

REFERENCE: EOSG/SLA/2025/9

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO 12 JANUARY 2026

Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to request the nomination of candidates for the position of Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). This position is at the Under-Secretary-General level, based in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Executive Secretary of ESCWA is a member of the Secretary-General's [Senior Management Group](#), and serves as a role model for the United Nations Values (Inclusion, Integrity, Humility and Humanity) and Behaviours Framework (Connect and Collaborate; Analyse and Plan; Deliver Results with Positive Impact; Learn and Develop; Adapt and Innovate), and the desired behaviours of the [United Nations System Leadership Framework](#). The Executive Secretary is also a member of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Group](#), which guides, supports, tracks and oversees the coordination of United Nations development operations in 162 countries and territories.

Background

Established in 1973, pursuant to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1818 (LV) and renamed per ECOSOC resolution 69/1985, as one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, ESCWA supports economic and social development in member countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, promotes interaction and cooperation between member countries, encourages the exchange of experience, best practice and lessons learned, aiming to achieve regional integration and ensure interaction between Western Asia and other regions, raising global awareness of the circumstances and needs of member countries Mission.

Further information on ESCWA is available on the following website: Further information on ESCWA is available in the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2010/7 and on the following website: <https://www.unescwa.org/>

Call for nominations and closing date

The Secretariat welcomes nominations to supplement the Secretary-General's search and consultations and would especially welcome the nomination of women candidates.

In accordance with the policy for the nomination of candidates, the Secretariat wishes to outline that it is the responsibility of the nominating Government to ensure that each candidate it nominates has not been convicted of or is not currently under investigation or being prosecuted for, any criminal offence, or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. In the case of nominees who have been investigated for, charged with, or prosecuted for any criminal offence

but were not convicted, the nominating Government is requested to provide information regarding the investigation(s) or prosecution(s) concerned.

The nominating Government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegations against its nominated candidate, and that they have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any acts that amount to violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Nominations must be submitted through the link to the Senior Leadership Vacancies online form located at the following web address: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/vacancies/index.shtml> by Monday, 12 January 2026 (11.59 pm New York time).

All nominations will be treated with the strictest confidence, and short-listed candidates will be contacted directly to undergo an assessment process, reference and background checks, including human rights and conflicts of interest screening.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Executive Secretary is accountable to the Secretary-General and is responsible for all the activities of ESCWA and its administration;

- Assists and advises the Secretary-General on matters concerning economic and social development in Western Asia and acts as a focal point in the Secretariat on matters concerning the economic and social development of the region;
- Represents the Secretary-General on special assignments relating to issues of economic and social policy on Western Asia;
- Identifies broad strategies for the development and implementation of the programme of work of ESCWA and maintains close contact with representatives of Member States and associate Member States, departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- Is responsible for the security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets within the ESCWA compound and for the implementation of the security and safety policies of the Organization;
- Promotes economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration;
- Assists in bringing a regional perspective to global problems and forums and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels;
- Provides substantive information and advisory services, and discusses issues and concerns of the Commission with representatives of member States, members of the legislative organs, other departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individuals active in relevant fields and the press, as required;

- Identifies broad strategies and development cooperation activities of regional and subregional scope, commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region, that are required for the development and implementation of the programme of work of the Commission;
- Ensures gender is mainstreamed throughout the work of ESCWA by assessing the implications for women and men, girls and boys of any planned action, including policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels, and fosters an enabling environment for gender equality, inclusion and open communication among staff and across organizational boundaries;
- Exercises collaborative leadership by contributing to shaping system-wide strategic priorities, joint policy formulation and decision-making of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, as well as to operationalizing system-wide policies or normative guidance for the UN's sustainable development activities;
- Provides substantive input and advice to United Nations reform efforts and ensures the implementation by ESCWA of the Secretary-General's reform proposals and decisions of the Executive Committee, Senior Management Group and Chief Executives Board, as well as decisions by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group;
- Engages in the regular statutory meetings of the Deputy Secretary-General with Executive Secretaries of regional economic commissions, and meetings convened by the Chef-de-Cabinet with Executive Secretaries of regional economic commissions, on management issues; and
- Carries out any special task or other duties that may be assigned to the Executive Secretary by the Secretary-General.

Skills and Expertise

The Secretary-General is seeking an individual with the following attributes:

- Demonstrated leadership experience with strategic vision and proven skills in leading transformation in, and managing complex organizations, such as intergovernmental, international non-governmental or multinational private sector entities;
- Demonstrated intellectual leadership in one or more of the following areas - international economic and financial policy, macroeconomic policy, trade, investment and innovation, and statistics, - within the context of sustainable development, and proven track record of high impact results;
- Demonstrated creativity and proven ability to propose new ideas and lead on new ways of working across silos and at the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in addressing the drivers of conflict, climate change, humanitarian action and developing effective institutions, capacities and resilience in a complementary and synergetic way for inclusive sustainable development and lasting peace;
- Demonstrated record of setting clear standards for accountability, probity, value for money and risk management and zero tolerance to fraud and corruption; for ensuring sound and transparent financial management; and delivering continuous improvement in the organizational impact, efficiency and effectiveness of ESCWA and in system-wide results;
- Proven track record of change management in complex organizations and accomplishments at the regional, national or international level with strong resource mobilization, political and diplomatic skills, with the capacity to provide leadership to an innovative, dynamic, diverse, and high-performing organization;

- Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously in a multi-cultural team and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization and to protect and empower women and young people;
- Proven ability to inspire, encourage, build trust and confidence and also build consensus, stimulate effective campaigns and drive collective action among a broad spectrum of people and organizations, with experience working in partnership with national and international actors to create opportunities and solutions to major economic and social development issues in Western Asia;
- High commitment to the values and guiding principles of the United Nations and familiarity with the United Nations system, including peacekeeping, climate change, human rights, humanitarian and development settings and challenges;
- Demonstrated commitment to working closely with the United Nations Secretary-General to mobilize the political support of Member States to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with extensive knowledge and/or experience of major economic and social development issues with a view to promoting policies and strategies for the development of Western Asia;
- Demonstrated excellent communication and representation skills, proven ability to persuade, motivate and influence stakeholders to accelerate transformational approaches and implement commitment, being a powerful and convincing advocate on all aspects of economic and social development issues in Western Asia and the broader sustainable development agenda, worldwide and within the United Nations system.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. For this position, fluency in English and Arabic is required. A working knowledge of French or other United Nations official language will be an advantage.

Human rights screening

In accordance with the policy for the nomination of candidates, the Secretariat wishes to outline that it is the responsibility of the nominating Government to ensure that each candidate it nominates has not been convicted of or is not currently under investigation or being prosecuted for any criminal offence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. In the case of nominees who have been investigated for, charged with or prosecuted for any criminal offence but were not convicted, the nominating Government is requested to provide information regarding the investigation(s) or prosecution(s) concerned. The nominating Government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegation(s) against its nominated candidate that they have been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any act(s) that amount to a criminal offence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, or violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Individuals who are either nominated by Member States or who seek to serve with the United Nations in any individual capacity will be required, if short-listed, to complete a self-attestation stating that they have not committed, been convicted of, nor prosecuted for, any criminal offence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

Conflicts of interest screening

All United Nations staff members are expected to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Senior leaders in particular, have the responsibility to serve as role models in upholding the Organization's ethical standards.

A conflict of interest occurs when, by act or omission, a staff member's personal interests interfere with the performance of their official duties and responsibilities, or call into question their integrity, independence and impartiality. Risk for conflicts of interest may arise from a staff member's engagement in outside (non-United Nations) employment or occupation; outside activities, including political activities; receipt of gifts, honours, awards, favours or remuneration from external (non-United Nations) sources; or personal investment. In particular, no staff member shall accept any honour, decoration, favour, gift or remuneration from any Government (staff regulation 1.2 (j)).

Where a real or perceived conflict of interest does arise, senior leaders are obligated to disclose this to the Organization without delay. In order to avoid real or perceived family influence or preferential treatment and conflicts of interest that could stem from such situations, the United Nations Staff Rules provide that appointments "shall not be granted to anyone who is the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of a staff member" (staff rule 4.7 (a)).

Short-listed individuals will be required to complete a pre-appointment declaration of interests for senior positions to identify possible conflicts of interest that may arise and to proactively prevent and manage, as much as possible and in a timely manner, situations in which personal interests may conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the United Nations, should the individual be appointed to this position.

The Secretariat takes this opportunity of reiterating to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

24 December 2025