Workshop: ESCWA toolkit to support States in designing national policies that mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment concerns

Summary

In support of the design of national policies that mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment concerns in Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has designed a package of policy tools in a number of areas. These include analysis of the economic and social situation in Arab countries; support for the harmonization of national efforts with international standards related to women’s issues; support for legislative reform and policymaking based on gender equality; analysis of institutional status and capacity; and estimation of the economic cost of domestic violence.

The present document summarizes these tools. The Committee on Women is invited to take note of them and provide observations and recommendations on their development.
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Introduction

1. Over the past 10 years, Arab States have made great efforts to address the gender gap and achieve higher levels of gender equality and women’s empowerment. At the international level, this is illustrated by the accession of many States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and their commitment to submit reports on its implementation, five-year reports on progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the national level, many Arab States have developed and implemented national policies, strategies and action plans that include empowering women, combating violence against women, implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, etc. Several States have also adopted gender-sensitive legal reforms, including laws against domestic violence, public violence and female genital mutilation.

2. Despite these positive developments, the Arab region has always ranked among the lowest in many global indicators of gender equality, demonstrating the need for more efforts to ensure gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region. If Arab States are to achieve a real gender equality transformation and fulfil their international human and women’s rights obligations, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, they must implement more comprehensive reforms, in accordance with international guidelines.

3. In the midst of the stagnation of the global and Arab economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused financial and human losses that the entire world will suffer for many years to come, these reforms must be aligned with the other social and economic policies of Arab States. According to estimates by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Arab countries lost nearly $180 billion in GDP in 2020, the number of poor people increased by about 16 million in the region and unemployment worsened, limiting access to education, health and other basic human rights. Inequalities and discrimination already prevalent in the region have also worsened, as for example the wage gap between women and men has increased to 79 per cent.

4. Under the current difficult circumstances, national policies must be adopted that are comprehensive, complementary inclusive to achieve the desired goals. Practical policy tools must also be provided to enable policymakers to identify potential policy alternatives that fit the national reality and available financial and human capabilities. To this end, ESCWA has developed a set of policy tools to help Arab States design national policies integrating a gender equality and women’s empowerment perspective. A selection of these tools is presented below.

I. Analysis of the economic and social situation

A. In-depth analysis of the status quo – COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker: Global Observatory on Social Protection Policy Responses (http://tracker.unescwa.org)

5. **Purpose of the tool:** To provide States and all stakeholders with detailed information on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the social protection measures taken to mitigate its effects.

6. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** There are many different sources of information on social protection measures and financial stimulus implemented by countries worldwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and these sources do not provide a full picture using a common understanding of the measures in question.

7. **Description of the tool:** The Observatory is an interactive platform presenting the social protection measures adopted by 194 States, including Arab States, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to its health, economic and social impacts. The Observatory provides information by type of social protection
measure and by region, in a coordinated manner to facilitate comparisons. The Observatory also provides maps and information on social protection measures for each country or region, as well as coordinated global policy measures on social protection. Because of the abundance of information the Observatory contains, it is a reliable source for Governments and practitioners to learn from peers and track pandemic response and reporting policies. The Observatory shows whether policies are aimed at women (mothers, pregnant women, survivors of violence) equally with men, or whether policies have been adopted primarily to address gender equality issues. Furthermore, the Observatory includes responses by States associated with the most vulnerable groups (children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases) or associated with what is known as “unpaid care”, which is considered as care services. Care services are considered by the Observatory as gender-sensitive measures.

8. **Advantages of the tool:** The Observatory stands out for the abundance of information and the tabulation of information by type and source of social protection services. The Observatory helps users extract information about a particular country or region in several forms and make comparisons.

9. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The Observatory was presented to Arab States during two regional events and one global event:
   
   (a) A meeting of the Expert Group on Social Protection Reform was held on 22 April 2020 online, to discuss “Policy response to the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: social protection”;
   
   (b) A special meeting of the ESCWA Committee on Women on “Policy responses to the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic: gender equality” was held on 23 April 2020 online;
   
   (c) An online launch event on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held on 13 July 2021.

10. **States that have implemented or are implementing the tool:** All Arab and non-Arab States benefit from the Observatory.

B. **Multidimensional Poverty Index Assist Tool (MAT)**
    (https://mpi.unescwa.org)

11. **Purpose of the tool:** The tool aims to calculate national measures of multidimensional poverty and assess alternatives before policymakers in a sophisticated, transparent and participatory manner. The tool helps in the analysis of society and its different groups, such as the identification of the middle class or other classes, and can be adapted to identify poverty affecting a specific group of the population, such as women.

12. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** Most States only calculate unidimensional material poverty, rather than adopting the concept of multidimensional poverty, which measures overlapping deprivations in health, education and/or standard of living. When only material deprivation is considered, it is difficult to determine the causes of poverty, identify the characteristics of the groups it affects and track how it changes over time. This hinders effective decision-making, complicates the efficient allocation of already limited national resources to ensure that they are delivered to those most in need and makes it difficult to adopt integrated policies that coherently address multiple aspects of poverty. The calculation of poverty was also time-consuming and required considerable resources and efforts.

13. **Description of the tool:** The MAT has been developed on an easy-to-use and flexible online platform to help decision makers design highly transparent national multidimensional poverty indices using multiple diagnostics and alternatives. The index is based on data from national censuses of persons living in poverty and measures the depth of their multidimensional deprivation. The MAT allows for analysis of the contribution of different dimensions of poverty to the degree of poverty, calculation of poverty by region, use of demographic variables such as gender, age or geographical area, tracking of poverty and its growth or decline over time and comparisons between Arab States. The scenarios presented by the tool allow for very rapid and
cost-free design and evaluation of national policies plus development of policy forecasts. At a later stage, the tool will allow for calculation of the impact of positive or negative shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wars or economic growth on the level of multidimensional poverty.

14. **Advantages of the tool:** The tool allows policymakers to:

(a) Build scenarios and alternatives for calculating national multidimensional poverty extremely quickly and efficiently;

(b) Save time, money and effort;

(c) Complete the information provided by monetary poverty to paint a full picture of poverty;

(d) Track the evolution of multidimensional poverty over time;

(e) Design evidence-based policy interventions to reduce poverty;

(f) Coordinate various social policies aiming to eradicate poverty;

(g) Allocate national resources more efficiently.

15. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The tool was presented to the Expert Group on Social Protection Reform (EGSPR) of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development on 2 November 2020 online. The tool was welcomed by EGSPR and received positive reactions from representatives of member States.

16. **States using the tool:** The tool is currently being applied in Iraq and Egypt in cooperation with their ministries of planning.

**C. Tools to support estimates and projections: ESCWA Job Monitor**

17. **Purpose of the tool:** The main purpose of the tool is to support States in preparing for the next change in jobs and skills under the Fourth Industrial Revolution, considering the number of jobs required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and taking national characteristics into account. The ESCWA Jobs Observatory, a tool for calculating labour demand using big data, will enable policymakers in Member States to investigate the demand for new skills and therefore take the necessary measures to provide them through education and training programmes and to reform labour market systems as needed.

18. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** The Fourth Industrial Revolution will inevitably eliminate many current types of work, but if properly leveraged it will also provide new types of work. One of the challenges related to preparedness for these changes is the difficulty of predicting future jobs due to a lack of timely information to monitor changes in labour market needs; the mismatch between human capital and labour market demand; and the inadequacy of current labour market policies and regulations given the rapid changes of the industrial revolution. In particular, the tool looks at job advertisements that directly or indirectly include positive discrimination in favour of women or negative discrimination against them in hiring.

19. **Description of the tool:** The ESCWA Job Monitor uses big data to monitor changes in the labour market and predict the skills required to deal with the dynamic nature of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

20. **Advantages of the tool:** The tool allows policymakers to:

(a) Learn about the current status of labour market demand;

(b) Complete institutional and workforce surveys;

(c) Predict new skills that will be thriving in coming years;

(d) Monitor whether Arab labour markets provide access to jobs for persons with disabilities and support gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals;
(e) Assess the impact of technology on the labour market, such as new opportunities created and types of jobs eliminated, and monitor the skills required;
(f) Assist the private sector in retraining staff to keep pace with the future needs of the labour market;
(g) Guide universities in efficiently building their programs to suit the requirements of the new labour market.

21. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** So far, the tool has been presented to Lebanon.

22. **Countries using the tool:** Consultations are currently underway with certain countries to implement the tool.

### D. Urban Economy Recovery and Resilience Diagnosis and Planning Tool (DPT)


23. **Purpose of the tool:** Developed in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the other four United Nations regional commissions, the tool is the first of its kind globally. It aims to help cities understand the strengths and weaknesses of their institutional and operational arrangements from the point of view of recovery, build economic resilience and assess the structure and performance of urban economies in order to develop a clear understanding of each city’s economic performance/situation and how it reflects its vulnerability and resilience, support the design and implementation of recovery plans/strategies to address gaps, accelerate recovery to build back better and improve long-term resilience.

24. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** The COVID-19 crisis has revealed inequalities that coexisted worldwide with growing prosperity in some segments of society, such as income inequality, digital inequality, poor sanitation systems, poor urban planning, poor databases, irregular activities, fragility and inadequate systems of governance. In some cases, the current crisis has exacerbated these phenomena. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has provided lessons in providing immediate relief to people in need and initiating recovery and renewal towards more equitable and sustainable societies in the future.

25. Accordingly, the DPT was developed for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, particularly for population groups that may be particularly vulnerable to economic shocks from future events similar to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly women, who have been the most affected by the crisis. The data are meant to be disaggregated as much as possible. The more data are disaggregated by gender and other categories (e.g. immigration, asylum or internal displacement status, geographical area, etc.), the more important the resulting analysis, and the more comprehensive recovery and resilience-building measures can be designed. The tool focuses on collecting gender-disaggregated data to monitor variables associated with labour market conditions, the business environment, economic governance, the financial environment, infrastructure and access.

26. **Description of the tool:** For the purposes of the DPT, resilience is defined as the ability and capacity of cities or urban areas to plan for and anticipate negative shocks to their economy, including long-term pressures, and to allocate, reallocate and mobilize resources to withstand, recover from and build back better after those shocks, while putting their economies on the path to sustainable economic growth and enhancing their capacity to respond to future shocks. Inequality in all its dimensions, such as income (at the level of different social and economic groups), productive assets (e.g. land or skills) and geography (with unequal distribution of economic opportunities and spatial distribution of services in a country’s administrative regions), has been found to pose a threat to economic development in particular and development in general, and thus to economic resilience. Addressing income inequality and other forms of inequality should be a key part of any strategy aimed at building urban economic resilience in both developing and developed countries.
27. The DPT therefore addresses five components of urban resilience (labour market conditions, the business environment, economic governance, the financial environment, service infrastructure and access). The DPT monitors urban economic resilience and recovery capacity through 17 key indicators and 59 sub-indicators to identify cities’ strengths and weaknesses, and provides development proposals. It applies the principles of inclusiveness and gender equality in the recovery process and urban resilience.

28. The DPT is a dynamic tool that can be adapted to local conditions and can be used by city governments in the self-assessment process for evidence-based planning for recovery and long-term resilience. During the data collection process, efforts are made to ensure that data are disaggregated on the basis of sex and marginalized community groups vulnerable to economic shocks. It uses qualitative and quantitative indicators (including composite indicators when necessary) across different components of urban economic resilience, namely, resilience of the local business environment, resilience of the local labour market, resilience of the local financial system, resilience of economic governance and resilience and interlinkage of basic services infrastructure. Indicators, whether quantitative or qualitative, are translated into performance measures graded from A (direct impact on urban economic resilience) to F (no direct impact on urban economic resilience). The second part of DPT translates the city’s performance as monitored by the tool into a plan for recovery and urban economic resilience, with specific actions to help the city address its weaknesses in the field and simultaneously take advantage of its strengths.

29. **Advantages of the tool:** The tool provides a database of the city in question by monitoring key indicators and sub-indicators through gender-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data. Through monitoring, the DPT highlights the city’s strengths and weaknesses, which form the basis for building a comprehensive local recovery plan. The DPT is also notable for its holistic approach to data monitoring by involving all stakeholders in monitoring and planning, including national and local governments, the private sector, academia and local community organizations. Through this approach, the tool upholds the principle of “leave no one behind”.

30. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The tool was first introduced during a global virtual workshop on “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19” on 17 December 2020. It was also presented at a second global virtual workshop on 15 February 2021. ESCWA also organized three local workshops to diagnose urban economic resilience:

   (a) Beirut Diagnostics and Local Stakeholders Visioning Workshop (Beirut, 29 March 2021);
   (b) Kuwait City Diagnostics and Local Stakeholders Visioning Workshop (Kuwait City, 15 April 2021);
   (c) Alexandria Diagnostics and Local Stakeholders Visioning Workshop (Alexandria, 10 May 2021).

31. **Cities using the tool:** Egypt (Alexandria), Lebanon (Beirut) and Kuwait (Kuwait City).

**II. Support for aligning national efforts with international standards:**

**Index Simulator for Policymakers in the Arab Region (ISPAR)**

– Gender Gap Index

(https://ispar.unescwa.org/about.aspx)

32. **Purpose of the tool:** To analyse the potential impact of specific policies on national ranking in selected international indices, including the Gender Gap Index.

33. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** Most Arab countries perform poorly in many widely used international indices. They often work hard to improve, but their efforts do not necessarily lead to a higher ranking than other Arab States, foreign States or countries with similar economies, in particular in the field of gender equality and women’s empowerment. This makes it difficult to measure, monitor and evaluate the performance of related policies.
34. **Description of the tool:** ISPAR is based on an easy-to-use electronic platform and provides data on the performance of 140 countries in the following international indices:

   (a) Global Gender Gap Index;
   (b) Ease of Doing Business Index;
   (c) Global Competitiveness Index;
   (d) Global Cybersecurity Index (developed by the International Telecom Union);
   (e) ICT Development Index (produced by the International Telecom Union);
   (f) Network Readiness Index;
   (g) Global Innovation Index;
   (h) E-Government Development Index (developed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs);
   (i) Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index;
   (j) E-Participation Index;
   (k) B2C E-Commerce Index;
   (l) AI Readiness Index.

35. The tool is currently being developed to also cover the following indices:

   (a) Index of Economic Freedom;
   (b) Global Findex Database;
   (c) Rule of Law Index;
   (d) Legatum Prosperity Index;
   (e) Women, Peace and Security Index.

36. **Advantages of the tool:** ISPAR enables decision makers to:

   (a) Access important international indices with the greatest impact on development outcomes and compare between 140 countries, both between one country and another and between one country and a group of countries;
   (b) Learn about the experiences of other States and the policies that have helped to increase their ranking;
   (c) Link national policies to results and identify the best policies with the greatest ability and impact to achieve national goals;
   (d) Identify the expected impact of planned policies and policies under consideration on the country’s ranking in international indices;
   (e) Strengthen decision-making capacity on the strategic policies needed and how to best allocate the budget to improve the country’s performance and increase its ranking in international indices.

37. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** ISPAR was presented to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and was welcomed by them.
III. Support for legislative reform and gender equality-based policymaking

A. Gender Justice and the Law tool
(http://genderjustice.unescwa.org)

38. **Purpose of the tool:** The tool presents national laws in Arab States and analyses their compatibility with international human rights standards, the general recommendations of the United Nations Commission for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and international standards on International Labour Organization conventions, with the aim of identifying gaps and encouraging States to amend legislation to follow international obligations and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5.

39. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** In Arab countries, a narrow concept of justice continues to be used that is concerned only with gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination and does not take into account the need to establish effective accountability mechanisms and reduce the legislative gap that contributes to gender inequality.

40. **Description of the tool:** The interactive tool comes in the form of a detailed table and map describing legal frameworks in the region, the general recommendations of the United Nations Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ILO Conventions and visually categorizing laws concerning gender equality with respect to how well they meet international standards. The regional table and map use a simple four-colour system to compare laws and public policies in each country and their compatibility with gender equality principles according to five main themes:

   (a) General legal framework, including ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
   
   (b) Laws combating violence against women;
   
   (c) Laws governing personal status and marriage;
   
   (d) Laws governing employment and economic participation;
   
   (e) Laws governing reproductive rights.

41. **Advantages of the tool:**

   (a) The tool is based on information that has been reviewed and verified by national women’s machineries in Arab countries;
   
   (b) The tool provides a map identifying legislation that needs more attention, harmonization and amendment to provide the necessary guarantees for effective gender equality at the economic, social, political and cultural levels;
   
   (c) The tool allows users to learn about the experiences of Arab States in adopting and amending laws promoting gender equality;
   
   (d) The tool contains the texts of national laws under consideration in all Arab States;
   
   (e) The tool was adopted in May 2021 in response to the Secretary-General’s “Human Rights Appeal”, as one of the sources on which United Nations resident representatives rely in measuring the extent to which the Sustainable Development Goals have been achieved.

42. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** A regional meeting was held in Beirut in December 2018 to present national reports, followed by a regional meeting in Amman in November 2019 to present the
tool in its entirety, including the table and interactive map. In November 2020, the tool was presented to all Arab States at a workshop targeting members of the ESCWA Intergovernmental Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. Three meetings were also held on the sidelines of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its 63rd, 64th and 65th sessions with the high-level participation of representatives of Arab States, in addition to national consultations in participating States.

43. **States that have implemented or are implementing the tool:** 20 Arab States participated in the national reporting: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

B. **Social Justice Policy Gap Assessment Tool (PGAT)**

44. **Purpose of the tool:** PGAT analyses the extent to which social justice principles and gender equality are integrated into public policies and development programmes developed and implemented by public institutions by identifying gaps and shortcomings in how well they respond to social justice principles and gender equality.

45. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** Public policies in Arab States suffer from fundamental and compounded obstacles standing in the way of achieving social justice and gender equality, particularly in countries with limited capacity and those suffering from or affected by conflicts. These obstacles include: increased inequality and social marginalization, lack of equal economic and social opportunities, weak capacities and lack of resources available to combat poverty, failure to adopt a rights-based approach to development, lack of a clear, integrated and long-term national vision and more. Government efforts to achieve social justice are often scattered among different entities and institutions without policy coherence or effective coordination between them. The impact of these obstacles is exacerbated by a lack of statistics and data, limited fiscal space and the lack of the environment needed to carry out the required reforms, which increase inequality despite the efforts exerted.

46. **Description of the tool:** PGAT consists of a conceptual introduction, several sections on the assessment and how to use it and a questionnaire of 22 questions along the following pillars:

   (a) Knowledge and skills required to design, implement, finance or assess social and economic policies;
   (b) Consensus among concerned parties regarding political options;
   (c) Legislative and regulatory frameworks;
   (d) Institutional structures and internal mechanisms.

47. **PGAT is used by States for self-assessment of their ability to integrate social justice principles into policymaking and is available on a special electronic platform that allows States to track changes to the assessment and reach conclusions electronically.**

48. **Advantages of the tool:** PGAT helps decision makers:

   (a) Increase the awareness of decision makers in ministries and public institutions of the need to integrate social justice and gender equality into public policies;
   (b) Monitor the status of social justice indicators, with each indicator allocated a set of requirements/standards and basic rules (human resources, material resources, legislative framework, laws, etc.);
   (c) Continuous/regular follow-up of progress through a self-assessment process and periodic reporting on what has been achieved and the challenges that remain;
(d) Practical identification of gaps in the following areas: (1) knowledge and skills required in the processes of designing, implementing, financing or evaluating social and economic policies; (2) compatibility between stakeholders on political options; (3) legislative and regulatory frameworks; and (4) institutional structures and internal mechanisms;

(e) Enabling government institutions to come up with local solutions and reforms to address barriers and overcome challenges to mainstreaming social justice in policymaking processes.

49. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:**

   (a) The tool was presented to the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia with the aim of implementing it;

   (b) The tool was presented to Arab States at a high-level regional meeting held virtually in December 2020. Experts from Arab States and decision makers were trained on the tool at a regional workshop in April 2021 and discussed how it could be used and applied autonomously, independently and depending on the specifics and priorities of each country and how to use the tool’s electronic platform.

50. **States that have implemented or are implementing the tool:** Tunisia has implemented the tool in its “public policy and programmes for young people who are marginalized, experiencing difficulties or socially maladapted”. This was done jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs through the formation of a small working group representing the central departments of the Ministry, which collected data and reviewed relevant documents and reports. Two national workshops were held, one with the working group in September 2020 and representatives of 10 relevant ministries to apply the tool to the selected policy, and another in November 2020 to present the final version of the PGAT. As a result, an action plan was developed to fill the gaps identified, and a mechanism was put in place to introduce the PGAT in all public policies overseen by the various ministries and to adopt the tool at the national level after ratification. A recommendation was made to the Prime Minister to issue a law to include social justice principles in all major policies, reforms and government documents. At the regional level, work is underway to use the tool in all Arab countries and apply it to national policies on wages and worker protection.

IV. **Analysis of the status of institutions and capacity-building**

   **Analysis of the status of institutions from a gender equality perspective and helping them achieve gender equality**


51. **Purpose of the tool:** The tool seeks to support institutions in tracking their progress in achieving equality internally in their work and in identifying the necessary measures to make progress.

52. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** Most national institutions operate without a practical methodology to measure the organization’s commitment and adoption of the concept and principles of gender equality.

53. **Description of the tool:** The tool includes 15 performance indicators centred around six areas:

   (a) **Accountability:**
   - Institutional policies and plans.
   - Gender-responsive performance management.

   (b) **Results-based management:**
   - Strategic planning.
   - Monitoring and reporting.
(c) Oversight:
- Assessment.
- Gender-responsive institutional auditing.
- Programme review.

(d) Human and financial resources:
- Financial resource tracking.
- Financial resource allocation.
- Institutional structure and gender parity.
- Organizational culture.

(e) Capacities:
- Capacity assessment.
- Capacity development.

(f) Coherence, knowledge and information management:
- Knowledge generation and communication.
- Coherence.

54. The tool is available through an electronic platform that can be used while keeping each organization’s information confidential.

55. **Advantages of the tool:** The tool allows policymakers to:

   (a) Standardize the concept of gender equality;
   (b) Track progress and identify gaps at the level of the institution’s work in achieving gender equality;
   (c) Use a common and graded sliding scale to monitor the progress that the organization aspires to.

56. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The tool has been presented to countries several times:

   (a) ESCWA Committee on Women at its seventh session in Muscat in January 2016;
   (b) ESCWA Committee on Women at its eighth session in Beirut in October 2017;
   (c) ESCWA Committee on Women at its ninth session in Beirut in November 2019.

57. **Countries that have implemented or are implementing the tool:** Jordan, Mauritania and Qatar have begun to use the tool.

V. **The economic cost of violence against women**

   A. **Mechanism for calculating the cost of domestic violence for survivors of violence**
   (http://tcportal.escwa.org.lb/VAW/lancer_1_ar.html)

58. **Purpose of the tool:** The economic cost estimation model for domestic violence aims to guide States in estimating the economic impact of domestic violence.

59. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** A comprehensive approach to responding to and ending domestic violence requires a thorough analysis of its economic cost. Therefore, the tool has multiple impacts and an important role to play in determining appropriate policy guidance.
60. **Description of the tool:** The form uses questionnaires to estimate the costs paid out of pocket due to abuse. They also cover costs associated with the following areas: justice; health; loss of income; miscellaneous costs; and accommodation.

61. **Advantages of the tool:** The form provides details on how to estimate the costs incurred by families and institutions.

62. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The tool was presented to Arab States during the meetings of the Committee on Women at its ninth session.

63. **Purpose of the tool:** The economic cost estimation model for domestic violence aims to guide States in estimating the economic impact of domestic violence.

64. **Problem/gap addressed by the tool:** A comprehensive approach to responding to and ending domestic violence requires a thorough analysis of its economic cost. This tool has multiple impacts and has an important role to play in determining appropriate policy guidance.

65. **Description of the tool:** The model uses questionnaires to estimate the costs incurred by service providers. The questionnaires cover the costs associated with the areas of accommodation, justice and health.

66. **Presentation to States or training on the tool:** The tool was presented to Arab States at a number of meetings and workshops, including those of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. The tool was also presented to Arab women parliamentarians and statistical offices.

67. **States that have implemented or are implementing the tool:** The tool has been implemented in Jordan, Morocco and the State of Palestine, and others have expressed interest in implementing it.

**V I. Conclusion**

69. The Committee on Women is invited to take note of the set of tools developed by ESCWA to support decision makers in Arab countries in developing integrated and evidence-based policies incorporating a gender equality perspective, to show interest in the possibility of applying any of the tools in the national context and to make a formal request for technical cooperation in this area.