



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

## **REPORT**

### **NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AMMAN, 12-13 OCTOBER 2013**

#### **Summary**

The ninth session of the Committee on Social Development was held in Amman on 12 and 13 October 2013.

The ninth session provided an official forum for discussing the proposals and recommendations related to the formulation of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development and the ways to develop the activities set out in the programme, in addition to reviewing and discussing the actions taken by the ESCWA Social Development Division and its reports on priority issues in the field of social development.

The agenda of the ninth session included items aimed at building the progress achieved in implementing social development activities and recommendations contained in the ESCWA work programme since the Committee's eighth session and the proposed work programme on social development for the biennium 2014-2015.

The agenda also covered a series of reports on priority issues in social development in the ESCWA region, focusing on employment and labour markets, the role of civil society and participatory development in political transformations and social justice, the impact of youth participation on social cohesion and a presentation on integrating an Arab regional dimension into the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The present report contains a brief account of the main issues raised during the presentations and discussions, as well as the measures recommended by the Committee under each agenda item.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1-2	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS NINTH SESSION</b> .....	1-5	3
A. Recommendations made to ESCWA member countries .....	4	3
B. Recommendations made to the secretariat .....	5	3
<b>II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION</b> .....	6-24	4
A. Progress achieved in implementing social development-related activities and recommendations under the ESCWA programme of work since the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development .....	6-11	4
B. Follow-up on priority issues in the field of social development in the ESCWA region .....	12-20	6
C. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development.....	21-22	8
D. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development.....	23	9
E. Other matters .....	24	9
<b>III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	25	9
<b>IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK</b> .....	26-32	9
A. Venue and date of the session.....	26	9
B. Opening .....	27-28	9
C. Participants .....	29	10
D. Election of officers .....	30	10
E. Agenda.....	31	10
F. Documents .....	32	11
<b>ANNEXES</b>		
I. List of participants .....		12
II. List of documents .....		14

## **Introduction**

1. The ninth session of the Committee on Social Development was held pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 concerning the establishment of a committee on social development within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994, and pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee at its eighth session, held in Beirut on 24 and 25 March 2011, which were adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh ministerial session, held in Beirut , from 7 to 10 May 2012.
2. The present report outlines the main issues discussed and the measures recommended by the Committee with respect to each agenda item. The Committee unanimously adopted the report at its final session, held on 13 October 2013.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS NINTH SESSION**

3. The Committee commended the activities implemented under the ESCWA programme of work since its eighth session and praised the technical contribution of the secretariat in terms of its collaboration with regional organizations and United Nations bodies working in the field of social development, and its participation in related global and regional activities. The Committee also took note of the proposed 2014-2015 work programme and issued a series of recommendations and suggestions on the issues contained therein at the closure of its ninth meeting as follows:

#### **A. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

4. The Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Governments of ESCWA member countries:
  - (a) Develop the legislative infrastructure to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of public policies, in accordance with the principles of transparency and accountability;
  - (b) Formulate integrated social policies that ensure social and economic cohesion, taking into account employment, education and healthcare issues, and linking them to macroeconomic policies;
  - (c) Prepare national plans to empower the youth at all levels, founded on a human rights and a participatory approach, and focus on developing programmes that ensure their participation in decision-making processes.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE SECRETARIAT**

5. The Committee submitted the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:
  - (a) Focus on promoting the various dimensions of social justice in public policy with a view to establishing a just society, through secretariat programmes and activities;
  - (b) Launch a series of international and regional dialogues to build partnerships with social actors and civil authorities, so as to develop models of integrated social policy that contribute to achieving the principles of social justice. Such dialogues should be the foundation of a regional forum to exchange experiences in this area;

(c) Support the efforts of member countries by focusing research on the achievement of social inclusion, especially for persons with disabilities, and the means to extend social protection to those working in the informal sector;

(d) Provide technical support to member countries to enable them to formulate integrated social policies through the preparation of regional and national studies, and prepare a technical manual on building national capacities to develop such policies and offer training programmes to member countries who wish to apply it;

(e) Offer technical support to member countries by preparing studies on the development of legal infrastructure, consistent with the activities of civil society;

(f) Provide cognitive and technical support and enhance the capacities of member country Governments to face the economic and social challenges that impede the economic, social and political empowerment of young people, by developing comprehensive and integrated policies, work programmes and participatory mechanisms that contribute to improving the quality of services available to young people;

(g) Collaborate with the secretariat of the League of Arab States to promote youth and civil society forums in the Arab region, especially preparatory forums for the fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit;

(h) Continue participating in global dialogues on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda by monitoring, analysing and participating in regional and international discussions, especially focusing on a comprehensive development approach that entails economic, social and political rights and security for individuals and society as a whole;

(i) Work on providing a practical Arab regional framework as a follow-up to the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, whose goals are consistent with international goals and whose implementation mechanisms comply with national and regional development priorities and needs;

(j) Continue efforts, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, to develop a regional Arab perspective for participation in the international dialogue on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, and cooperate with the secretariat of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers in the development of an Arab position on the Agenda to be presented to the fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, to be held in Tunis in January 2015.

## **II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THE ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK SINCE THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 4)**

6. The Committee included the item on progress achieved in the implementation of activities and recommendations related to social development on the agenda for its ninth session to inform member countries of the work undertaken by ESCWA in this field and to offer the opportunity to discuss these topics and express their opinions on such issues and on other matters related to social development. The Committee examined this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/3, which contained an explanation of what has been implemented in the area of social development since its eighth session.

7. The Social Development Division continued to identify emerging social issues in the ESCWA region as well as strategic social and economic issues, including the social effects of globalization and the social dimensions of urban development. ESCWA also played a leading role in a joint publication with the other

regional commissions entitled *A Regional Perspective on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda*, in addition to several important activities undertaken by the office of the Director of the Social Development Division as a contribution to the formulation of the Plan.

8. The Social Policy Section of the Social Development Division, in collaboration with ESCWA member countries and other stakeholders, focuses on developing a common understanding of integrated social policy in the region. It offers support to Governments to develop frameworks and tools for policies that promote social justice and equity, through encouraging the adoption of integrated social policy approaches that guarantee social justice in the decision-making process; assisting Governments in developing national visions on social policy by launching an open dialogue with relevant stakeholders; cooperating with member countries to evaluate gaps and challenges in social policy and formulating policies founded on regional and international best practices; and determining the appropriate mechanisms to institutionalize and monitor social policy. The Social Policy Section supported the efforts of member countries to achieve human development by organizing national and regional conferences and meetings of experts and preparing reports, studies and analytical and field research papers.

9. The Social Participatory Development Section concentrated on building individual and institutional capacities related to social development through advocating participation in public policy processes, including social policy, by developing an integrated approach for social participatory development, issuing practical guidelines for intervention initiatives and enhancing civil society participation in public policy and democratic transition processes; providing objective analysis of policies on civil society and citizen participation and defining alternative mechanisms for participation in decision-making processes; facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the region by publishing studies, reports and publications that shed light on the integrated components of development, and by evaluating citizen capacity for their achievement and successes to date in this regard; offering technical support and technical guidance services to member countries and civil society organizations so as to achieve a comprehensive and unified vision of social participatory development and its mechanisms and to enhance the active participation of Government and civil society in decision-making processes; organizing meetings, workshops, discussions and electronic forums at the national and regional levels to enhance knowledge exchange frameworks, support coordination mechanisms and encourage participation at all levels; and supporting efforts to hold interactive national dialogues, build consensus and facilitate democratic transitions.

10. The Population and Social Development Section's work focused on the following: raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities related to demographic shifts, including youth bulges and increases in the number of older persons; encouraging member countries to face challenges posed by international migration and to benefit from the development opportunities it offers; gauging the progress made by Arab countries in implementing work programmes approved at international population and development conferences, including the 1994 Conference on Population and Development, the 2000 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2000 World Programme of Action for Youth and subsequent youth programmes; and publishing information and exchanging knowledge and data on population and development. Activities also included preparing reports, studies and publications; holding regional workshops and meetings; and implementing the project on enhancing the capacities of policy-makers in the ESCWA region in the area of policy and action plan formulation for young people, alongside the project on establishing a regional information system on migration and development in the ESCWA region.

11. A set of observations was submitted under this agenda item, including:

(a) Follow up on the progress made in collaboration with the office of the ninth session of the Committee on Social Development;

(b) Acknowledge ESCWA efforts and implemented activities in the area of social development, especially ESCWA contributions to formulating a regional perspective on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

B. FOLLOW-UP ON PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESCWA REGION  
(Agenda item 5)

1. *Employment and labour markets*

12. The Committee examined agenda item 5 on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4 (Part I), which sets out the current economic structures in Arab countries and their effects on labour markets and employment. The document also contained conclusions and recommendations on methods to tackle current challenges in the field of employment and labour markets. Discussions covered the following points:

(a) The importance of employment and job creation for public policy in Arab countries: deep divisions in labour markets and low mobility rates, especially in the formal sector, significantly hamper government efforts to curb unemployment;

(b) The significant positive effects of improving labour market performance on enhancing social inclusion, especially for young people and women who still suffer from marginalisation, social exclusion and an inability to easily join the labour market; noting that a large proportion of both groups work in the informal sector, unsalaried labour or without any notable form of social protection;

(c) The need for countries to better coordinate their economic and social programmes so as to facilitate job creation opportunities and support small projects for women and young people;

(d) The need to give special attention to the issue of social integration of and protection for marginalized groups, such as young people, workers and women in the informal sector, through decent work initiatives;

(e) The importance of developing employment policies as a gateway to social protection, limiting human capital flight and broadening the capacities of the Arab workforce in Arab labour markets;

(f) The need to analyse the effects of foreign labour on social protection systems;

(g) The importance of providing information and statistics on labour markets, especially for the informal sector, and the need to follow the latest developments in data gathering and monitoring methods in that sector so as to reveal its size, specificities and effects on labour markets and on economic and social development in Arab countries.

2. *Role of civil society and participatory development in political transitions*

13. The Committee examined the item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part II) as a starting point for examining the concepts of social justice and effective participation, which are currently being demanded by the public in some Arab countries. The document analyses the role of civil society in supporting participatory development and in tackling the challenges of political transitions in some Arab countries. It also contains conclusions and recommendations which may encourage member countries to build partnerships between the public sector and civil society for the provision of public services, strengthening consensus and cementing the foundations of democratic governance.

14. A presentation on the experience of the Arab Thought Forum on the preparation of the Arab Social Charter was also made. It was noted that the principles of participation and social justice were already embodied in many Arab charters; and there was a need to promote knowledge among citizens on their rights and duties, and on the legislation which guaranteed these rights.

15. The discussion focused on the following issues:

(a) Challenges that impede government efforts to cement and institutionalize partnerships in public policy making so as to achieve social justice;

(b) Necessary reforms to develop and enhance civil society participation in decision-making and policy-making processes;

(c) The exchange between countries of successful national experiences that could stimulate participatory development as a means towards achieving social justice.

16. The importance was highlighted of providing the necessary government support to civil society organizations, as well as establishing alternatives to foreign funding so as to guarantee their independence. The discussion also underscored the need to develop programmes to empower civil society organizations and enhance their capacity to participate in formulating public policy, in addition to the importance of their participation in economic and social development and of the adoption of a social development approach to their work, rather than a social welfare approach.

### *3. Impact of youth participation on social cohesion*

17. The Committee reviewed the item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part III), which stresses the importance of social cohesion in Arab societies and the role of young people in building and cementing it. It sets out the main obstacles that hamper the integration of young people in society, and reviews reform initiatives that some countries have recently begun to implement. It also highlights the importance of adopting the same approach as the World Programme for Action for Youth as a guidance and support framework for implementing national policies and strategies that ensure active youth participation.

18. The discussion covered the following points:

(a) The importance of defining a target youth group, benefiting from the successful experiences of other countries in this field, and establishing frameworks and networks for cooperation between civil society organizations. This would provide more opportunities for young people to express their aspirations and needs and include them in production, political and decision-making processes. Participants also discussed the gap between young people and other population groups that resulted from the lack of youth participation, leading to feelings of marginalization and exclusion, which could transform into feelings of frustration and anger, damaging social cohesion and stability and leading to more tension between generations;

(b) The importance of developing national plans to empower young people at all levels, focusing on formulating policies and work programmes that create a protective environment for youth rights and ensure their participation in decision-making processes;

(c) The importance of providing knowledge-centred and technical support to enhance member country capacities to tackle economic and social challenges that prevent the empowerment of young people, by formulating comprehensive policies and participatory mechanisms that improve the quality of services provided to young people and restore confidence in relations between young people and individuals and social institutions, so as to weave a strong and integrated social fabric;

(d) The importance of implementing training and educational programmes and activities that focus on the principles of citizenship and participation and that enhance youth participation in society and public affairs, noting that implementing the principle of citizenship is a continuous educational process that must commence at a young age.

4. *Integrating a regional Arab dimension in the United Nations  
Post-2015 Development Agenda*

19. The Committee reviewed the item on the basis of a presentation by the secretariat on the issue, which tackled notable ESCWA contributions to the international dialogue on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, the most pertinent outputs of international dialogues and the road map for the adoption of the agenda in 2015.

20. The discussion covered the following points:

(a) Commending the ESCWA secretariat's contributions to the dialogue on the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, especially its varied contributions to publications on the issue, and requesting that it continues its efforts in this area by monitoring, analysing and participating in discussions at the regional and global levels;

(b) Stressing the importance of basing Arab regional development on an inclusive development approach that includes economic, social and political rights; ensuring the security of individuals and societies; striving to enhance equality, equity, participation and social justice; and upholding the right to a dignified life free from war, conflict and occupation;

(c) Underscoring the urgent need to develop more integrated and inclusive development approaches to further human development, freedom, good governance, security and human rights, including economic, social and political rights, as highlighted by the latest developments in the Arab region and other countries;

(d) Stressing the importance of cooperation in developing an Arab regional framework to implement the goals of the Agenda, with aims and mechanisms that are consistent with international goals and national and regional development priorities and needs;

(e) Highlighting the need to develop an Arab regional perspective for inclusive social development and formulating relevant social policies on the basis of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda. To develop such a perspective, it is necessary to adopt a unified Arab stance on the Agenda to be presented at the fourth Arab Social and Economic Summit, to be held in Tunis in January 2015.

C. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015  
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(Agenda item 6)

21. The Committee reviewed item 6 on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/5, which sets out the work programme and priorities for the biennium 2014-2015 for social development, including expected accomplishments from the secretariat and indicators of achievement regarding the objective of building the capacities of member countries to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms to achieve equal and inclusive social development, taking into account regional specificities and cultural characteristics. The document also outlines the programme strategy, external factors affecting its implementation and the following expected outputs for the biennium 2014-2015: organizing intergovernmental and expert meetings; preparing technical publications and other substantive activities; and organizing technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, training courses, seminars, workshops, and field projects, according to requests submitted by member countries.

22. The discussion covered the following points:

(a) The importance of aligning ESCWA programmes with the needs and priorities identified by member countries through their joint committees with ESCWA, such as the Committee on Social Development, and endorsed at ministerial meetings;

(b) Recognizing the development challenges facing the region, participants agreed that ESCWA activities should focus on the following main issues, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the work programme for the biennium 2014-2015: social justice; civil society participation, social inclusion; social dimension of poverty, youth development; international migration; and the aspects of social development set out in the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda;

(c) Pursuant to its mandate and functions as a regional organization, ESCWA develops programmes within a regional context in accordance with international trends but without overlooking country-specific characteristics and priorities in the implementation of programmes and activities, especially those concerned with technical advice services offered following specific requests from member countries.

**D. DATE AND VENUE OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
(Agenda item 7)

23. Under item 7, the Committee decided to hold its tenth session at the ESCWA headquarters in Beirut, in March 2015; the exact date will be determined later.

**E. OTHER MATTERS**  
(Agenda item 8)

24. No discussion points were raised under this item.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
(Agenda item 9)

25. At its final meeting, held on 13 October 2013, the Committee adopted the report of its ninth session, contained in the present document (E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/6/Report).

**IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE SESSION**

26. The ninth session of the Committee on Social Development was held in Amman on 12 and 13 October 2013. Over those two days, the Committee discussed the agenda items set out in paragraph 31 of the present report.

**B. OPENING**

27. Mr. Mohammed Abo Serriah, representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, opened the session in his capacity as chair of the eighth session. In his statement, he indicated the importance of the activities and recommendations that had been implemented since the eighth session. He also stressed the importance of social development issues and their policies for countries in the region, especially in the light of the political developments and social movements it was witnessing and their effects on the Committee's discussions regarding the ESCWA work programme. In conclusion, he expressed his hope that the ninth session would result in a series of practical guidelines and proposals for managing the social development process.

28. Mr. Frederico Neto, Director, Social Development Division, delivered a statement on behalf of the ESCWA secretariat, in which he confirmed the vital role of the Committee in discussing the proposed ESCWA social development work programme and presenting proposals aimed at developing the work programme and coordinating its activities. He stressed the interest ESCWA takes in stimulating cooperation and partnerships between social actors, so as to promote the formulation of coherent policies to counter social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and exclusion. He also noted that Governments, civil society organizations, private sector institutions, the media and regional and international organizations should all be involved in the social policy process by developing a supportive environment and building the institutional capacities of the government and civil sectors, so as to enable them to carry out social functions resulting from such policies.

#### C. PARTICIPANTS

29. Representatives of the following ESCWA member countries participated in the session: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives of regional organizations, observers and experts also attended the session. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

#### D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. Rule 18 of the ESCWA Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure provides that “member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. In accordance with the rule, Mr. Jamal El-Neil Abdullah Mansor, representative of the Sudan, was appointed Chair of the session. Mr. Mohammed Abo Serriah, representative of the Syrian Arab Republic; and Ms. Khawla Ali Mohammed, representative of Iraq were appointed Vice Chairs. Ms. Amina Hamdan al-Hamdan, representative of Oman, was appointed Rapporteur.

#### E. AGENDA

31. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda for its ninth session set out in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/L.1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Implementation of social development-related activities and recommendations under ESCWA programme of work since the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development.
5. Priority issues in the field of social development in the Arab region:
  - (a) Employment and labour markets;
  - (b) Role of civil society and participatory development in political transitions;
  - (c) Impact of youth participation on social cohesion;
  - (d) Integrating a regional Arab dimension to the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development.
7. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of ninth session of the Committee on Social Development.
10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work set out in document E/ESCWA/ECW/2013/IG.1/L.2.

#### F. DOCUMENTS

32. A list of meeting documents submitted to the Committee at its ninth session is set out in annex II to the present report.

## Annex I

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

##### Bahrain

Mr. Nabil Mohammed bin Shams  
Census Director-General  
Central Information Agency

Mr. Musaad Salman Musaad  
Head of the Salman Cultural Centre  
General Organization for Youth and Sports

Mr. Muhammad Alwazzan  
Programme Manager  
General Organization for Youth and Sport

##### Jordan

Ms. Dima Awad Khleifat  
Secretary-General  
Ministry of Social Development

##### Iraq

Ms. Khawla Ali Mohammed  
Senior Head of Researchers  
Department of Human Development  
Division of Social Development  
Ministry of Planning

##### Kuwait

Ms. Ohud Falah Hassan  
Researcher  
Aid Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

##### Lebanon

Ms. Micheline Baz  
Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan  
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Rami Besharat  
Vice-Consul  
Lebanese Embassy  
Amman, Jordan

##### Morocco

Mr. Omar Ahl Rchid  
Head of the Department of Studies and Research  
Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social  
Development

##### Oman

Ms. Amina Hamdan Al-Hamdan  
Director of Human Resources Development  
General Secretariat of the Supreme Council  
for Planning

##### Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Mohammed Taleb Abo Serriah  
Consular  
Syrian Embassy in Jordan

##### The Sudan

Mr. Jamal El-Neil Mansor  
Director General of the Centre for Poverty  
Alleviation  
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

##### Tunisia

Mr. Hafedh Bouktif  
Director of Studies, Planning and Programming  
Ministry of Social Affairs

##### United Arab Emirates

Ms. Moza Saif Alamri  
Deputy Manager of the Family Development  
Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs

##### Yemen

Ms. Eman Alhamami  
Director-General of Women and Social Protection  
Ministry of Planning and International  
Cooperation

## B. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of  
Labour and Social Affairs, Cooperation Council  
for the Arab States of the Gulf

Mr. Mahmud Ali Hafez  
Head of the Social Affairs Division  
Manama

Mr. Khalil Ya'qub Buhazaa  
Head of the Labour Department  
Manama

League of Arab States

Mr. Tarek El-Nabulsi  
Head of the Coordination and Follow-Up Unit  
Cabinet of the Assistant Secretary-General of  
Social Affairs  
Cairo, Egypt

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Costanza Farina  
United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP  
Resident Representative  
UNDP office  
Amman, Jordan

## C. OBSERVERS

Mr. Elsadiq Elfaqih  
Secretary-General of the Arab Thought Forum  
Amman, Jordan

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Title	Item	Symbol
Information Note		E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/L.2
Implementation of social development-related activities and recommendations under the ESCWA programme of work since the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development	4	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/3
Priority issues in the field of social development in the Arab region	5	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4
Employment and labour markets	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part I)
Role of civil society and participatory development in political transitions	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part II)
Impact of youth participation on social cohesion	5 (c)	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part III)
Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development	6	E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/5