. Myriam Khalfan Al-Sweidi
Associate Professor/Arabic Language Department
United Arab Emirates

Al-Sharqa University

Ms. Amira Yussef Badri
Participating Professor in Social Development
Literature and Law College
United Arab Emirates

Ghantout Centre for Consulting, Conferences
and Training

Ms. Aysha Bint Al-Shaikh Muhammad Al-Kharji
Administrative Council President
United Arab Emirates

Ms. Majida Abdel Salam Mustafa Al-Jibli
Director
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Tarek Al-Shaikh
Training Director
United Arab Emirates

Lebanese University

Ms. Fahima Sharafeddine
Professor
Lebanon

King Abdul Aziz University

Ms. Samira Ibrahim Islam
Head of Drug Monitoring Unit
King Fahd Center for Medical Research
Saudi Arabia

J. EXPERTS

Ms. Asma' Toufik Abdallah Saleh Al-Sweidi
Lawyer
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim
Sales Director
United Arab Emirates

Ms. Lina Nasser Al-Dafaa
Social Activist/Author in Al-Sharq Newspaper
Qatar

Ms. Badria Abdel Rahman Abdel Rahim
Head of Burgan Oil Field Studies Working Group
Kuwait Oil Company

Ms. Batool Yahfoufi
Social Expert
Lebanon

Ms. Mouza Abdallah AlMaliki
Psychologist/Author
Qatar

K. EXPERTS WHO PREPARED MEETING PAPERS

Ms. Islah Jad
Associate Professor
Birzeit University
Palestine

Ms. Farida Bennani
Consultant
Morocco

L. CONSULTANTS

Ms. Zahira Kamal
Director
Women's Office for Research and Documentation
Palestine

Ms. Zeina Zaatari
Consultant
Middle East and North Africa Programme
Coordinator
Global Fund for Women
United States of America

Ms. Eileen Kattab
Director of Women's Studies Institute
Professor at Birzeit University
Palestine

Ms. Jean Makdisi
Author
Lebanon

M. ORGANIZERS

General Women's Union

Ms. Noura Khalifeh Al-Sweidi
Director
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Muhammad Al-Mansour
Officer-in-charge
United Arab Emirates

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Ms. Suheir Azzouni
Chief of Centre for Women
Lebanon

Ms. Miranda Hawa
Social Affairs Officer
Lebanon

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Provisional agenda	3	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.1
Annotated provisional agenda	3	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.1/Add.1
Proposed organization of work	4	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.2
Expert Group Meeting Recommendations on Arab Women, Armed Conflict and Prospects for Development	5	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/3
Women in the Arab Region: Status, Challenges and Future Prospects	6	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Rev.1
Arab Women's Movements: Future Prospects	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.1
Six years after the First Arab Summit on Arab Women: achievements and challenges	6 (b)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.2
Outcome of the review and evaluation of implementation of Beijing Platform for Action and Beirut Declaration in the period between July 2004 and December 2006	6 (c)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.3
Responses to questionnaires sent to national women's mechanisms		E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.3/Supp.1
Successes, obstacles and future prospects	6 (d)	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.4
The Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women between the second and third sessions of the Committee on Women	7	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/5
Proposed programme of work in the field of the advancement of women for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009	8	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/6
Report of the Committee on Women on its third session	11	E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/7
Information note		E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/INF.1