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**Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Summary**

This document presents the proposed strategic framework of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2018-2019. It is submitted to the Executive Committee at its second meeting for consideration by representatives of member States.

The Executive Committee members are invited to review the overall programme orientation, focus areas and strategies pertained to the seven subprogrammes, taking into account the specific mandates issued by the ministerial sessions of the Commission and the general mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; and make concrete recommendations for further improvement, as necessary.

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### Overall orientation

19.1 The overall orientation of programme 19, economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development through effective economic and social policies and enhanced cooperation among the member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in particular and among Arab States in general and with other countries, paying special consideration to the least developed and conflict-stricken countries. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

19.2 Overall orientation for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 establishing ESCWA and 1985/69 amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and foster partnerships with them through the lead role of the Commission in the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

19.3 More recently, in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the United Nations Member States acknowledged the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development and agreed that regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level. They attached great importance to providing trade-related capacity-building for developing countries, including for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity.

19.4 Also in the 2030 Agenda, Member States committed to fully engage in conducting regular and inclusive reviews of progress at subnational, national, regional and global levels and to draw as far as possible on the existing network of follow-up and review institutions and mechanisms. They indicated that national reports will allow assessments of progress and identify challenges at the regional and global level; along with regional dialogues and global reviews, they will inform recommendations for follow-up at various levels. Member States welcomed the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations stressing that the inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

19.5 Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encouraged all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. It also encouraged the United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard. It indicated that follow-up and review at the high level political forum on sustainable development will be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be prepared by the Secretary General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level.

19.6 In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Member States encouraged the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

19.7 Member States also noted the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and invited other regions to carry out similar exercises. To help combat illicit flows, Member

States invited the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations to assist both source and destination countries. They also invited appropriate international institutions and regional organizations to publish estimates of the volume and composition of illicit financial flows.

19.8 Additionally, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled *The Future We Want*, emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions.

19.9 Furthermore, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recognized the contribution of the regional commissions as well as interregional, regional and subregional cooperation to addressing development challenges related to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. It also requested the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives, at the request of the programme countries, and to support measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels. It urged regional commissions and their subregional offices to prioritize sustainable development initiatives at the country level through, inter alia, more efficient and effective capacity-building, development and implementation of regional agreements and arrangements addressing the regional and subregional dimensions of national development goals and the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned.

19.10 As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, focusing on providing support to member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a regional integration perspective and support regional sustainable development by addressing economic, social and environmental policy gaps in member States.

19.11 Since late 2010, the political landscape of the Arab region has experienced dramatic transformations with the increasing demands by citizens for freedom and social justice. ESCWA will play a crucial and unique role in assisting member States in addressing current policy weaknesses and enhancing their capacities to achieve social justice, equitable growth and development and reduce existing inequalities, as set out in the agreed upon goals in the 2030 Agenda. In the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will use its convening power to provide a forum for member States to discuss and share views on sustainable development while addressing the causes of the current instability in the region.

19.12 To address regional and global priorities shaping up in the context of developing the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA engaged in an extensive process of internal consultations for this proposed strategic framework to ensure that it will contribute to the ESCWA 2016-2023 strategic vision.

19.13 ESCWA will focus on equitable and sustainable development in the region. Its programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on three strategic pillars (social justice, regional integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda) that serve as mainstays for work to be implemented across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Specifically, the strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 reflects the activities to be undertaken by ESCWA in a fully integrated manner.

19.14 The programme of work of ESCWA will be guided by three cross-cutting issues, namely poverty eradication, women empowerment and gender equality, and addressing the special needs of least developing countries.

19.15 ESCWA will fulfill the objectives of its strategic pillars while operating in an increasingly complex development environment, marked by political and social instability and economic and environmental vulnerability. ESCWA will continue to expand its network of national, regional and international partners and will collaborate with intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations, donors, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member States.

19.16 Building on its special relationship with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will support the articulation of regional positions on regional and global issues, and the formulation of a rights-based sustainable development agenda that has social justice at its heart. It will also support the implementation of resolutions of high-level regional forums, mainly the Arab economic and social development summits and the Arab regular summits, concerning the 2030 Arab development agenda, the completion of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) and the establishment of an Arab customs union and an Arab common market.

19.17 It will also continue to convene the Regional Coordination Mechanism as a platform for United Nations entities working in the region and other regional organizations to discuss regional policy priorities and coordinate the work needed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

19.18 Mobilizing additional financial and in-kind contributions will be important to ensure that ESCWA can disseminate and operationalize the findings and recommendations of its normative work and respond effectively to the requests of its member States. To do so, ESCWA will leverage the results and outputs of its regular programme of work, and the strategic partnerships it builds across the region.

19.19 ESCWA will establish partnerships with regional and national statistical organizations, and pursue coordinated efforts towards improved statistical information. It will strengthen the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate quality statistics for evidence-based policies for inclusive and sustainable development, regional integration and improved governance as contained in the Sustainable Development Goals.

19.20 As a leader of the Statistics Coordination Taskforce of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA will continue to promote the coordination of statistical activities among national statistical offices and international organizations active in the region. ESCWA has also put in place an internal coordination mechanism to harmonize statistical information used in its publications and studies.

19.21 Promoting gender equality and the rights of women is a core element in meeting development objectives. It requires a systematic and comprehensive focus on the different needs of men and women and their power relations and access to resources throughout all processes.

19.22 ESCWA will assist member States in eliminating gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislations and programmes. Through the provision of technical and advisory services, ESCWA will continue to support national and regional efforts to overcome all forms of discrimination against women, to achieve the advancement of women, and to secure their equal access to resources and participation in decision-making.

19.23 ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in its entire programme of work. It will continue to be at the forefront, among other United Nations entities, in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which was endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in October 2006.

19.24 In addition to its analytical and normative work, ESCWA will provide technical cooperation support in line with the articulated needs of its member States paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed ones while promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. It will act as a facilitator for the exchange of knowledge and information by providing a forum for networking and multilateral dialogue on regional and global development issues. Lessons derived from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the commitment of the United Nations to encourage and support evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

### **Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development**

**Objective:** To support the integrated management of natural resources in member States and mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national and regional policy processes, leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States draw upon the water-energy-food security nexus to achieve progress towards SDGs	(a) (i) Number of multisectoral institutional mechanisms established to mainstream SDGs into national development plans  (ii) Number of strategies, plans and policies adopted by line ministries to support the integrated management of natural resources
(b) Member States strengthen regional and subregional processes in support of agreements, strategies and standards related to water, energy, food and the environment	(b) (i) Number of harmonized tools, techniques and guidelines implemented by member States to enhance food, water and energy security  (ii) Number of joint initiatives and resolutions adopted by the ESCWA subsidiary intergovernmental bodies to enhance regional cooperation on sustainability of natural resources
(c) Member States enhance regional resilience to climate change and natural disasters and particularly the resilience of vulnerable communities	(c) (i) Number of recommendations, resolutions and decrees adopted by member States that aim to coordinate responses to climate change and measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction  (ii) Number of measures adopted by member States to mainstream the science-policy interface in relation to climate change

*External factors*

Subprogramme 1 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member States remain committed to giving due priority to sustainable development issues and adopt appropriate measures for enhancing food, energy and water security; (b) political stability is improved leading to institutional building and enhanced governance and transparency; (c) line ministries in member States work together on key strategic issues and cooperate in an institutional process; (d) member States are willing to establish mechanisms/platforms at interregional and interministerial levels to cooperate on sustainable development issues and incorporate SDGs.

*Strategy*

19.25 The Sustainable Development Policies Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 1. The year 2015 has been marked as the year of sustainable development. It witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which constitutes a robust and transformative agenda that builds on the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, and converges with global development processes, namely the Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Global Climate Change Accord adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

19.26 Nonetheless, regional challenges persist, and include: rising in demand for food, water and energy, increasing the heavy toll on scarce natural resources and causing environmental damages, unsustainable use of resources and food insecurity; prevailing unsustainable production and consumption patterns; inefficient patterns of energy production, distribution and consumption, adding to an already high volume of waste generated throughout the region; and climate change and its impact on natural resources. ESCWA is positioned to assist countries to follow a more sustainable development path that relies on policy coherence across the water, energy and food sectors (nexus approach), and policy dialogue across line ministries and stakeholders at national and regional levels.

19.27 Through the implementation of the subprogramme, ESCWA will assist member States in moving towards this sustainable development path by building strong and resilient institutions; supporting more efficient management of natural resources while adopting a rights-based approach in governance and justice to ensure equitable access to natural resources and transparency in managing those resources; implementing the 2030 Agenda; facilitating policy dialogue for greater food, water and energy security; and developing mechanisms for coordinated responses to climate change and other natural crises.

19.28 In that context, ESCWA will:

(a) Advocate for and raise awareness of regional and global commitments, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals, the regional agenda adopted by the five United Nations regional commissions to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, and Arab strategies for the integrated management of natural resources, climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues towards forging regional positions based on enhanced science-policy interface, coherence across different sectors and institution building;

(c) Support Arab States in their efforts to improve the efficient use of natural resources and adopt a rights-based approach by analysing performance in these sectors, providing policy recommendations, promoting the application of appropriate green technologies, and encouraging the integrated management of natural resources;

(d) Facilitate cooperation and coordination among Arab States as a means to enhance food, water and energy security, alleviate poverty in rural areas and achieve social justice in terms of natural resources governance;

(e) Support the development of national or regional mechanisms, networks or green help desks for the integration of the different pillars of sustainable development;

(f) Foster regional approaches on climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to deal with climate change impacts, conduct impact and vulnerability assessments, and examine associated socioeconomic and environmental issues in order to inform policymaking processes and support member States in their negotiations.

19.29 This will be achieved through servicing intergovernmental bodies; conducting high-quality policy-oriented research and analytical work on the science-policy interface; organizing high-level and expert meetings; providing advisory services; implementing field projects; supporting dedicated knowledge platforms for professionals; and issuing technical materials to enhance the capacity to address sustainable development issues and challenges.

19.30 Work under the subprogramme will strive to maximize synergies and strategic partnerships through collaboration with the League of Arab States and its specialized councils, the United Nations agencies and regional commissions and organizations, and participation in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water and energy, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

### **Subprogramme 2. Social development**

**Objective:** To enhance the capacity of member States to adopt rights-based social policies that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States develop rights-based social policies that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on social inclusion and social protection	(a) (i) Number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to improve social protection or expand the provision of social services
	(ii) Number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to ensure the social inclusion of vulnerable groups
(b) Member States engage in a regional consensus-building process on international migration towards the formulation and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration and foster intraregional coordination and cooperation	(b) (i) Number of instances where ESCWA facilitated or promoted policy dialogue on international migration between Governments of member States
	(ii) Number of policies that were adopted reflecting awareness of the regional development opportunities and challenges of international migration

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(c) Member States mainstream the principles of social justice into the formulation and implementation of rights-based social policies that guarantee equality, equity and participation	(c) (i) Number of governmental and non-governmental institutions that made use of the knowledge and tools generated by ESCWA on equality, equity or rights-based social development  (ii) Number of governmental and non-governmental institutions that made use of the knowledge and tools generated by ESCWA on participatory development and civic engagement in their development initiatives

#### *External factors*

Subprogramme 2 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member States remain committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals related to social development in the post-2015 world; (b) member States remain committed to promoting social justice through equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development; (c) national stakeholders engage in dialogue and build consensus on key policy areas; (d) national stakeholders provide the data and information necessary for ESCWA to conduct its analytical work.

#### *Strategy*

19.31 The Social Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 2. ESCWA is fully engaged with member States, and supports their efforts to identify policy priorities in the field of social development, taking into account major regional trends and emerging issues. It pays particular attention to the impact of the political instability and conflicts in the region on the well-being of its population, and promotes a rights-based approach to inclusive social policymaking.

19.32 During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will build on the experience gained during the previous bienniums to support countries in the implementation of the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. Specific attention will be paid to promoting and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and social protection; mainstreaming key population and human development issues into policymaking, focusing on youth development and international migration; and advocating the principles of social justice as a guiding framework for policymaking.

19.33 The adoption of equitable, inclusive and sustainable development policies is central to achieving social justice. Special attention will be placed on the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, informal workers, migrants and the poor, including in the context of support provided by ESCWA for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

19.34 Given the matrix structure of the Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda's focus on social inclusion, ESCWA will make use of its multidisciplinary structure to support member States in strengthening policy integration, including in the areas of economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, sustainable communal services and urban development. It will also assist them in improving the governance of social inclusion, including through broader-based civic participation.

19.35 ESCWA will conduct normative analysis to support social policy reform. It will undertake regional consultations and technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, capacity-building workshops and field projects. It will continue to act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on key social development areas within and beyond the Arab region. Partnerships and cooperation will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, the League of Arab States and its specialized councils, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

### Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

**Objective:** To achieve a decent standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained and more inclusive economic development within a more integrated region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member States design and implement inclusive economic policies, along with appropriate reforms in fiscal policy to address poverty, income inequality and other issues related to securing the wellbeing of people	(a) (i) Number of member States that adopted policies with new methods of monitoring indicators related to poverty and inequality  (ii) Number of member States that adopted inclusive plans and policies to address poverty and inequality  (iii) Number of member States that adopted fiscal policy reforms with an equity perspective to address inequality and improve human development
(b) Member States develop and implement policies to fill the financing gap and raise funds from traditional and innovative sources to meet the international agendas for development	(b) (i) Number of member States that took measures to increase the mobilization of financial resources for development  (ii) Number of financial institutions that took steps to issue innovative financial products to raise funds for development  (iii) Number of member States that passed regulatory reforms and legislations to enhance the business environment
(c) National policymaking institutions and other stakeholders develop evidence-based policy assessment tools to create enabling macroeconomic policy fields for regional integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	(c) (i) Number of member States that requested and received support from ESCWA in developing knowledge-based economic tools and strategies  (ii) Number of member States that incorporated the 2030 Agenda into their national development planning mechanisms

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(d) Member States reform economic institutions and adopt strategies and plans for economic transformation and regional integration based on the principles of good governance in order to enable policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development	(d) (i) Number of member States that increasingly used governance indicators in their policymaking  (ii) Number of member States that adopted appropriate policies for economic transformation through the development of regional value content and connectivity to global value chains  (iii) Number of member States that improved their regional integration and globalization indexes
(e) Member States design and implement pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based long-term development plans to eradicate poverty, reduce income inequality and strengthen institutions	(e) (i) Number of member States that requested and received support from ESCWA to design and implement long-term development strategies and plans to achieve equity  (ii) Number of member States that adopted the agreements of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq and created national committees for transport and trade facilitation

#### *External factors*

Subprogramme 3 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member States remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in budgetary funding; (c) the political and security situation in member States and the region allows the implementation of the work plan; (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available; and (e) Governments of member States have enough stability to pay due attention to such issues.

#### *Strategy*

19.36 The Economic Development and Integration Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 3. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and greater social justice. The subprogramme strategy for 2018-2019 is essentially in continuum with that adopted for 2016-2017. Having designed several effective monitoring tools on poverty, inequality and fiscal policy effectiveness by the end of the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA will have a sharper focus on advocacy and policy support to member States by using these tools in the biennium 2018-2019. It will produce further evidence-based analytical reports and technical studies to identify gaps and solutions in those areas with a view to achieving SDGs, taking into account national and regional priorities. In this context, ESCWA will work in close collaboration with the League of Arab States.

19.37 ESCWA will also support member States to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It will focus on mobilizing financial resources and designing appropriate financing policies to address socioeconomic development gaps and implement SDGs.

19.38 The lack of participation in policy dialogue, particularly on government budget, remains one of the impediments to social justice in the region. In order to support constructive dialogue on government budget and fiscal policy, it is essential for national policymaking institutions and stakeholders to be able to conduct evidence-based policy assessments. ESCWA will support national policymaking institutions and other stakeholders in the development of evidence-based policy assessment tools based on economic models, to create enabling macroeconomic policy fields for regional integration and to implement the 2030 Agenda.

19.39 ESCWA will carry out various types of activities aimed at promoting economic transformation and building capacities of member States in that regard. It will promote the expansion of exports by enhancing the infrastructure efficiency and adopting efficient economic policies. This will enable the private sector to enhance its competitiveness, produce higher value-added goods and services, develop regional value chains and improve connectivity to global ones on areas where the region has comparative advantages, benefiting from its available natural, capital and human resources. In that context, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving higher complementarity by facilitating exchange of production factors and coordination of economic policies.

19.40 In order to provide an evidence-based advocacy for regional economic integration and identify focus areas for the Arab region, ESCWA will undertake rigorous quantitative analyses of the legal and institutional arrangements that are necessary for creating the environment that fosters regional economic integration and the achievement of regional developmental objectives including high and labour-intensive economic growth rates.

#### **Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology for regional integration**

**Objective:** To promote information societies and knowledge-based economies in the Arab region by harnessing the power of technology and innovation to meet inclusive and sustainable development requirements and achieve internationally agreed development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States formulate/review technology for development strategies and plans with the aim of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related SDGs	(a) (i) Number of technology for development strategies adopted/reviewed with the aim of implementing the 2030 Agenda  (ii) Number of institutional and national policies featuring technology that were adopted in line with the 2030 Agenda
(b) Member States establish or reinforce offices and/or networks aimed at strengthening regional integration and streamlining technological cooperation	(b) (i) Number of offices and/or networks established or reinforced to strengthen regional integration and streamline technological cooperation

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(c) Member States develop policies/plans/initiatives that harness technology and innovation for increased employment, institutional development and transformation towards knowledge-based economies	<p>(ii) Number of member States that participated in ESCWA technology and innovation initiatives/platforms aimed at fostering regional cooperation</p> <p>(c) (i) Number of member States that developed policies/plans/initiatives harnessing technology and innovation and leveraging the role of women and youth for institutional development and the transformation to knowledge-based economies</p> <p>(ii) Number of collaborative regional science, technology and innovation initiatives launched</p>

#### *External factors*

Subprogramme 4 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) the political situation in the region is conducive to socioeconomic development; (b) the security environment does not deteriorate; (c) member States have the capacity and commitment to reorient their economic and social structures and policies; (d) national institutions are willing to provide relevant and timely information; and (e) member States are committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration.

#### *Strategy*

19.41 The Technology for Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 4. Technology and knowledge play a major role in the move towards a productive knowledge society. Recent technological advancements have modified the principles of economic growth and affected all economic sectors. The capacity of member States to adapt and contribute to ever-accelerating changes in technology and knowledge varies significantly. With the continued monitoring and implementation of activities pertaining to various sustainable development initiatives, such as the outcome of Rio+20, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), WSIS+10, the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society and the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, the work under the subprogramme will harness the power of technology to help and guide member States in their transitions towards information societies and knowledge-based economies.

19.42 To meet the development needs of member States, work under the subprogramme will consist of preparing analytical studies with policy recommendations, convening meetings, providing advisory services and implementing development projects in partnership with national and regional stakeholders. ESCWA will endeavour to enhance regional collaboration and foster partnerships aimed at harnessing research and development in technology and innovation for socioeconomic development. The various activities undertaken will serve as catalysts for change in national and regional policymaking and will help member States devise result-driven strategies. They will promote the adoption of comprehensive sets of measurements and indicators that will help in strategic decision-making and identifying priority areas of policy action. ESCWA will also rely on feedback from member States and on regional and global benchmarking exercises to assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress and evaluate the impact of technology on national and regional economies.

To help the human resources of the region take advantage of the opportunities presented by advancements in technology and knowledge, ESCWA will undertake field projects that incorporate a social dimension, seek the active involvement of local communities, pay special attention to the employment needs of young people and advocate the empowerment of women.

19.43 More specifically, the work of ESCWA under the subprogramme will leverage technology to smooth the transition of the countries of the region towards knowledge economies and the information society. It will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of technological sectors, creating enabling environments, promoting the development of innovative e-services and advocating the adoption and implementation of new trends in e-government with a special emphasis on open government initiatives. The ESCWA Technology Centre (Amman) will assist production sectors, universities and research centres in member States to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to adapt and develop suitable technologies that are critical to solving sustainability challenges. To make information and communication technology (ICT) accessible to all segments of the region's population, ESCWA will work to enhance the ICT infrastructure in member States, implement a regional backbone and promote cheaper access rates to broadband and mobile services.

### **Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

**Objective:** To offer a comprehensive institutional framework to steer the regional statistical development agenda and support member States in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Establish a well-coordinated and functional regional statistical system in the Arab region to support the production of harmonized official statistics in line with the regional framework of statistical indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	(a) Number of statistical capacity development activities jointly undertaken by ESCWA and regional partners
(b) National statistical systems develop capacities to produce quality statistics for evidence-based policymaking in support of national development strategies and the 2030 Agenda	(b) Number of member States that adopted, with ESCWA assistance, new or revised international statistical standards
(c) Stakeholders in the region and at the global level benefit from coherent sets of key data produced and disseminated by ESCWA, in formulating and monitoring policies related to the 2030 Agenda	(c) Proportion of sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation produced at the national level

#### *External factors*

Subprogramme 5 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States institutions request and use the capacity-building services provided by ESCWA; (b) there is political acceptance of specific international statistical standards; (c) data are made available from national sources for specific countries/indicators; (d) appropriate technological and publishing tools are available; and (e) regional and international partners remain committed to a coordinated approach to statistical capacity-building and to collecting and sharing statistical data.

*Strategy*

19.44 The Statistics Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 5. There is a continued need to improve the quality, relevance, availability and comparability of statistics in the region. Those improvements must be made primarily within the national statistical systems of member States.

19.45 In that context, ESCWA will offer a comprehensive institutional framework to steer the regional statistical development agenda, in cooperation with regional and international partners. It will provide capacity development to member States in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data for the implementation of SDGs. Data and statistical enhancements will be critical for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

19.46 Institutional development for official statistics will, therefore, remain the first priority to enable member States to produce quality statistics that meet international standards and recommendations. ESCWA will support member States in improving their institutional setup and legal framework for official statistics in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. It will also assist them in conducting assessments of national statistical systems aimed at defining strategies for the development of statistics. This will include developing the technical capacity and skills needed for the conduct of statistical surveys and censuses, as well as promoting the exchange of knowledge and good practices between member States.

19.47 In light of the 2030 Agenda and needs analysis for the development of official statistics in the region, the following thematic areas will be addressed in the 2016-2020 period, including the biennium 2018-2019: civil registration and vital statistics; multidimensional poverty; population and housing censuses (2020 round); statistical business registers; national accounts; statistics on trade in services; price statistics; environment statistics; and key development indicators.

19.48 Areas of governance and security, statistics in conflict, human rights and well-being are currently not sufficiently covered by official statistics. Taking into consideration that the ESCWA technical and resource capacity may not be sufficient to incorporate the new thematic areas, these may have to be addressed in a broader partnership incorporating academia and civil society organizations.

19.49 ESCWA will also work with regional and global partners including the League of Arab States, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Centre (GCC-STAT), the regional offices of the United Nations specialised agencies, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) and others. The partnerships will also comprise parties in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, such as the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

19.50 ESCWA is mandated to provide data and analytical services to stakeholders in member States, in partner organizations and within ESCWA, primarily on the basis of data produced by national statistical systems. User-needs surveys and satisfaction surveys will be conducted periodically to assess the impact of data disseminated by ESCWA, and adjust the data collection and dissemination programme accordingly.

19.51 The Statistics Division is primarily responsible for the quality of data collected and released by ESCWA, while other divisions at ESCWA continue to collect specific statistical data needed for analysis and studies. Annual data collection plans will be used to coordinate data requests by all divisions of ESCWA.

19.52 ESCWA will work towards formulating consensus-based agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics. Under the auspices of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, this work will be delegated to advisory groups established under specific priority areas. ESCWA will then work with national statistical systems to implement the new methodologies and guidelines developed through these advisory groups.

19.53 To enhance coherence among regional and international statistical agencies, ESCWA will play an active role in the cooperation and coordination initiatives taken by the regional and global statistical systems.

19.54 In order to accomplish the strategy of the subprogramme, ESCWA will act as a centre of excellence and a forum for the exchange of views on statistical issues; provide training at the national, subregional and regional levels; work on data quality assurance, estimation techniques and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations in cooperation with national statistical offices; respond to requests for technical assistance; and assist in the exchange of expertise between member States.

### **Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women**

**Objective:** To reduce gender imbalances, contribute to increasing the respect of the rights of women in member States, in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences, and encourage the exchange of lessons learned in this field.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States design and implement inclusive gender-sensitive strategies and plans towards the elimination of gender inequalities and the achievement of gender justice at the national and regional levels	(a) (i) Number of inclusive gender-sensitive strategies and plans designed by member States  (ii) Number of legislations amended by member States towards the elimination of gender inequalities and the achievement of gender justice
(b) Member States mainstream a gender perspective in cross-sectoral policymaking at the national level	(b) (i) Number of member States that adopted policies and plans to mainstream gender (stand-alone and cross-sectoral)  (ii) Number of member States that adopted national plans to implement and report on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
(c) Member States are more responsive to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate their regional and international obligations	(c) (i) Number of member States that reported on their implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and their concluding observation  (ii) Number of member States that undertook legal reforms to address violence against women

*External factors*

Subprogramme 6 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is a political will for enhancing the role of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and strengthening dialogue with civil society; (b) no change is made in the order of national and regional priorities; (c) adequate financial and human resources are made available at the national levels to meet the commitments of member States to international conventions and outcomes of conferences on gender equality and the advancement of women; and (d) the political situation in the region and in particular in some member States does not further deteriorate.

*Strategy*

19.55 The ESCWA Centre for Women is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 6. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will continue to work with member States to reduce gender imbalances, increase the respect of the rights of women and encourage the exchange of lessons learnt among them. It will pursue the ultimate goal of promoting regional integration, implementing the 2030 Agenda, and achieving inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region. To do so, ESCWA will work closely with national machineries for the advancement of women, national stakeholders, the League of Arab States, Arab organizations for women and United Nations agencies working in the region to facilitate change by filling the knowledge gap and equipping member States with relevant tools to achieve gender equality and the advancement of women at all social, economic and institutional levels.

19.56 With respect to regional integration, ESCWA will build on Arab States shared characteristics and challenges in order to create a platform for the adoption of regional measures in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It will seek to coordinate a regional position and enhance regional synergies by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms and strategies in line with the international obligations of Arab States. Particular attention will be given to subregions currently in or emerging from conflict.

19.57 Moreover, ESCWA will support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the provision of tools, advisory services and programmes to strengthen the capacity of national institutions, especially national machineries for the advancement of women, to develop and implement gender-sensitive and gender-specific strategies and action plans, particularly in the area of violence against women, ending harmful practices, and ensuring women's full and effective participation in public life.

19.58 Under subprogramme 6, ESCWA will also foster inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region by enhancing the knowledge and institutional capacities of member States to comply with their international obligations. It will assist them in identifying and overcoming gaps in the implementation of regional and international instruments, in particular with regards to social, economic and governance-related issues.

19.59 In order to reach those objectives, ESCWA will conduct evidence-based research and prepare high-quality knowledge products, including in-depth studies, situation analyses and policy briefs. It will design and deliver tailor-made capacity-building programmes and tools, including training modules, based on international standards and responding to the needs of the region. It will partner with national and regional stakeholders and implement joint activities, including expert groups meetings, workshops, thematic conferences and awareness-raising events on women's rights and gender equality.

### Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

**Objective:** To mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member States develop or implement strategies to address the root causes of conflict, respond to development challenges associated with the impact of conflict and crises, and mitigate their spillover effects	(a) (i) Number of stakeholders that utilized analysis and policy recommendations issued by ESCWA under the subprogramme  (ii) Number of member States that sought and received technical assistance by ESCWA related to effectively responding to the impact of conflict and crises, addressing their root causes and mitigating their spillover effects
(b) Public and regional institutions develop or implement strategies to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region and to advance efforts to assist the Palestinian people in securing their inalienable rights and enhancing their resilience	(b) (i) Number of stakeholders that utilized analysis and policy recommendations issued by ESCWA under the subprogramme  (ii) Number of public and regional institutions that requested and received technical assistance from ESCWA to build their capacity to mitigate the impact of Israeli occupation
(c) Member States, including least developed countries, formulate or implement nationally led and owned strategies to respond to institutional and development challenges associated with transformations in the region	(c) Number of stakeholders that utilized analysis and policy recommendations issued by ESCWA under the subprogramme

#### *External factors*

Subprogramme 7 is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is no sudden shortfall in funding; (b) the political environment in some member States remains conducive to institutional capacity-building based on good governance practices; and (c) state institutions are not reluctant to introducing participatory approaches in planning processes.

#### *Strategy*

19.60 The Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues is responsible for the implementation of subprogram 7. The development process in the Arab region has been greatly challenged by conflict and occupation and their spillover effects. These have placed enormous strain on the ability of public institutions to lead in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the attainment of inclusive growth, social justice and peaceful and inclusive societies.

19.61 A number of ESCWA member States are facing conflict or are directly threatened by it. The Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab lands continues. Underperforming economies and the accumulation of institutional challenges in conflict-stricken countries have been coupled with fragmentation, the mushrooming of armed non-State actors, the spread of radical exclusivist ideologies, massive human rights violations and direct foreign military intervention. These have yielded great human suffering, including hundreds of thousands of fatalities, millions of displaced and capital destruction estimated in hundreds of billions of United States dollars. Conflicting domestic, regional and foreign interests have served to prolong conflict and challenge resolution efforts. Protracted conflict has posed unprecedented development and institutional challenges not only to ESCWA member States but also to countries beyond the Arab region. These challenges bear serious immediate and generational development costs that are presently unknown and require urgent articulation of appropriate policies and programmes.

19.62 To achieve the subprogramme's expected accomplishments, ESCWA will focus on: (a) enhancing the capacity of member States to address the root causes of conflict, analyze its impact on development and mitigate its spillover effects; (b) strengthening local and regional capacities to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region and assist the Palestinian people in securing their inalienable rights and enhancing their resilience; and (c) supporting member States, including least developed countries, in formulating nationally led and owned strategies to respond to institutional and development challenges associated with transformations in the region.

19.63 ESCWA will support member States in understanding and responding to conflict through high-quality research and analysis, including on the origins, proximate causes and dynamics of conflict at the country and regional levels. Through policy-oriented research, ESCWA will identify the immediate as well as the generational impacts of conflict on development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in member States and the region. ESCWA will also identify the monitoring and analytical needs of member States to enhance their capacities in those areas and consequently in formulating mitigation policies and programmes.

19.64 In consultation with Palestinian institutions, ESCWA will undertake analytical and programmatic activities to assist member States in: (a) raising awareness on the impact and cost of occupation on development in Palestine and the region; (b) enhancing the capacity of public and civic institutions to mitigate the negative impact of occupation on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; (c) supporting institutions seeking to advocate the Palestinian rights, attain justice and implement international law; and (d) mobilizing resources to assist the Palestinian people and their institutions. ESCWA will also solicit regional and international expertise and cooperate with national, regional and international entities, while ensuring Palestinian ownership throughout the process.

19.65 Through the subprogramme's analytical work, ESCWA will help identify the critical set of institutions and sequencing of reforms that are needed in countries in transition or phasing to transition out of conflict and will promote reconciliation. It will assist them in achieving peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies, providing justice for all and building accountable institutions, which are key prerequisites for progress in all the other SDGs. To this end, ESCWA will foster impartial "spaces" that enable national dialogue and will design and implement training modules to enhance the capacity of public institutions in essential service delivery. It will also assist the Arab least developed countries in formulating national development plans reflecting the priorities of the Istanbul Action Plan, in designing risk assessment methodologies to foster resilience towards external and internal shocks and in maximizing synergies for the implementation of SDGs. Support to least developed countries will be provided in close cooperation with national institutions, other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the region as well as through South-South cooperation activities with other conflict affected least developed countries in Africa and Asia.

Annex

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

*General mandates*

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/196 United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development
- 68/210 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 68/224 Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
- 68/241 United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region
- 68/309 Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288
- 69/214 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 69/230 Culture and sustainable development
- 69/239 South-South cooperation
- 69/244 Organization of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda
- 69/277 Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
- 69/307 Cross-cutting issues
- 69/315 Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 1818 (LV) Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia
- 1985/69 Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission
- 1998/46 Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
- 2014/9 Report of the Committee for Development Policy

- 2014/36 Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the Executive Committee and amendment of its terms of reference
- 2015/11 Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session
- 2015/15 Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- 2015/26 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2015/30 Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda
- 2015/32 Admission of Mauritania as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 314 (XXVIII) The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
- 315 (XXVIII) Establishing an intergovernmental committee on technology for development
- 316 (XXVIII) Support for the Palestinian people
- 317 (XXVIII) Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017
- 318 (XXVIII) Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 319 (XXVIII) Adoption of the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015
- 320 (XXVIII) Redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amending its terms of reference
- 321 (XXVIII) Redesignating the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States”
- (No number) Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region

**Subprogramme 1- Integrated management of natural resources  
for sustainable development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/206 Oil slick on Lebanese shores
- 68/208 Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea
- 68/209 Agricultural technology for development

- 68/211 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 68/212 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- 68/213 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- 68/214 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
- 68/215 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 68/217 Sustainable mountain development
- 68/233 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
- 69/215 International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources
- 69/220 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- 69/221 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- 69/222 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
- 69/225 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 69/240 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
- 69/245 Oceans and law of the sea
- 69/292 Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2012/27 Human settlements

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 281 (XXV) Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region
- 305 (XXVII) Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference

## **Subprogramme 2- Social development**

### *General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/130 Policies and programmes involving youth
- 68/131 Promoting social integration through social inclusion
- 68/133 Cooperatives in social development
- 68/137 Violence against women migrant workers
- 68/143 Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa
- 68/181 Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders
- 69/142 Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond
- 69/143 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
- 69/229 International migration and development

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/3 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
- 2014/4 Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
- 2014/5 Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
- 2014/6 Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda)
- 2015/3 Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
- 2015/4 Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda
- 2015/10 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

### *ESCWA resolutions*

- 295 (XXVI) Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An opportunity for Development
- 304 (XXVII) The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development

### **Subprogramme 3- Economic development and integration**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/199 International trade and development
- 68/200 Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
- 68/201 International financial system and development
- 68/202 External debt sustainability and development
- 68/204 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 68/222 Development cooperation with middle-income countries
- 68/269 Improving global road safety
- 68/279 Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development
- 69/205 International trade and development
- 69/207 External debt sustainability and development
- 69/208 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 69/213 Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
- 69/227 Towards a New International Economic Order
- 69/235 Industrial development cooperation
- 69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/5 Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
- 2014/11 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

#### *ESCWA resolutions*

- 296 (XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
- Article I. 303 (XXVII) Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries

- Article II. 313 (XXVII) Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

**Subprogramme 4- Information and communication technology  
for regional integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/198 Information and communications technologies for development
- 68/209 Agricultural technology for development
- 68/220 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 68/302 Modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 68/310 Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies
- 69/204 Information and communications technologies for development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/27 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2014/28 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 2014/35 Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 2015/27 Science, technology and innovation for development

*ESCWA resolutions*

- Article III. 294(XXVI) Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre
- 306 (XXVII) Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

**Subprogramme 5- Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

*General Assembly resolution*

- 68/261 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

- 2014/31 A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 276(XXIV) Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region
- 283(XXV) ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
- 286(XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
- 287(XXV) Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policy making
- 297(XXVI) MDG monitor for societal progress

**Subprogramme 6- Advancement of women**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/137 Violence against women migrant workers
- 68/138 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 68/139 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
- 68/140 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 68/181 Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders
- 68/191 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
- 68/227 Women in development
- 69/147 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
- 69/149 Trafficking in women and girls
- 69/150 Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations
- 69/151 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 69/236 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/1 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2014/2 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2015/6 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
- 2015/12 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

- 2015/13 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2015/21 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

*ESCWA resolutions***Subprogramme 7- Conflict mitigation and development***General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/211 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 68/235 Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources
- 68/278 Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- 68/303 Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution
- 69/291 Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- 69/327 Promoting inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/1 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2014/26 Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 271 (XXIV) Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development
- 282 (XXV) Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries
- 292 (XXVI) Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings
- 296(XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals

*Security Council resolution*

- 1947 (2010) Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

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