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

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

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. *Opening of the third session of the Committee on Women*

The third session of the Committee on Women will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 14 March 2007 at the headquarters of the General Women's Union in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

2. *Election of officers*

In accordance with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, section V, rule 18, "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.\* Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers". Pursuant to that rule, Bahrain shall take over the chairmanship of the third session of the Committee on Women from the United Arab Emirates, which has held the post since the second session was convened in July 2004. The Committee shall select from its members two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

3. *Adoption of the agenda*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, rule 8, which apply to subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Women, once the Chairman has assumed her duties, shall adopt its agenda at the beginning of its session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda for this session is contained in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.1.

4. *Proposed organization of work*

The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.2, which contains proposals relating to the organization of the session's work. The Committee may adopt that document in the form in which it is submitted, or make amendments thereto, as participants see fit.

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\* The Arabic alphabetized list of ESCWA member countries is as follows: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

5. *Arab women, armed conflict and prospects for development*

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/3, which contains the outcome of the expert group meeting on Arab women, armed conflict and prospects for development which was held on 13 March 2007, and there will be a discussion of the measures proposed with a view to supporting women living in conditions of armed conflict and the role that should be played in that respect by the relevant parties in Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the ESCWA Centre for Women.

Action to be taken: recommendations for the measures necessary to support women living in conditions of armed conflict.

6. *Round table: Arab women: status, challenges and future prospects*

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with the following four documents, which deal with the status, challenges and future prospects of Arab women:

- (a) E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.1, which deals with Arab women's movements and their role in the advancement of those women, with the emphasis on future prospects;
- (b) E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.2, which contains recommendations made at the conference which was held in Bahrain from 13 to 15 November 2006 entitled Six years after the First Arab Summit on Arab Women: achievements and challenges;
- (c) E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.3, which sets forth the status of Arab women, with the emphasis on the successes achieved by Government policies and the obstacles and challenges that were faced in the biennium 2004-2006. That information is based on the responses to the questionnaires that were sent to Governments concerning implementation of the most urgent items of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- (d) E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/4/Add.4, which details the achievements that have been made in respect of the advancement of Arab women, and the obstacles and challenges which have impeded their progress, since the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing in 1995, with a view to evaluating the progress made and putting forward proposals with regard to priorities for future work.

Action to be taken: discussion of the four papers and agreement on the priorities for action in the forthcoming stage, taking into consideration the Beirut Declaration that was issued by the second session of the Committee on Women in July 2004.

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*

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/5, which reviews the activities undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women since the second session of the Committee on Women.

Action to be taken: familiarization with the activities undertaken by the ESCWA Centre for Women.

8. *Proposed programme of work in the field of the advancement of women for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009*

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/6, which comprises the proposed programme of work for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009 and sets out the general direction for the work of the Centre in that period.

Action to be taken: discussion and adoption of the proposed programme of work for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2008-2009.

9. *Date and venue of the fourth session of the Committee on Women*

Document E/ESCWA/23/9 sets forth the dates on which it was agreed at the twenty-third ESCWA session that the ESCWA intergovernmental committees should meet. Accordingly, the fourth session of the Committee on Women will be held in Beirut in November 2008.

10. *Other matters*

This agenda item permits members of the Committee to introduce and consider any other issues as they see fit.

11. *Adoption of the report of the Committee on Women on its third session*

The Committee will consider and subsequently adopt the draft report on its session contained in E/ESCWA/ECW/2007/IG.1/L.7, incorporating any possible amendments thereto.