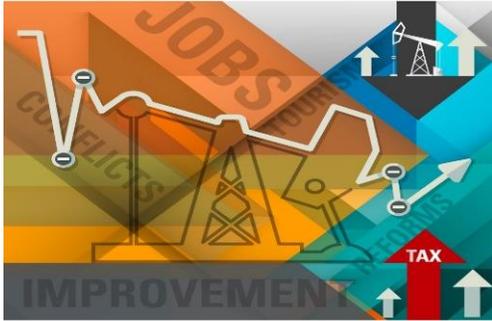




ESCWA NEWS DECEMBER 17-21



17 DECEMBER 2018

Launch of the Economic and Social Survey

The Arab region continues to manage uncertainty on its path towards inclusive and sustainable growth: geopolitical tensions remain while global interest rates have soared. Reflecting opportunities and risks, the [Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018](#) estimates that regional economic growth slowed from 2.8% to 1.5% between 2016 and 2017, but was projected to rebound to 3.3% in the coming year.

The survey finds that the region continues to lag in gender equality, despite progress in educational attainment for women and ambitious new legislation to reduce discrimination. It also explores the exchange rate regime in Arab countries, finding that fixed exchange rates, notwithstanding misalignments, have a better impact on growth in certain countries. This counterintuitive result is mainly explained by the high level of uncertainty in the region: rigid exchange rate regimes demonstrate commitment to low inflation and reduce exchange rate risk.

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18-19 DECEMBER 2018

Demographic and Social Statistics TAG Meeting

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Demographic and Social Statistics recommends strategies as well as substantive and methodological guidelines in the area of population and social statistics. In its first meeting, the TAG sought to ensure that all countries in the region have the capacity to deliver a core set of population and social indicators needed for the SDGs. In the second meeting, the TAG discussed suggested additions to this core indicator list corresponding to SDG indicators, and a strategy to address data gaps within the Arab region.

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18-19 DECEMBER 2018

Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee

In its fifth meeting, the ESCWA Executive Committee followed up on recommendations arising from its fourth meeting; on the [Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab region](#); and on the resolutions of ESCWA's [thirtieth ministerial session](#). Participants also addressed regional and global issues, including Financing for Development (implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda); the Arab Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data; the Palestinian economy, particularly the industrial sector, under the Israeli occupation; and the repercussions of climate change in the Arab region. The Executive Committee further reviewed ESCWA's proposed work programme for 2020, and technical cooperation activities for 2018.

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18-20 DECEMBER 2018

National Training: Improving Gender Statistics

Held in Amman, Jordan on 18-20 December, the national training workshop developed participants' technical capabilities in using gender statistics. The sessions covered topics including: integrating gender perspectives into official statistics; presenting, disseminating and communicating gender statistics; and improving gender statistics literacy among data users.

Researchers strengthened their ability to mainstream gender into national statistical systems, thus improving the availability and use of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels for better evidence-based gender policies.

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