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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION****TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME***Activities under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation***Summary**

This report provides an overview of the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) that are funded by the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) in 2006-2007. All activities covered by that programme and results achieved, whether funded from regular or extrabudgetary resources, are highlighted in the report on the financial status of the Commission, E/ESCWA/25/5(Part V).

The aim of RPTC is to assist member countries by providing them, at their request, with policy advisory services, technical support and capacity-building activities in line with ESCWA areas of expertise, work programme and expected accomplishments. This report highlights the findings of internal and external evaluation exercises, illustrates needs for 2008-2009 and presents conclusions and recommendations.

The Commission is endeavouring to foster and institutionalize a culture of learning. The challenges to and achievements of the advisory and capacity-building services rendered are critically assessed. Good practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of those activities are documented, with a view to strengthening knowledge-sharing and collaborative work between ESCWA and its member countries and between member countries themselves.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The technical cooperation (TC) activities undertaken by ESCWA aim to build the technical, institutional and managerial capacity of member countries by addressing development challenges, which include increasing social and economic polarization caused by disparities in the distribution of wealth, income and assets. Those inequalities are further aggravated by the social exclusion of such marginalized groups as women, people with disabilities, underprivileged youth, refugees and immigrants. Furthermore, on-going political tension and conflicts particularly in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon, limit the ability of the citizens of those countries to effectively engage in long-term development plans and effective and lasting nation-building.

2. This review of the TC work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 is organized in conformity with the result-based management (RBM) framework and with the related expected accomplishments, in order to ensure a focused approach to the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy, which was adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission by resolution 275 (XXIV) of 11 May 2005. The aim of that resolution was to improve the planning, delivery and effectiveness of TC services and enhance coordination with and between member countries. Special attention is paid to the implementation of the millennium development goals (MDGs) and, in particular, goals 1, 3, 7 and 8. The overall approach for provision of services was based on building sustainable national and regional partnerships with member countries.

3. In the biennium 2006-2007, the work of the Commission included services provided by short-term regional advisers at the request of member countries, and the delivery of national, sub-regional and regional capacity-building workshops targeting professional, technical personnel and policymakers in various development sectors.

4. Advisory services were provided in response to requests from Governments on policy-related issues, development strategies and programmes and on the formulation or evaluation of programmes and national development or sectoral strategies, often followed up by monitoring exercises to assess the implementation of policy advice and, in some cases, information and debriefing sessions to disseminate findings and results to a wider audience at the national level.

5. The capacity-building activities aimed to strengthen national capacities for either policy development or effective implementation of national policies, responding to priority development needs identified by member countries. Such activities were usually delivered through training workshops/seminars or through the provision of individual fellowships involving study-hours, and on-the-job training. During such activities, exchange of best practices and a "South-South cooperation" approach among member countries were often employed as means of continuous learning and building local knowledge. Moreover, the selection of the training venues was usually guided by ease of access for participants and the capacity and readiness of the host country to facilitate the workshops.

6. TC activities addressed, in particular, the four regional priorities identified by ESCWA member countries, namely, globalization, water and energy, social policies, and information and communications technology (ICT) for regional integration. Activities were implemented through seven subprogrammes: (1) Integrated policies for management of regional resources for sustainable development; (2) Integrated social policies; (3) Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development; (4) Regional integration and responding to globalization; (5) Information and communications technology for regional integration; (6) Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making; (7) Advancement and empowerment of Women. Special attention is given to the least-developed country in the ESCWA region, namely, Yemen; and to countries emerging from conflict, namely, Iraq and Palestine.

7. On the basis of the foregoing, this report seeks to present an overview of the results of advisory services and capacity-building activities rendered in response to requests by member countries in line with

the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy and in relation to the expected accomplishments for the biennium 2006-2007. It also presents the findings of the internal and external evaluation exercises on TC services provided by ESCWA, highlights needs for 2008-2009, and concludes with a summary of the main findings and recommendations for improving TC services and hence implementation of the TC strategy.

8. In 2006-2007, a total of 267 technical assistance missions (139 in 2006 and 128 in 2007) were undertaken at the request of member Governments in the four priority areas and carried out under the seven subprogrammes mentioned above, as compared with 356 in 2004-2005 (see annex 1). A total of 42 capacity-building activities (12 workshops in 2006 and 30 workshops in 2007) were also conducted for member countries (see annex 2), compared to 11 in 2004-2005.

9. Total estimated budget expenditure managed under TC for the 2006-2007 biennium amounted to \$16,353,095 million, distributed among RPTC (25 per cent), Development Account (9 per cent), extra-budgetary (XB) resources (64 per cent) and ESCWA Trust Fund (2 per cent), (see annex 5, chart 1), XB projects were a major factor in operationalizing TC in the current biennium. The projected budget for the 2008-2009 biennium is estimated to exceed \$12.5 million, as shown in annex 5, chart 2.

I. OVERVIEW OF ADVISORY SERVICES RENDERED DURING 2006-2007

10. This section highlights the contribution, by subprogramme, of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) towards achievement of the expected accomplishments approved by the General Assembly and focuses on the advisory services rendered for the 2006-2007 biennium.

Expected accomplishment 1: Enhanced ability of member countries to address specific technical constraints in the development and implementation of policy and programmes in support of internationally agreed development goals.

11. In the 2006-2007 biennium, of total of 267 advisory service missions that were undertaken, 90 were carried out by Information and Communications Technology Division (ICTD), 56 by Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), 43 by Globalization and Regional Integration Division (GRID), 32 by Statistics Division (SD), 18 by Social Development Division (SDD) and 17 by ESCWA Center for Women (ECW), using ESCWA regional advisors and staff. Assistance was provided in the areas of environment, gender issues, social development, World Trade Organization (WTO)-related issues, transport, energy, statistics and ICT. The frequency of missions is directly related to the availability of regional advisors: divisions to which regional advisors are assigned tend to provide more advisory services. In the 2006-2007 biennium, four regional advisors were appointed to ICTD, GRID, SDPD, SDD, SD and ECW.

Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

12. 56 advisory missions relating to environmental issues were provided during the 2006-2007 biennium to the following countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Services included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Drafting by-laws and standards for the implementation of law 33 on waste water discharge and sanitary sewage;

(b) *Kuwait*: Preparation of national strategy and action plan on water security;

(c) *Lebanon*: Technical assistance to municipalities in the northern Bekaa in formulating a project on sustainable integrated eco-tourism;

(d) *Oman*: Technical assistance in the formulation of a planning and development methodology for the incorporation of environmental issues; development of national capacity in the planning and implementation of integrated water resource management; diffusion of the geographic information system in the Ministry of Housing, Electricity and Water;

(e) *Saudi Arabia*: Development of a 20-year strategic plan for sustainable development; assistance in establishing environmental priorities for 2008-2009;

(f) *Syrian Arab Republic*: Preparation of the draft national environmental protection strategy; review of the draft national urban air quality strategy; development of concept papers for three projects aimed at building the institutional and human capacities of the environmental management sector; review of the sustainable development strategy for the petroleum and natural resources sectors; development of general guidelines to incorporate environmental considerations into the process of national strategic planning;

(g) *United Arab Emirates*: Technical assistance for the Supreme Council of Energy on energy issues; technical assistance in setting up the National Centre for Renewable Energy Research;

(h) *Yemen*: Technical assistance in preparation of a draft law for environmental protection; development of an organizational structure for an environmental authority; and preparation of a framework for a national energy efficiency plan;

(i) *Regional efforts*: In the case of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and Yemen, advisory services involved such cross-cutting issues as WTO negotiations and accession and environment and trade issues for sustainable development.

Subprogramme 2: Integrated social policies

13. A total of 18 advisory services on social issues were provided during the 2006-2007 biennium to Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine and Saudi Arabia. Those services included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Participation in the initial process for the establishment and development of a social policy unit;

(b) *Egypt*: Technical assistance for the Ministry of Social Solidarity on mechanisms for social policy formulation and coordination to strengthen the social agenda of the national development framework; technical assistance on setting up a social issues database;

(c) *Jordan*: Technical assistance for the revision of social policies and updating data on social indicators to be ready for publication;

(d) *Kuwait*: Technical assistance in the evaluation and amendment of current legislation on social affairs; technical assistance in setting up a social policy directorate in the Ministry of Social Affairs;

(e) *Lebanon*: Provision of advisory services to the National Action Network on the establishment of an injury programme, with particular respect to structure, organization, staffing requirements and funding;

(f) *Oman*: Technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs in the development of terms of reference for a new strategy and action plan on social issues; technical assistance in setting up a social policies directorate in the Ministry of Social Affairs in order to initiate an advocacy programme on social policies;

(g) *Palestine*: Preparation of a project document to inaugurate the Palestinian national report on integrated social policy;

(h) *Saudi Arabia*: Technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of social issues.

Subprogramme 3: Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

14. Advisory services were provided during the 2006-2007 biennium to Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates. Those services included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Technical assistance in the construction of a weighting diagram for a consumer price index (CPI);

(b) *Syrian Arab Republic*: Technical assistance in the field of macro industry policy, within the context of the tenth Syrian Five Year Plan (2006-2010); training on compilation of macro-economic aggregates in the framework of 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA);

(c) *United Arab Emirates*: Technical assistance in the development of a system for compiling price index/indices as a sub-system of the price index/indices compilation.

15. The Unit for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues focused its approach on addressing the needs of countries emerging from conflicts through capacity-building activities. Training and capacity-building programmes aim to ensure an effective and timely response to emerging needs through enhanced contingency planning, support assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of strife and violence, and provide assistance to Governments in the dissemination and application of knowledge acquired from experience. The subprogramme also seeks to build capacity in response preparedness through the development and improvement of national and international networks involving Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the strengthening of civil and military coordination in order to support international humanitarian relief operations.

16. Services provided to various stakeholders in Iraq and Palestine took the form of capacity-building activities and field projects; and are covered in section II of this report.

Subprogramme 4: Regional integration and responding to globalization

17. In the 2006-2007 biennium, a total of 43 advisory services were provided in two main areas, namely, WTO accession and transport. Services related to the former were provided to Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Technical assistance to strengthen Bahrain's capabilities in respect of WTO accession;

(b) *Lebanon*: Technical advice to the Lebanese Government on its commitment under the Arab GATS Agreements to liberalize the service sector;

(c) *Qatar*: Technical advice to the Ministry of Economy and Commerce on studies for sectors and Sub-sectors of trade in services, with the aim of having a GATS/WTO liberalization negotiation strategy;

(d) *Regional level*: Empowerment of member countries through the provision of a series of capacity-building workshops on WTO-related negotiations and accession. Workshops aimed to improve the bargaining positions of specific ESCWA member countries in respect of WTO and Arab GATS agreements.

18. Advisory services pertaining to transport were provided to Iraq, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and included the following:

(a) *Iraq*: Technical assistance in the development and modernization of Iraqi ports and the training needs of Iraq's maritime administration and legislation;

(b) *Jordan*: The preparation of draft international multi-modal transport legislation;

(c) *Syrian Arab Republic*: Technical assistance in the modernization of Lattakia Port operations; technical assistance in setting up the traffic strategy and the National Committee for Road Safety;

(d) *Yemen*: Review of the draft port law and draft project document for the national port strategy study.

*Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology
for regional integration*

19. During the 2006-2007 biennium, 90 advisory services on communications and computer networking were provided to almost all ESCWA member countries and, in particular, Iraq and Jordan. Services were also provided to Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and included the following:

(a) *Iraq*: Introduction of ICT in the basic education sector; participation in the formulation of a national strategy for ICT research and development; design and implementation of a project on the establishment of Cisco Networking Academies in several universities and training institutions throughout Iraq; design and finalization of a project for the introduction of ICT in the basic education sector, in close collaboration with Ministry of Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; assistance to the National Centre for Consultants and Management Development in the formulation of a United Nations Development Programme funded project for upgrading skills in public administration reform; formulation of a work plan for the Iraqi Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control for capacity-building and upgrading of skills and facilities; technical assistance in the formulation of a project document to enhance ICT infrastructure and applications to provide citizen-centric services for National Aid Funds beneficiaries;

(b) *Kuwait*: Assistance in drafting the national science and technology policy by updating the relevant indicators;

(c) *Jordan*: Development of a plan of action on capacity-building regarding the adoption of core ICT indicators and collection/analysis/dissemination of data; technical assistance in conducting situation analysis of ICT functions in the Department of Statistics and proposing developmental and restructuring guidelines; technical assistance to the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology in drafting of an ICT Research and Development strategy;

(d) *Oman*: Assistance in the establishment of a centralized data warehousing system; development of a web-based enquiry point for servicing standardization inquiries, in general, and WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures inquiries in particular;

(e) *Qatar*: Development of an action plan for the implementation of the ESCWA Statistical Information System database for industrial and ICT indicators for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries;

(f) *Saudi Arabia*: Technical assistance in conducting strength, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the positioning of ICT in education;

(g) *Syrian Arab Republic*: The provision of technical advice to the Syrian Computer Society Management Board on incubator technical management;

(h) *Yemen*: Technical assistance in the formulation of a medium-term ICT strategy for the deployment of ICT applications and infrastructure for effective achievement of the monitoring and evaluation functions of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

*Subprogramme 6: Comparable statistics for improved planning
and decision-making*

20. During the 2006-2007 biennium, 32 advisory services were provided to Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Technical assistance to the Directorate of Statistics in examining the viability of household income and expenditure survey data; guidance in constructing a CPI weighting diagram and exploring the feasibility of compiling current and capital household accounts using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIEs);

(b) *Jordan*: Technical assistance to the Jordanian Department of Statistics in the preparation of the 2007 Agricultural Census;

(c) *Oman*: Technical assistance in the establishment of a statistical data warehouse;

(d) *Qatar*: Technical assistance for the Planning Council in establishing a framework and methodology for the development of sustainable development indicators;

(e) *Syrian Arab Republic*: Assistance in the review of national accounts estimate in accordance with SNA 1993;

(f) *United Arab Emirates*: Technical advice on the industrial survey for the Department of Planning and Economy, on methodology, questionnaire development and sampling; technical assistance in the preparation of a preliminary roadmap for developing a system of regional accounts compilation for the Statistics Dubai Centre;

(g) *Yemen*: Technical assistance in the development of mechanisms to standardize surveys and methodologies for the preparation of gross domestic products for governance; technical assistance in evaluation of implementation of SNA 1993; advisory services to the Central Statistical Organization at the Ministry of Planning and Development in building staff capacities to design and withdraw master samples from the census; technical assistance in setting up a programme for environmental statistics and indicators for the Environmental Protection Authority and the Central Statistical Organization.

Subprogramme 7: Advancement and empowerment of women

21. During the 2006-2007 biennium, 17 advisory services on gender issues were provided to Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and included the following:

(a) *Bahrain*: Technical assistance in assessing the training needs over the next three years of women's machinery in Bahrain in gender mainstreaming and women's rights;

(b) *Jordan*: Technical assistance in the revision and adoption of the national strategy for Jordanian women;

(c) *Syrian Arab Republic*: Technical assistance in the formulation of a unified vision of the future role and mission of the Women's Federation; technical assistance on restructuring the General Women's Union;

(d) *United Arab Emirates*: Technical assistance to the General Union of Women on gender awareness and sensitization;

(e) *Regional level*: Policy advice on the analysis and mainstreaming of gender issues in Lebanon, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen; provision of a series of regional and national training workshops on the preparation of national Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reports and policy advice on the analysis and mainstreaming of gender issues, raising gender awareness, and sensitization of male and female officials in ministries and NGOs.

II. OVERVIEW OF ESCWA CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2006-2007

22. This section highlights the contribution, by subprogramme, of RPTC to the achievement of the expected accomplishments and, in particular, expected accomplishment 2, and focuses on the capacity-building activities carried out in 2006-2007 biennium.

Expected accomplishment 2: Strengthened organizational capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes to achieve internationally-agreed development goals.
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23. In the 2006-2007 biennium, and in fulfillment of expected accomplishment 2, a total of 47 capacity-building training workshops (15 in 2006 and 32 in 2007) were conducted for member countries (see annexes 2.A. and 2.B for the distribution of workshops by country, subprogramme, title, type and number of participants).

Subprogramme 1: Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

24. Eight training workshops were provided under this subprogramme, focusing on integrated water resource management, sustainable management of the environment, environment and trade for sustainable development, energy efficiency and cleaner production, science and technology and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

25. In the area of water management, two workshops were conducted, namely, Training on Negotiations and Dispute Resolution over International Water Resources, Amman, June 2007; and Managing water resources in Iraq – road to 2050, Jordan, May 2007.

26. With respect to the sustainable management of the environment, the following workshops were conducted: the National Workshop on Environment and Trade Issues for Sustainable Development, Sana'a, May 2006; and the strategic planning workshop on the One Million Trees Initiative, Lebanon, February 2006.

27. In the area of sustainable agriculture and rural development, two national capacity-building workshops on land degradation assessment and prevention were held, the first one in Jordan from 2 to 18 May 2007, and the second one in Lebanon, from 23 July to 3 August 2007.

Subprogramme 2: Integrated social policies

28. Four national and one regional workshops and a national conference were provided under this subprogramme in Bahrain, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The first two national workshops were training of trainers (TOTs) vocational training workshops. The first set of TOTs was delivered in Saudi Arabia, in Al Ahsa, Mecca and Riyadh between April 2006 and February 2007, and aimed to build the capacity of Saudi women in income generation activities and skills development. The second set of TOTs was delivered in Jordan, Palestine and in Yemen, in Aden and Sana'a, between April 2006 and June 2007, and focused on capacity-building for local community development. Other workshops included orientation training for staff of the Social Policy Unit in Bahrain, the Bahraini ministries of Social Development, Education and Health, the General Security forces, NGOs, the Royal Diwan, and Majlis Al-Shoura (20-21 December 2006); a TOTs workshop for Yemeni officials in the field of social participatory and community development (Amman, 11-15 June 2007); the regional workshop on strengthening the skills of demographers and population experts in the area of demographic analysis (Al Ain, United Arab Emirates 5-6 December 2007), during which a manual on upgrading the demographic knowledge of research and training centres and experts in the field of population and demography and defining research indicators was reviewed; and the National Conference on Integrated Social Policy which was held in Cairo, in 2007.

Subprogramme 3: Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

29. One workshop for a regional audience was carried out under this subprogramme, focusing on composite economic indicators for short-term economic forecasting, in Amman on 12 and 13 March 2007. It aimed to build the capacity of professionals in the ESCWA region in the field of short-term forecasting, and addressed the methodological concepts and history of composite economic indicators (CEIs); recent methodological advancement represented by the Stock-Watson method; the applications in developing countries and the difficulties of and practical solutions for the construction of CEIs.

30. ECRI conducted 18 workshops, of which four were regional, 13 for Iraq and one for Lebanon. The 13 workshops for Iraq included: Management Skills Training for Iraqi Ministry of Justice Officials (23 January – 2 March 2006, Beirut); Management Skills Training for Iraqi Ministry of Municipality and Public Works six modules held in Beirut in January and October 2006; Management Skills Training for middle management of the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works four modules held in Amman in November and December 2007; Capacity-Building of Iraqi Officials in the Area of Project Formulation and Development (Amman, 22-25 September 2007); and Management of Water Provision under Crisis in South Lebanon (7-9 September 2007, Bekaa, Lebanon), which aimed to improve the capacity of municipal officials for crisis preparedness, create built-in resilience, and provide mechanisms for quick rehabilitation and conflict mitigation in the public sector workplace.

31. Regional workshops included a three module workshop on management of services provision under crisis conditions: the case of water, sanitation and municipal services delivery and strategic planning, which was held in Amman between 3 and 24 November 2007 and aimed to enhance the managerial capacity of municipal officials under crisis conditions. The regional workshop Management of Water Provision during Crisis was held in Jordan from 4 to 8 December 2007 in order to share experiences and propose means of identifying and publicizing best practices and disseminating knowledge to allow for better preparedness for handling current and potential crises.

Subprogramme 4: Regional integration and responding to globalization

32. Four national and three regional workshops were conducted under this subprogramme. National workshops included the workshop for Iraqi officials on trade in services which was held in Cairo, from 30 March to 5 April 2007 in order to review the Arab Services Agreement, discuss methodologies for dealing with that agreement within the framework of accession negotiations, and methodologies for identifying

specific commitments and the experiences of both developing and Arab countries in negotiating trade in services; the workshop on the facilitation of maritime trade which was held in the Syrian Arab Republic from 9 to 13 June 2007 with a view to providing an overview of different methods of facilitating the movement of international trade and people; the national training workshop on the Bilateral Investment Agreements that was held in Abu Dhabi from 25 to 9 November 2007 for Iraqi and Syria participants, and aimed to address issues related to investment treaties, with particular focus on investment incentives, investment protection and investment arbitration; and a further workshop on the Bilateral Investment Agreements, which was held in Manama from 2 to 6 December 2007 and addressed issues related to investment treaties with the same focus as the earlier workshop.

33. Regional workshops included the Workshop on the Implications for Arab Countries of Trade in Services – Mode 4 (Cairo, May-September 2007); the joint workshop for Capacity-Building of the National Focal Points for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week (Cairo, 20-21 December 2006), which aimed to acquaint the relevant focal points with the United Nations toolkit on road safety, introduce participants to safety management, and raise awareness of the guidelines for establishing road safety committees.

*Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology
for regional integration*

34. The first of two regional workshops held under this subprogramme was on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), (Amman, on 20 and 21 December 2006), and aimed to promote knowledge-sharing by the various ESCWA member countries on different CDM issues. The second was on establishing public-private partnerships (PPPs) for ICT initiatives (Amman, 26 February – 1 March, 2007), and aimed to train participants in operational and organizational aspects of ICT-related PPPs in ESCWA member countries.

*Subprogramme 6: Comparable statistics for improved planning
and decision-making*

35. Nine regional and one national workshops were held under this subprogramme. The regional workshops included a workshop on DevInfo 5.0 (Cairo, 18-22 September 2006), which aimed to launch the new version of the software and make use of feedback in order to fine-tune the software before it was launched. A workshop on labour force statistics in the Arab countries was held in Italy from 13 to 17 November 2006 in order to assess the status of those statistics and share knowledge of labour force surveys in Arab countries, underlying concepts, and means of producing and calculating data and indicators and relating them to labour market analysis, with particular focus on the informal sector. The Workshop on national accounts that was held in Cairo from 19 to 21 December 2006 aimed to develop a regional forum for the exchange of views and practices, consultation and analysis of current and prospective issues relating to 1993 SNA implementation and update in Western Asia. The Workshop on Compilation of Statistics of International Trade in Services that was held in Cairo from 6 to 9 February 2007 aimed to build and strengthen national skills in applying the statistical systems and classifications related to trade in services, and share the experiences and concerns of ESCWA member countries and United Nations organizations working on the relevant statistics. The Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region that was held in Cairo 2007 aimed to provide guidance on implementation of United Nations recommendations for the collection and compilation of vital statistics at national level through civil registration systems and provide an overview of international standards. The Regional Workshop on Sampling Design that was held in Doha in May 2007 aimed to introduce the basic principles and techniques of survey sampling. The Regional Workshop on Demographic Projections that was held in Doha from 20 to 24 May 2007 aimed to introduce approaches to projection methodology in respect of fertility, mortality and migration and population forecasting, including the interpretation of demographic trends and their probable impact on future national demographic scenarios. The aim of the Regional Seminar on Drafting Resolutions for NSOs that was held in Cairo in September 2007 was to improve work processes and contribute to the

harmonization, reliability and timeliness of national statistics. The Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications that was held in Cairo in 2007 was designated to assist in implementing International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4 and Central Product Classification (CPC) Ver.2 in routine statistical work at the national level, help participants to improve the capacity of users and producers of industrial statistics in using and applying updated economic classifications, and increase harmonization in producing and disseminating data on regional and international industrial statistics.

36. The workshop for the Central Organization of Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT), Iraq on the Compilation of Constant-Price Estimates of National Accounts – at National and Regional Levels was held in Cairo from 22 to 25 October 2007 with a view to presenting methods and recommendations for the estimation of national and regional accounts at constant prices, including elements of reconciliation and benchmarking techniques, for statisticians in COSIT.

Subprogramme 7: Advancement and empowerment of women

37. Nine national and four regional workshops were held under this subprogramme. The national workshops were held for Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates. National workshops included a workshop on gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, focusing on facilitation, planning and implementation of the training (Sana'a, 10-17 March 2006); a workshop on strategic planning (Damascus, 18-24 March 2006); training on CEDAW, targeting media in Lebanon (Lebanon, 26 February - 5 March 2006); a workshop on the analysis and mainstreaming of gender issues for the United Arab Emirates Women Union (United Arab Emirates, 2-6 April 2006); a workshop on a mechanism for implementation of CEDAW, organized by the Supreme Council for Women Affairs, Women National Committee, Yemen (Yemen, 6-14 April 2006); a workshop on citizenship and women's rights (Yemen, 12-15 February 2007); a workshop on mainstreaming gender in national planning (Yemen, 20-22 February 2007); workshops on CEDAW for Lebanese lawyers, judges and members of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice and National Commission for Lebanese Women (Lebanon, 4-9 June 2007); and a workshop on the analysis and mainstreaming of gender issues (Bahrain, 4-7 June 2007).

38. Regional workshops included a sub-regional workshop on gender mainstreaming for women national machineries of selected Arab countries, namely, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic (Jordan, 5-7 February 2007), which provided training on sectoral gender mainstreaming and strategic planning; a workshop on gender mainstreaming for the Gulf region (Jordan, 4-6 May 2007) aimed at sensitizing trainees to issues related to sectoral gender mainstreaming and strategic planning; the regional workshop for judges and parliamentarians on the implementation of CEDAW (Amman, 17-19 October 2007), aimed at enhancing the capacity of participants to implement that Convention; and the regional workshop on gender Budgeting (Amman, 27 and 28 November 2007), designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the staff of national machineries for women and gender focal points at the ministries of finance and planning to address gender imbalances and mainstream the gender perspective.

**III. EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF
TECHNICAL COOPERATION: 2006-2007**

39. Pursuant to the Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted at the twenty-second ESCWA session (Beirut, 9-12 May 2005) by resolution 249 (XXII), the ESCWA secretariat intensified its monitoring and evaluation processes in order to achieve the following objectives:

(a) To monitor and evaluate each advisory service in order to ensure that the services provided by ESCWA match the needs and expectations of member countries, and seek Governments' opinion of the quality of the mission undertaken, the report submitted by the advisor, and any follow-up actions taken, and the relevance of recommendations;

(b) To evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered during the biennium 2006-2007 by the ESCWA Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division (PPTCD) and assess the impact, suitability and sustainability of services, with a view to improving results in 2008-2009;

(c) To evaluate the relevance and value-added of the workshops organized by ESCWA, in order to improve the quality and planning of future activities.

40. The evaluation process in this report was based on a number of sources of information and approaches, including the following:

- (a) Mission reports and feedback submitted by regional advisors;
- (b) Evaluation reports on missions undertaken by ESCWA staff to member countries;
- (c) Inputs from TC Network Report and the TC knowledge-sharing network meeting;
- (d) Evaluation forms completed by member countries;
- (e) Workshop evaluation questionnaires;
- (f) Self-evaluation by regional advisors.

41. Member countries were requested to evaluate adviser reports on each advisory service rendered for the TC programme for 2006-2007, and to evaluate the training workshops that were carried out during the biennium, which will be discussed below.

42. A total of 49 evaluation forms were submitted to key institutions which have received numerous or major advisory services from ESCWA or where workshops were conducted. A total of 38 (77 per cent) of those institutions duly returned completed questionnaires. The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the quality, timeliness, applicability and usefulness of the services. Percentage responses varied between member countries, with the highest feedback registered from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (100 per cent) and the lowest from Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine (0 per cent) (see annex 3).

43. With respect to quality and timeliness of ESCWA advisory services, 92 per cent rated the services as being of good/fair quality and quantity, while 91 per cent rated service delivery as punctual, and 70 per cent found recommendations suitable, applicable and useful for future work.

44. In terms of the major achievements of ESCWA advisory services, 79 per cent responded positively and 11 per cent indicated that achievements were under way. Achievements cited by beneficiaries included the development of appropriate strategies, plans of action and country reports; improvements in existing procedures and organizational structures; the initiation of new projects; and adequate implementation and precise evaluation of activities. However, respondents noted that follow-up from both ESCWA and member countries on project implementation and enforcement of proposed policies and legislation tends to be weak.

45. Working relationship between regional advisers and ESCWA staff on the one hand and member countries on the other hand was perceived as satisfactory: 92 per cent of respondents indicated that they maintained a good working relationship. However, in interviews conducted during the evaluation of missions, some respondents complained of a delay in the actual delivery of advisory services and the lack of long-term regional advisors.

46. While all types of advisory service provided by ESCWA were found useful, policy advice was considered most useful by 47 per cent of respondents, followed by workshops (33 per cent) and project preparation and implementation (20 per cent) (see annex 4).

47. While findings from discussions held with regional advisors and self-evaluations were very useful, they were not representative of services, because ESCWA had only three regional advisors in the 2006-2007 biennium, two of whom served for one year or less. Many regional advisor services were therefore

undertaken by ESCWA staff. However, those who completed a self-evaluation felt that they had, to a great extent, achieved the objectives of their missions, and cited repeated and follow-up requests and letters of appreciation from member countries as evidence of the efficiency and quality of their services.

48. Advisers noted that member countries made good use of the results of their missions and recommendations, especially when the advisory service was a process that required several missions for initiation, follow-up and completion. In addition, advisers have supported and/or prepared several project proposals, national strategies and sectoral policies and provided training workshops, which seemed to be particularly useful when linked to advisory services.

49. Some obstacles were noted by the advisers, including lack of clarity or precision on the part of member countries in articulating the purpose of the request, which often led to a mission's objectives being changed; qualified staff at middle-management level in member countries were not always made available for team work, which is very important for ensuring continuity and sustainability after completion of the mission and ensuring ownership of the process; lack of funds for the implementation of recommended actions; and slow execution rate, coupled with delay in implementing policy recommendations.

50. Notwithstanding the aforementioned obstacles, several accomplishments were noted during the biennium, including the meeting of 90 per cent of member countries requests. ESCWA put greater emphasis on a multi-disciplinary approach to regional advisor services as for example in the technical support for negotiations and accession to WTO and the incorporation of environment and trade issues for sustainable development provided for Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and Yemen.

51. Some of the challenges observed during the biennium will serve as lessons learnt for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of technical cooperation services in ESCWA, including the following: interruption to specific TC activities or advisory services caused by the expiration of an advisor's contract; time lag between request of service and actual delivery, which ESCWA is making every effort to improve; the need for longer field missions, in order to enable regional advisors to work as part of a team with counterparts in member countries; the need to coordinate at national level and prioritize requests for advisory services; the need for longer-term follow-up through national workshops for local stakeholders coupled with a strategy for disseminating results and awareness-building; the need for building greater synergies at the national level by connecting technical support with capacity-building and training to strengthen local expertise and knowledge; the need to maintain sustained follow-up at the national level in order to ensure that recommendations and advice are being adequately implemented and endorsed.

52. As part of the capacity-building activities undertaken by ESCWA during the 2006-2007 biennium and facilitated by the technical corporation, a total of 47 training workshops were conducted, of which 25 were regional/sub regional/international workshops and 22 national. Over 2,200 citizens of member countries representing, inter alia, technical personnel in the public sector, middle-management, media groups, NGOs and parliamentarians were trained; however, only 419, or less than 20 per cent of the total of those participants were women. At the end of each workshop, trainees completed a standard evaluation questionnaire, based on a template developed by ESCWA in order to assess training activities and ensure comparability. Assessment of the evaluation tools used by ESCWA for training shows that completed forms do not indicate whether training fulfilled expected results, and that there is need to develop better analytical tools to assess and monitor those training workshops more effectively.

53. A comprehensive statistical analysis of the responses of participants was not possible. However, a general review of evaluation questionnaires showed that the majority of participants seemed satisfied with respect to the usefulness of topics covered, the organization and quality of the training and the ability of the workshops to achieve their set objectives.

54. ESCWA capacity-building and training activities provided rich and standardized learning material and catered to multiple stakeholders. However, some shortcomings were noted, including the lack of a selection

process for participants, a limited number of TOTs capacity-building activities, variable quality of resources, training material, exercises and case studies, and inconsistent documentation and archiving of activities and compilation of learning tools.

IV. NEEDS IDENTIFICATION-PRIORITY AREAS: 2008-2009

55. Because advisory services are request-driven, and given the limited resources of RPTC, there is a need to priorities regional advisor and capacity-building activities in order to meet the strategic needs identified by member countries. For the biennium 2008-2009, the majority of member countries have indicated that the statistics, national accounts, gender issues, water, and economic policies/trade have greatest priority.

PRIORITIES OF MEMBERS COUNTRIES FOR 2008-2009 AS INDICATED BY ESCWA FOCAL POINTS AND DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Country	Social	Environment	Water	Energy	ICT	Economic policies/ trade	Statistics and national accounts	Gender issues
Bahrain	X		X			X	X	X
Egypt								
Iraq					X			
Jordan	X		X	X				X
Kuwait		X				X	X	
Lebanon		X						X
Palestine	X						X	X
Oman	X		X		X		X	
Qatar	X		X			X	X	
Saudi Arabia		X	X		X	X	X	
Syrian Arab Republic		X	X			X	X	X
United Arab Emirates			X			X	X	X
Yemen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

56. It should be noted that the above priorities are usually determined by member countries, in consultation with regional advisors and ESCWA staff. Other priority areas are solicited from the beneficiaries themselves or from national experts in various development fields.

57. ESCWA endeavours to accommodate as many requests for advisory services for technical assistance and capacity-building as possible, and to ensure that the technical cooperation strategy matches national priorities and internationally agreed development goals.

58. With input from regional advisors, the following priorities for 2008-2009 were recommended for each subprogramme and theme:

(a) *Environment*: assisting member countries in the drafting and implementation of bills and national strategies on environmental protection, the development of systems and tools for incorporating environmental considerations into national strategic planning, the incorporation of environmental considerations into socio-economic development plans and policies, and the promotion of concepts related to tourism and the environment;

(b) *Energy*: building the capacity of member countries to identify measures for the regulation of industrial emission levels, produce taxation measures to encourage greater energy efficiency, set up energy efficiency and fuel standards for various vehicles and products, find mechanisms for fuel-switching to gas and power plant improvements, promote and integrate research and development activities on energy issues;

(c) *Social policy issues*: assisting member countries in the development of national social policies and enhancing the inability to collaborate and coordinate in respect of social issues with relevant ministries; empowering member countries with regard to advocacy for social policy programme; and empowering civil society to enhance the attainment of social development;

(d) *WTO*: assisting member countries in WTO-accession negotiations, the drafting of national laws/bills to regulate issues pertaining to investment, competition and economic reform, and the development of national strategies on negotiations pertaining to GATS/WTO;

(e) *ICT*: assisting and empowering member countries in data collection for the production of internationally-defined ICT indicators for the information society, promoting e-learning and ICT in education, setting up national action plans for implementation of national e-strategies, empowering member countries to support research and development in ICT, assisting member countries in the development of national and institutional strategies and ICT policies;

(f) *Science and technology*: assisting member countries to formulate national policies for science and technology, and capacity-building on issues related to methodology, process management, policy documentation, and implementation mechanisms related to science and technology;

(g) *National accounts*: assisting member countries in conducting surveys and censuses on economic activities and the generation of data for national accounts; identifying ways of synthesizing and improving the use of data from various sources; increasing the scope and coverage of national accounts data compilation; reorganizing statistical systems to meet data collection needs; and enhancing/setting up systems for the implementation of national accounts;

(h) *Gender*: assisting member countries in the development of gender sensitive statistics for MDG monitoring; enhancing ability to conduct gender analysis; empowering member countries by training and technical advice on gender mainstreaming strategies; empowering member countries to formulate gender-sensitive national budgets; and empowering member countries in the implementation of CEDAW.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

59. The following conclusions may be drawn in respect of the 2006-2007 biennium:

(a) In general, member countries indicated an acceptable level of satisfaction with RPTC activities in terms of the quality, usefulness and timeliness of technical services, including policy, advice, workshops and projects;

(b) No clear mechanism exists for setting/targeting priorities of member countries in accordance with their actual needs. Technical service/advice continues to be driven by member countries requests without effective operational assessment on consolidation of the regional advisors' inputs on the issues. Addressing regional, sub-regional and transboundary issues through ESCWA advisory services and a multi-disciplinary approach continues to be challenging, which limits the value-added and impact of TC services provided, despite the large number of activities implemented and the large number of requests from member countries;

(c) While ESCWA provided many advisory services and capacity-building activities during the 2006-2007 biennium, distribution of such services by member country remained uneven;

(d) With a view to enhancing its TC programme and activities, ESCWA has initiated the recruitment of five senior regional advisors, specialized in the core thematic areas covered by the Commission. Additionally, a database of experts in the various socio-economic, institutional, legislative and technical fields is being developed in order to support member country requests for advisory services;

(e) Follow-up to the implementation of activities recommended by regional advisors, ESCWA TC focal points and stakeholders remains unsystematic and limited in scope and frequency;

(f) Member country responses to evaluation questionnaires continue to be problematic, particularly with respect to the evaluation of advisor reports and the identification of national priorities;

(g) The dissemination of information on ESCWA activities and services in member countries and regional, interregional and international institutions continues to be inadequate, albeit efforts have been made to establish the TC network, initiate the webpage and expand outreach in disseminating information about TC services and activities.

60. In the light of the foregoing, it should be stressed that progress has been achieved, during the 2006-2007 biennium, in terms of the implementation of the TC strategy as per resolution 275 (XXIV), which requests the secretariat to continue implementation of the ESCWA TC Strategy, take appropriate measures to launch the TC information and knowledge-sharing network, and prepare a specific plan of action for partnership development and resource mobilization.

61. ESCWA must intensify its efforts to operationalize the TC strategy through the proposed plan of action which is appended to this report. It proposes a series of time-bound measures for boosting ESCWA visibility and enhancing its credibility among international donors as a key partner for fostering regional development and integration. It suggests means for engaging multinational corporations and corporate donors in working closely with ESCWA, not just as donors, but as potential partners.

62. Based on the above, two sets of recommendations may be made. The first relates to member countries, while the second set is addressed to ESCWA in managing its TC work programme and implementing the strategy adopted.

(a) Recommendations to member countries include the following:

- (i) Support should be shown for TC network and an active contribution should be made to its activities through regular meetings of TC focal points, regional or subregional workshops on specific themes and means for improving monitoring, evaluation and coordination of TC work through e-forums hosted by the TC portal;
- (ii) TC-related activities should be hosted at the national level in order to increase the impact of TC-related services;
- (iii) Dialogue between regional TC focal points, networking initiatives and communities of practitioners should be supported and strengthened, linkages with intergovernmental processes should be improved, and adequate mechanisms for sharing best practices and lessons learnt should be developed;

(b) TC-related recommendations include the following:

- (i) ESCWA capacity to adequately assess and set national priorities in cooperation with member states and beneficiaries, with the involvement of regional advisors and divisions should be enhanced, thereby improving synergies between member countries and multi-level partners;
- (ii) TC efficacy should be enhanced by improved planning, knowledge mapping of available resources and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

- (iii) Compilation of country, regional and sub-regional indicators should be enhanced in order to improve the planning, delivery and monitoring of TC services and ensure that proposed follow-up measures are systematically undertaken and monitored;
- (iv) Member countries should be provided with online tools/facilities in order to improve and increase input to the setting of national priorities;
- (v) Management of existing resources should be improved by better coordination across divisions, more efficient tracking systems and adequately updated reporting systems;
- (vi) An up-to-date TC marketing approach should be designed in order to increase the visibility of ESCWA, and agencies' strengths matched to opportunities for cooperation;
- (vii) Existing capacity-building tools and checklists should be used when TC work plans and priorities, which have to be closely aligned with the strategic framework are devised;
- (viii) Staff competencies and training should be enhanced and upgraded in order to keep abreast of evolving work and service standards. Special emphasis should be placed on team work, the clear delegation of authority and responsibilities, and effective project, client service and service management.

Annex 1

**DISTRIBUTION OF MISSIONS BY MEMBER COUNTRY UNDER THE REGULAR PROGRAMME
 OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN 2006-2007**

Country	Sustainable Development and Productivity	Social Development	Economic Analysis	Globalization and Regional Integration	Information and Communications Technology	Statistics	Women	Total
Bahrain	2	4	0	3	0	2	1	12
Egypt	6	3	0	7	2	2	1	21
Iraq	3	0	3	4	45	0	0	55
Jordan	5	3	2	3	18	1	3	35
Kuwait	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	7
Lebanon	4	1	2	1	3	0	3	14
Oman	5	2	0	1	5	4	0	17
Palestine	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	6
Qatar	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	6
Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	1	3	0	0	8
Syrian Arab Republic	6	0	1	10	3	4	2	26
United Arab Emirates	5	0	0	3	4	4	1	17
Yemen	10	1	0	5	2	7	5	30
Other countries	5	1	0	4	0	3	0	13
Total	56	18	11	43	90	32	17	267

Annex 2.A**DISTRIBUTION OF CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES BY MEMBER COUNTRY UNDER
THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN 2006-2007**

Country	Sustainable Development and Productivity	Social Development	Economic Analysis/ ECRI	Globalization and Regional Integration	Information and Communications Technology	Statistics	Gender Issues	Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation	Total
Bahrain		1		2			1		4
Egypt		1		1		5		1	8
Iraq			2	1		1			4
Jordan	3	1	2		2		3		11
Kuwait									
Lebanon	1		1				2		4
Oman									
Palestine			1			1	1		3
Qatar						2			2
Saudi Arabia									
Syrian Arab Republic				1			1		2
United Arab Emirates		1		1			1		3
Yemen	1						4		5
Other countries						1			1
Total	5	4	6	6	2	10	13	1	47

Annex 2.B

**DISTRIBUTION OF TRAINING COURSES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
DURING THE 2006-2007 BIENNIUM – RPTC**

A. NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Name of the workshop	No. of Participants	Female	Venue	Date
1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Drafting the Governmental CEDAW Report.	61	55	Palestine	13-29 January 2006
2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Drafting the Governmental CEDAW Report.	17	15	Lebanon	26-28 February 2006
3. Training Workshop in Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming.	38	36	Yemen	10-17 March 2006
4. Training Workshop on Strategic Planning.	26	24	Syrian Arab Republic	18-24 March 2006
5. Analysis and Mainstreaming of Gender Issues for the United Arab Emirates Women Union.	17	15	United Arab Emirates	2-6 April 2006
6. Training workshop on Mechanism for Implementation of Convention on Eliminating Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), organized by the Supreme Council for Women, Women National Committee.	25	23	Yemen	6-14 April 2006
7. Workshop on Environment and Trade Issues for Sustainable Development.	53	3	Yemen	29-31 May 2006
8. Workshop on Orientation to Social Policies.	25	19	Bahrain	20-21 December 2006
9. National Conference on Integrated Social Policies.	400	280	Egypt	7-8 February 2007
10. Training workshops on Citizenship and Women's Rights and Mainstreaming Gender in National Planning.	24	18	Yemen	12-22 February 2007
11. International Conference on Statistics and Development.	300	60	Palestine	27-28 March 2007
12. Workshop for Iraqi Officials on Trade in Services.	23	6	Egypt	30 March - 5 April 2007
13. Capacity-Building Package on Land Degradation Assessment and Prevention.	24	5	Jordan	6-17 May 2007
14. Capacity-Building Package on Land Degradation Assessment and Prevention in Lebanon.	20	5	Lebanon	23 July to 3 August 2007
15. Consultative Meeting on Reduction of Ethno-Sectarian Tensions in Iraq Through Non-Formal and Informal Education.	21	5	Lebanon	19-20 April 2007
16. Training on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for Lebanese Lawyers, Judges and members of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice. The National Commission for Lebanese Women.	15	13	Lebanon	4-9 June 2007
17. Training Workshop on the Analysis and Mainstreaming of Gender Issues for Senior Members at the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain.	20	15	Bahrain	5-7 June 2007
18. National Workshop for Management of Water Provision Under Crisis in South Lebanon.	16	4	Lebanon	7-9 September 2007
19. National Workshop on Capacity-Building of Iraqi Officials in the Area of Project Formulation and Development.	20	8	Jordan	22-25 September 2007
20. National Training workshop for COSIT Iraq on Compilation of Constant-Price Estimates of National Accounts - at National and Regional Levels.	9	3	Egypt	22-25 October 2007
21. National Training Workshop on Negotiations of Bilateral Investment Agreements (UAE).	19	8	United Arab Emirates	24-28 November 2007
22. National Training Workshop on Negotiations of Bilateral Investment Agreements (Bahrain).	19	10	Bahrain	1-5 December 2007
Total	1 192	160		

B. REGIONAL/SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Name of the workshop	No. of Participants	Female	Venue	Date
1. Strategic Planning Workshop One Million Trees Initiative.	20	9	Lebanon	24-27 February 2006
2. Regional Workshop on DevInfo 5.0.	50	19	Egypt	18-22 September 2006
3. Workshop on Labor Force Statistics in the Arab Countries.	21	11	Italy	13-17 November 2006
4. Regional Workshop on Energy Efficiency Labelling.	30	20	Jordan	18-19 December 2006
5. Workshops on National Accounts.	30	15	Egypt	19-21 December 2006
6. Joint Workshop for capacity-building of the National Focal Points for the first UN-Road Safety week.	52	12	Egypt	20-21 December 2006
7. Regional Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism.	40	4	Jordan	20-21 December 2006
8. Sub-regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming for Women National Machineries in Selected Arab Countries.	20	16	Jordan	5-7 February 2007
9. Workshop on Compilation of Statistics of Trade in Services.	36	9	Egypt	5-9 February 2007
10. Workshop on Establishing Public Private Partnerships for ICT initiatives.	38	9	Jordan	26 February to 1 March 2007
11. Regional Meeting on the Establishment of a Technical Cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Networks.	25	5	Egypt	26-30 November 2007
12. Workshop on Composite Economic Indicators for Short-Term Economic Forecasting.	16	1	Jordan	12-13 March 2007
13. Sub-regional workshop on gender mainstreaming for the Gulf region.	16	15	Jordan	4-6 May 2007
14. Regional Workshop on Sampling Design	28	13	Qatar	15-17 May 2007
15. Regional Workshop on Demographic Projections in ESCWA Countries.	30	15	Qatar	20-24 May 2007
16. Consultative Meeting - a UN-ESCWA project entitled: Reducing Ethno-Sectarian Tensions in the Region: Towards a Homegrown Response.	15	10	Lebanon	17 May 2007
17. Regional Forum on the Role of Islamic Financial Institutions in Financing for Development.	300	0	Bahrain	5-6 September 2007
18. Training Workshop Facilitation of Maritime Traffic and Related Matters, organized by UNDP, Syrian Ministry of Transport, IMO and ESCWA.	47	2	Syrian Arab Republic	9-13 June 2007
19. Regional Workshop on Drafting Resolutions.	14	5	Egypt	3-4 September 2007
20. Expert Consultation Meeting on Priority Science and Technology Domains: Establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre.	25	5	Jordan	6-7 November 2007
21. Regional Seminar on the Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.	44	22	Jordan	2-21 November 2007
22. Regional Workshop on Integrating Demographic Dividend in Development Planning in the Arab Region.	39	9	United Arab Emirates	5-6 December 2007
23. Regional Workshop on Management of Water Provision during the Crisis.	23	2	Jordan	4-8 December 2007
24. Regional Workshop on Gender Budgeting.	21	18	Jordan	27-28 November 2007
25. Regional Workshop on International Economic and Social Classification.	47	13	Egypt	10-13 December 2007
Total	1 027	259		

Annex 3

**FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES: PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
FROM ESCWA MEMBERS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR
PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

Country	Number of requests submitted to ESCWA members	Number of responses received from ESCWA members	Percentage (per cent)
Bahrain	5	4	80
Egypt	1	0	0
Iraq	2	2	100
Jordan	6	4	67
Kuwait	2	1	50
Lebanon	1	0	0
Palestine	1	0	0
Oman	4	3	75
Qatar	4	3	75
Saudi Arabia	5	5	100
Syrian Arab Republic	8	7	88
United Arab Emirates	4	3	75
Yemen	6	6	100
Total	49	38	68

Annex 4

**FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES: STATISTICAL
RATING OF RESPONSES FROM ESCWA MEMBERS ON
THE EVALUATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

Quality and quantity	Good	Fair	Not good	No response	Total
	30	5	1	2	38
	79 per cent	13 per cent	3 per cent	5 per cent	100 per cent
Timeliness	On time	Not on time	Acceptable	No response	Total
	35	1	1	1	38
	91 per cent	3 per cent	3 per cent	3 per cent	100 per cent
Recommendations	Useful	Acceptable	Suitable	No response	Total
	27	6	4	1	38
	70 per cent	16 per cent	11 per cent	3 per cent	100 per cent
Achievements	Made	Made partially	Not made	No response	Total
	30	4	2	2	38
	79 per cent	11 per cent	5 per cent	5 per cent	100 per cent
Working relationship with ESCWA	Good	Average	No response	-	Total
	35	3	0	-	38
	92 per cent	8 per cent	-	-	100 per cent
Most useful services	Policy Advice	Training	Projects	No response	Total
	35	25	15	0	75
	47 per cent	33 per cent	20 per cent	-	100 per cent

Annex 5

DISTRIBUTION OF TC RESOURCES FOR 2006-2007 AND 2008-2009

Chart 1. Distribution of TC resources for 2006-2007

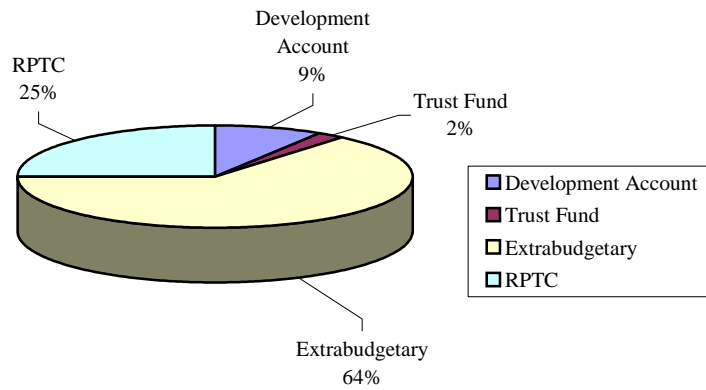


Chart 2. Expected distribution of TC resources for 2008-2009

