

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

Committee on Social Development
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019
in the field of social development****Summary**

This document presents the proposed activities to be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of social development. The proposed outputs have been formulated with reference to the expected accomplishments envisaged under subprogramme 2 on social development, of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session (Doha, 13-15 December 2016). It constitutes part of the comprehensive proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 which was presented to and endorsed by the Executive Committee of ESCWA at its third meeting (Rabat, 6-7 May 2017). The responsibility for the implementation of the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division.

The Committee on Social Development is invited to review the activities listed in the proposed programme of work, and discuss the extent to which they meet the priorities of ESCWA member States and their relevance to the expected accomplishments in the field of social development under subprogramme 2. The Committee is also invited to discuss ways to concretely measure the indicators of achievement in order to accurately monitor progress achieved in member States as a result of implementing the proposed outputs.

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I. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The Committee on Social Development is invited to review the proposed outputs and provide its guidance to the ESCWA secretariat based on the following two criteria: (a) the extent to which the proposed outputs respond to the needs of intended beneficiaries, namely ministries and authorities in the Arab region in charge of social development issues; and (b) the extent to which those outputs contribute to the realization of the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 2, while taking into account the endorsement of the proposed programme of work by the Executive Committee of ESCWA at its third meeting (Rabat, 6-7 May 2017).

II. SUBPROGRAMME 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. OBJECTIVE

2. The objective of subprogramme 2 for the biennium 2018-2019 is to support member States in adopting a rights-based approach to equitable, inclusive and participatory social development towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>		<i>Indicators of achievement</i>		Performance measures			
					2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a)	Further development of rights-based social policies or programmes that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in member states, with a focus on social inclusion and social protection	(a) (i)	Increased number of policies or programmes developed or enhanced to improve social protection and expand the provision of social services	Target	10		
				Estimate		8	
				Actual			6
		(a) (ii)	Increased number of policies or programmes targeting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups	Target	37		
				Estimate		32	
				Actual			26
(b)	Increased engagement of member States in intraregional consultations towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration	(b) (i)	Increased number of instances in which member States engage in regional policy dialogue on international migration facilitated by ESCWA	Target	9		
				Estimate		6	
				Actual			3
		(b) (ii)	Increased number of policies that reflect the awareness of member States of the development opportunities and challenges of international migration	Target	7		
				Estimate		5	–
				Actual			3

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(c) Increased emphasis by member States on a social justice approach to development planning based on equality, equity and participation	(c) (i) Increased number of government and non-government institutions that apply ESCWA tools in policymaking towards fostering social justice for all	Target	24		
		Estimate		22	
		Actual			20
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations on key national and regional social development priorities facilitated by ESCWA	Target	7		
		Estimate		6	
		Actual			4
(d) Increased ability of member States to effectively respond to and engage with the 2030 Agenda	(d) (i) Increased number of national plans and strategies integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Target	8		
		Estimate		–	
		Actual			–
	(d) (ii) Increased number of instances in which member States engage in regional dialogues on the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs	Target	10		
		Estimate		–	
		Actual			–

C. STRATEGY*

19.23 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 on the well-being of the region's population. It promotes a rights-based approach to inclusive social policymaking.

19.24 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. It will pay specific attention 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.

* The paragraphs under Strategy are numbered from 19.23 to 19.27, where 19 refers to programme 19 on economic and social development in Western Asia of the United Nations strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, and paragraphs 23 to 27 are the consecutive numbers in that document which contains all the United Nations programmes. This numbering is maintained in ESCWA programme of work documents as well as in the programme of work for each of the seven subprogrammes.

19.25 The adoption of equitable, inclusive and sustainable development policies is central to achieving social justice. ESCWA will give special attention to 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 it provides for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

19.26 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, particularly youth, sustainable communal services and urban development. It will also assist them in improving the governance of social inclusion, including through broader-based civic participation.

19.27 ESCWA will conduct normative analysis to support social policy reform through 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 in key social development areas within and beyond the Arab region. It will further strengthen partnerships and cooperation with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

3. Subprogramme 2 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda; (b) member States remain committed to promoting social justice through equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development; (c) Governments engage with other development stakeholders on key policy areas; (d) the data and information necessary for ESCWA to conduct its analytical work are made available; (e) the resources necessary for the implementation of planned extrabudgetary activities are provided; (f) collaboration with key partners is sustained; and (g) political stability is ensured to allow member States to engage and participate in planned national and regional activities.

E. OUTPUTS

4. During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 2:

(a) *Servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation: Report of the Committee on Social Development on its eleventh session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Social Development*

a. Servicing the meetings of the twelfth session of the Committee on Social Development (4);
b. Parliamentary documentation:

- i. Report on inclusive social/urban policy (1);
- ii. Report on population and development issues (1);
- iii. Report on the proposed social justice framework (1).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert group meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on the draft report on social protection in Arab countries (1);
- b. Expert group meeting on population and sustainable development (1);
- c. Expert group meeting on ageing issues (1);
- d. Annual meeting of National Population Councils (intergovernmental meeting co-organized by the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ESCWA) – 2018-2019 (2);
- e. Expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region (1);
- f. Expert group meeting to discuss findings of the Social Development Report No. 3 on the future of social justice in the Arab region” (1);
- g. Civil society dialogue series/civil society consultative meeting on social justice issues in the Arab region – 2018-2019 (2);
- h. Expert group meeting on the inception of the regional development partnership mechanism (1);
- i. Expert group meeting on population dynamics, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- j. Expert group meeting on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- k. Expert group meeting on regional Follow up and Review (FUR) (1);
- l. Organization of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (2);
- m. RCM Thematic Working Group on the 2030 Agenda – 2018-2019 (2).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Population and Development Report No.9: Youth in the Arab Region (1);
- b. Social Development Report No.3: The future of social justice in the Arab Region (1);
- c. Arab Sustainable Development Report (1).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. Social protection in Arab Countries (1);
- b. Situation Report on International Migration and Development in the Arab region 2019 (1).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits and newsletters*

- a. Pamphlet on the theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development – 2018 (1);
- b. National demographic profiles for 22 Arab countries (1);
- c. Pamphlet on the theme of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development – 2019 (1);
- d. Pamphlet on social justice for the World Day of Social Justice (1).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Technical paper on social protection in rural areas (1);
- b. Technical paper on youth issues (1);
- c. Technical paper on ageing issues (1);
- d. Social policy brief on ageing (1);
- e. Demographic profile of the Arab region (focus on youth) (1);
- f. Technical paper on disability policy (1);
- g. Technical paper on inclusive cities (1);
- h. Social policy brief on international migration (1);
- i. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues: Reaching the furthest behind – policy options for the achievement of socially just Arab societies (1);
- j. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues: Best practices on social justice and participation in the Arab region (1);
- k. Technical paper on the measurement of intergenerational justice in the Arab region (1);
- l. Technical paper on mainstreaming justice, equality and inclusion into the SDGs (1);
- m. Social development bulletin on a selected topic related to implementation of the SDGs (2);
- n. Social development bulletin on international migration and development (1);
- o. Social development bulletin on recapitulating main results of the regional development partnership mechanism (1);
- p. Technical papers on SDGs with cross-border or regional implications (4);
- q. Report on population dynamics with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- r. Report on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- s. Regional reports on SDGs (based on national reports) (1).

(v) *Seminars organized by the secretariat for outside users*

Regional awareness-raising seminars on the adaptation and alignment of SDGs into national plans – 2018-2019 (2).

(vi) *Special events*

- a. Launch of the Population and Development Report 2019 (1);
- b. Launch of the Situation Report on International Migration and Development in the Arab region 2019 (1);
- c. Tenth annual observance of the World Day of Social Justice (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNFPA & Friedrich Naumann Foundation) (1).

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

- (i) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: follow up on UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda (1);
- (ii) Servicing the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (1);
- (iii) Substantive contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development – 2018-2019 (2).

(d) *Internal oversight services*

Evaluation of subprogramme 2.

(e) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

(i) *Workshops*

Capacity-building workshop on mainstreaming social justice in development plans, policies and programmes (1) (XB).

(ii) *Field projects*

- a. Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region (Development Account project) (1);
- b. Sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in selected Arab States (DA project) (1);
- c. Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region (DA project – continuing from 2016-2017) (1);
- d. Fostering institutional development for participatory approaches towards the achievement of the SDGs in Western Asia (DA project ongoing from 2016-2017) (1).

Annex**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES***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 the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
69/229	International migration and development
70/1	Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/256	New Urban Agenda

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2014/3	Future Organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
2014/5	Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and decent for all
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

- 285 (XXV) Integrated social policy
- 295 (XXVI) Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development
- 298 (XXVI) Social development
- 304 (XXVII) The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development
- Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region (ESCWA, 28th Session)
- Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 327 (XXIX) Working mechanisms of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
