



INFORMATION NOTE

9th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) Headquarters

Beirut, Lebanon

25-28 March, 2019

1. Date and Venue of Meeting

The ninth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will be held at ESCWA Headquarters (the United Nations House) in Beirut, Lebanon from 25-28 March 2019. The meeting will comprise of a members meeting on 25 March followed by a 3-day plenary session from 26-28 March to which international agencies, non-IAEG member countries and other stakeholders are also invited. The meeting will be hosted by ESCWA and the plenary session will be held in the main conference hall at ESCWA.

2. Website address and documentation

The documents for the meeting will be available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-09/>

Participants are kindly requested to bring their copies of the documents as no documents or printing facilities will be made available in the meeting room. Free Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms at ESCWA.

3. Entry visas

Participants from many countries may be able to obtain a no-fee visa on arrival at the airport in Beirut. Participants should visit the website: <http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/38> and check with their local Lebanese Embassy to ensure

they are able to obtain a visa upon arrival. Participants from other countries may obtain entry visas to Lebanon through the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries. It is recommended to attach the invitation letter that can be sent by UNSD (upon request from the meeting participant) to the visa application. Requests for a visa letter should be sent to Ze Yar Min (min@un.org) and Benjamin Rae (raeb@un.org) at your earliest convenience. When making this request, please attach a scanned coloured, copy of your passport and expected arrival and departure dates to/from Lebanon in the email.

4. Accommodation and transportation

ESCWA suggests that participants book their accommodation at a Beirut hotel near the United Nations House. The secretariat has prepared a list of hotels offering preferential rates, which will be sent to participants by email and also posted on the meeting's website. To receive the preferential rate, participants are requested to inform the hotel that they are participating in the 9th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, hosted by ESCWA. Participants are also requested to organize transport to and from the airport with their respective hotel.

5. Languages of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

No simultaneous interpretation into any other languages will be provided.

6. Travel services

Travel assistance is available through the ESCWA Travel Unit located on the first floor of the United Nations House (room F-140, ext. 1143 or 1187), which is open during office hours from 7.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

7. Medical services

Medical facilities in cases of emergency will be provided at ESCWA during official working hours from Monday to Friday, from 7.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ESCWA clinic is located on the first floor of the United Nations House (rooms F-145 to F-147, ext. 1145 or 1146). For serious emergencies, the clinic will ensure immediate transport by ambulance and admission to a hospital with first-class facilities.

In the event of a medical emergency, the following ESCWA staff can be contacted for assistance and guidance:

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr. Josette Sfeir	Doctor	+961-1-978144
Ms. Lina Soubra	Nurse	+961-1-978145
Ms. Maya Louka	Nurse	+961-1-978146
Ms. Lamia el-Hage	Administrative Officer	+961-1-978139

There are many hospitals in Beirut with efficient medical equipment, including the following four major university hospitals within a short drive from the United Nations House:

Hospital	Telephone
American University of Beirut Medical Centre	+961-1-350000/ 374374
Hôtel-Dieu de France Hospital	+961-1-615400/ 615300
Saint-George Hospital University Medical Centre	+961-1-441000 +961-1-575700/ 1287
Rafic Hariri University Hospital	+961-1-830000

8. Security and safety

The ESCWA Security and Safety Section (ground floor, ext. 1025) operates on a 24-hour basis and maintains contact with all local emergency services and relevant authorities. Security officers are always prepared to provide assistance in all matters relating to security and safety.

9. Internet access

Wireless Internet is available on all floors, including the ground floor and MZ and B1 conference areas.

Access to the Internet requires a passkey, which is posted in public areas on each floor.

A computer room is also available at the B1 level to facilitate access to email services and the Internet.

10. Telecommunication services

The country code for Lebanon is (+961). The area code is (01) for Beirut and (03), (70), (71), (76), (80) or (81) for mobile phones. If you are dialing Lebanon from outside the

country, you must omit the (0) in the area code and for mobile phones starting with (03). For example, to reach the ESCWA secretariat from outside Lebanon, you may dial the country code +961 followed by the mobile or area code then by the six-digit phone number (+961-1-xxxxxx for calls to Beirut, or +961-3-xxxxxx or +961-70-xxxxxx for calls to mobile phone numbers).

The main listed telephone number of ESCWA is +961-1-981301. Direct calls can be made to staff member from inside Lebanon by dialing 01-978 followed by the last three digits of the four-digit extension of the party sought. For example, if the extension being sought is 1900 then the number to dial from inside Lebanon would be 01-978900. Direct internal calls from within the United Nations House can be made by dialing the four-digit extension.

Information on telephone calls may be obtained from the ESCWA Communications Unit (room F-229, ext. 1229). The operator may be reached within the building by dialing “9”. Personal telephone calls, fax, mail and courier services are provided against cash payment.

11. Prayer room

The prayer room is located at the mezzanine (MZ) level.

12. Transport

Many transport agencies in Beirut provide modern buses for sightseeing and tourist trips across Lebanon. There are numerous car rental and taxi offices in Beirut.

Commuting between hotels and the United Nations House can be made by taxi or “service”. “Service” vehicles may be hailed in the street; however, it is recommended to use taxi companies, which are considered safer. Popular online taxi apps are widely used in Lebanon.

The following are telephone numbers for popular taxi companies:

Company name	Number
Charlie Taxi	1514
Allo Taxi	1213
Trust Taxi	+961-1-427777
Lebanon Taxi	+961-1-353153
Geryes Taxi	+961-1-333666
Alliance Taxi	+961-1-245555
White Taxi	+961-3-010555
	+961-1-513593

13. Time zone

Lebanese time is GMT+2 hours.

14. Weather

During the meeting, the temperature in Beirut is expected to range between 13°C and 21°C.

15. Currency and exchange rates

The unit of currency is the Lebanese pound. The current exchange rate is about LBP 1,500 for \$1.00.

16. Electrical current

The electrical current is 220 volts AC country-wide. Note that plug sockets in Lebanon have two pins.

17. Useful numbers in Lebanon

Internal security forces (police)	112
Civil defense	125
Fire brigade	175
Red Cross	140
Telephone directory (Ogero)	1515
Beirut International Airport inquiries	150

18. Tourism

Lebanon is home to several historical sites and tourist attractions. For more information, visit the following websites: <http://www.mot.gov.lb>; <http://www.destinationlebanon.gov.lb>; and <http://www.lebanon.com/tourism>.

19. Contact information

For any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Mr. Benjamin Rae (raeb@un.org).
