



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/CL1.CCS/2022/WG.15/INF.1  
30 November 2022  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Virtual Expert Meeting on Arab Food Security Vulnerabilities and Pathways  
Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 13:00-14:30 (Beirut Time)

### Information Note and Agenda

#### Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the war in Ukraine have exacerbated the vulnerabilities existing within the Arab food system. The vulnerabilities, which are underpinned, among others, by the inadequacy of food production, socio-economic shocks, high food import dependency and protracted crises are leading to a higher incidence of malnutrition, including undernutrition, nutrient deficiency and overnutrition.

The publication, entitled “**Arab Food Security Vulnerabilities and Pathways** ([ACCESS IT HERE](#)),” produced prior to the war in Ukraine, reviewed the food-related situation that prevailed right in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide and in the Arab region and assessed the impact of some of the above vulnerabilities and threats on regional food security. It also examined the impact of major stresses on food security in two at high-risk countries, Lebanon and Yemen. Following the war in Ukraine, global and regional food systems were further upended as supplies of crucial staple commodities dwindled and food prices surged dramatically worldwide unraveling the food security of a number of Arab countries.

In light of the findings and key messages of the Arab food security vulnerabilities and pathways report and in the aftermath of last year’s Food Systems Summit as well as the impacts of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, ESCWA is organizing this virtual expert consultation to take stock of key developments and exchange views on the likely trends in food security over the next year. Experts would be called to also identify key policies and programmes that could support the achievement of food security in the Arab region, notably in the most vulnerable countries.

#### Organization

The meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, 14 December 2022, from 13:00 to 14:30 (Beirut time).

The meeting will be conducted primarily in English. No interpretation will be provided.

## Agenda

<b>13:00-13:05</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies (FEP), Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability (CCNRS) Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ul>
<b>13:05-14:00</b>	<b>Key messages on Arab Food Security Vulnerabilities and Pathways</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Arab Food Security Vulnerabilities and Pathways: Key Recommendations</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Fidele Byiringiro, FEP, CCNRS Cluster, ESCWA</li> <li>▪ Ms. Maya Atieh, Consultant, FEP, CCNRS Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>New Arab Food Security Strategy</i>, Mr Ali Eissa, Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussants</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Salem Darwish, Ministry of Agriculture and Lebanese University, Lebanon</li> <li>- Mr. Said Saghir Zarouali, High Commission of Planning (HCP), Morocco</li> <li>- Ms. Soraya Mokdaf, Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT), Algeria</li> </ul>
<b>14:00-14:30</b>	<b>Discussions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions</li> <li>- Closing remarks</li> </ul>

## Correspondence

All meeting-related correspondence should be sent to:

**Mr. Fidele Byiringiro**  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Food and Environment Policies  
CCNRSC, ESCWA  
E-mail: [byiringiro@un.org](mailto:byiringiro@un.org)

**Ms. Layale Gedeon**  
Research Assistant  
Food and Environment Policies  
CCNRSC, ESCWA  
E-mail: [gedeon1@un.org](mailto:gedeon1@un.org)