

Fifth meeting of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development Inter-Sessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED)

“Disability Assessment and Determination Systems in the Arab Region”

Held virtually on the KUDO platform by UN-ESCWA

17 December 2020

Meeting Report

Background

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN-ESCWA) convened the fifth meeting of the Inter-Sessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED) on 17 December 2020. The meeting was held virtually using the online KUDO platform.

The IGED was established in 2016 to strengthen ties and exchange information on disability policy and advance the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Following up on the Fourth IGED meeting held in December 2019 in Cairo, the Fifth IGED meeting convened for two objectives. The first was to present and discuss the draft technical paper entitled: “Disability Assessment and Determination Systems in the Arab Region: An Overview.” Feedback from country focal points was shared to be incorporated in the final version of the paper. Second, the meeting was an opportunity to foster peer-learning and knowledge sharing, where countries are invited to share their experience in transitioning to a CRPD-compliant assessment and determination system. All countries are invited to present, especially those who wish to update the IGED on their progress since the last IGED meeting (Dec-2019 until Dec-2020).

Disability focal points from the following countries attended the meeting: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Malta. It also included a representative from the League of Arab States. The next meeting of the IGED is tentatively scheduled for 2021.

Disability Assessment and Determination in the Arab World

Since the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in 2006, the field of international disability policy has undergone a paradigm shift from a medical approach, focused on the individual and their condition, to understanding disability from human-rights perspective and taking into account the impact of the environment on an individual’s specific condition. In a human rights perspective, disability is the result of the interaction between an individual condition and the surrounding social and physical environment.

Almost all Arab countries have ratified the CRPD and have committed to changing their laws and institutional frameworks to ensure the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in all facets of life.

While progress is recorded in several legal and policy areas such as the issuance of national laws and the development of national disability strategies, one core policy area remains elusive so far: how to adopt a disability assessment and determination system that conforms with the CRPD’s human rights-based approach.

This has been a challenge for two reasons: firstly, because the current understanding, and sometimes definition of ‘disability’, is still based on a medical approach to disability in the Arab region. This necessitates a conceptual shift that has not fully materialized yet. Second, because there are technical challenges that countries face depending on their unique socio-economic context, geographic make-up, and governing institutional structures. Some of these technical challenges countries face includes resource constraints, lack of technical knowledge of CRPD compliant assessment systems, and shortage of trained professionals who can apply them.

Summary of updates and action points

- ESCWA will continue collecting updates from member states, finalize the regional overview of disability assessment and translate it into Arabic.
- As requested by the IGED in its 4th annual meeting, ESCWA is currently developing a fully accessible digital disability platform. This platform will also support a password-protected collaboration space for IGED members to exchange drafts, work in progress and ideas.
- ESCWA will continue to work on e-accessibility and assistive technologies (a concept note on assistive technologies will be available soon).
- In the framework of the partnership with Malta (Valetta forum), ESCWA will try to establish a research network of universities to train better Arab-speaking scholars on disability. ESCWA would like to encourage Arab universities to establish disability studies and connect in one network, such that they can learn from each other and collaborate. This activity was delayed because of COVID-19.
- ESCWA will continue to work on employment: a small project on inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace is being implemented and first results will soon be shared with the group
- ESCWA is working on a regional inventory of organizations of persons with disabilities, and IGED members are welcome to share their experience of interacting with relevant organizations in their countries.
- In December 2020, ESCWA held an advocacy campaign on disability inclusion in the workplace, with videos of private sector entities from across the region. Since it is an ongoing issue, ESCWA plans to further expand this campaign by collecting additional relevant materials. IGED members are encouraged to share any relevant national-level information. Similar work was done at the early stage of the pandemic, when accessible materials about COVID-19 were collected from different entities, compiled, and shared with the group.
- ESCWA will send around the list of proposed topics and invite the IGED members to express their preferences by listing the top 3 priorities.

Summary of Discussions

Opening session

Ms. Gisela Nauk welcomed all participants in the fifth annual IGED meeting and expressed ESCWA's appreciation for the continuous collaboration of the IGED network focal points and their active participation during 2020 as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On disability assessment, she noted that there are two ways of assessing disability:

- 1- Surveys and census data, which estimate disability prevalence according to questionnaires

- 2- Administrative data extracted from records of disability programmes and registries of disability cardholders. This data includes information on individual assessment and other personal details not available in the survey data.

She noted that there is a need for a change from the medical records to the psychosocial information which take into consideration the interaction between the individual and the environment. Disability is the result of how far the environment accommodates the conditions of people.

A round of introductions followed of all meeting participants. Ms. Nauk then stated that the meeting will start with a presentation by Ms. Sumaya Almajthoob on a paper that participants of the IGED meeting agreed on last year.

Session 1: Presentation of draft technical paper: "Disability assessment and determination systems in the Arab world"

by Sumaya Almajthoob, Associate Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Ms. Almajthoob gave a presentation on the draft of the technical paper entitled "Disability Assessment and Determination Systems in the Arab Region," in which she reviewed the paper's objectives, research methodology, and main components." She indicated that the paper was prepared in English and a draft translation into Arabic has been prepared.

The paper had been requested by the fourth annual meeting of the Expert Group on Disability held in Cairo in December 2019. It aims to explore the conceptual shift of disability and monitor legal frameworks for assessing and defining disability, in addition to exploring existing experiences in the Arab region.

The research methodology relied on the results of a questionnaire that was completed before the Cairo meeting, and the content of the presentations presented at the meeting. Academic and research resources were also used to review national legal frameworks in addition to sending some clarifying questions to countries to obtain additional information. The current meeting forms part of the methodology used to complete this paper.

The paper explores the conceptual shift of disability and then proceeds to explore the objectives of disability assessment and identification systems and review the various disability assessment concepts. The paper also explores the similarities and differences in how to assess disability based on existing legislation. The paper also includes case studies from Morocco, Oman, Egypt and Tunisia.

With regard to the conceptual shift in the disability perspective, Ms. Almajthoob indicated that the previous medical perspective viewed disability as a "medical problem" and focused on the individual as responsible for achieving inclusion. But the transformation that took place as a result of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) approaches disability from a human rights approach, making disability a societal issue where there is a responsibility on society and the environment.

The significance of this transformation lies in understanding disability from a life-cycle approach. The impact of disability varies according to different life stages, and the support services that people with disabilities need also vary. Consequently, it is not enough to evaluate disability once, but the evaluation must take place periodically for each person according to their context, the surrounding environment, and the services available to them.

Ms. Almajthoob explained the difference between assessing disability and determining disability and eligibility, as the assessment of disability relies on collecting information on the specific circumstances of each person and focuses on job performance, environment and independence, and it differs from another person. Whereas, disability is determined after collecting information and placing it in the approved classification framework, and it indicates the extent of the person's independence and the extent of their need for support. Eligibility is defining the category of people that the government can support, how, and what type of services can be obtained.

Shen then reviewed the characteristics of the disability assessment system that is in line with CRPD, the objectives of the disability assessment systems, and the comparison between evaluation systems based on the medical approach and those based on the modern international classification of functional performance, disability and health (ICF). She also mentioned that the tool used to implement the ICF is the WHODAS, which is an easy-to-use tool by persons with disabilities themselves and by specialists.

She indicated that a questionnaire was sent to all countries on the legal frameworks, including the definition of disability, how to conduct the assessment, the responsible party and the disability card, and asked the representatives of countries to view their country file and provide the ESCWA team with any observations.

The paper noted the similarities and differences in disability assessment systems in Arab countries, including:

- Most countries define disability as “permanent” but some countries also consider temporary disabilities. Some countries have passed recent laws that have a definition of disability that is consistent with the CRPD.
- Most of the countries have laws related to issuing disability cards. But in some cases, such as Jordan, Iraq and Sudan, laws on disability cards have been passed but not yet implemented. In Yemen, there is no disability card, but a box in the national identity card is reserved to indicate the presence of any disability. In Saudi Arabia and Qatar, other cards are being adopted that allow people with disabilities to access different services.
- In some countries, a unified evaluation process is adopted that enables a person to obtain all the services they need (one-stop-shop), which facilitates access to services, such as Tunisia, while some other countries require an individual evaluation for each service.
- In some countries, the task of evaluation is limited to government agencies, while in other countries such as Palestine and Syria, NGOs play an active role in the evaluation process.
- Overall, it was noted that there was no evaluation process of children in many Arab countries.

The paper includes case studies from Morocco, Oman, Jordan and Egypt, to highlight key lessons learned from each country, such as benefiting from regional and global experiences in Morocco, the digitization of the evaluation process in Oman, building on the existing resources in Egypt, and the coordination of evaluation processes in one framework in Tunisia.

In conclusion, key lessons-learned, and recommendations were reviewed, which included the following:

- The design of the national evaluation system should start with a visualization of the intended end result and added-value.
- The need to harmonize legal and policy frameworks with the State Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- The importance of identifying existing resources and building on them
- The importance of testing and piloting the evaluation system on a small-scale before it is adopted, and using a “grand-fathering approach” for the transition, where the new evaluation system is applied only to new cases
- Adopting a participatory approach that includes persons with disabilities and their representing organizations, OPDs, enshrining the principle of "nothing about us without us"
- Address any gaps that may prevent consistency of assessments
- Establishing an effective communication mechanism between government agencies
- Activating the use of digital and electronic means, which facilitates the matter for users and decision-makers and contributes to reducing costs and linking files.
- Disseminate information about the new system for informing persons with disabilities and make it available in all approved languages, including Braille.

Session 2: Country presentations on transitioning to CRPD-compliant assessment and determination systems

moderator: Gisela Nauk, ESCWA

Representatives of a number of countries reviewed their countries' experiences in adopting new evaluation systems in line with CRPD, and their interventions included the following:

Mr. Aziz Azerbi (Morocco): reviewed the country's project to establish a new system for assessing disability, which is based on reforming the existing system, and is based on a legal framework on the CRPD, Law 13/97 and the integrated public policy for the advancement of persons with disabilities, a number of laws, the National Action Plan 2017-2021 and the national social protection policy. Morocco is implementing a set of social protection programs, but there are difficulties in targeting persons with disabilities through the current disability assessment system, hence the new assessment system will fill this gap, as it takes functional assessments into consideration, participation, activities, and environmental factors. The system tries to rely on disability assessment and characterization to provide services (supply side) and respond to needs (demand side).

Mr. Aziz Azerbi addressed the most important features of the new system, including ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities, investing the resources of the current system, and adopting digitalisation. And he also reviewed the five main stages of the project, namely 1) the preparation of evaluation criteria and tools; 2) creation of institutional structures; 3) preparing the implementation decree for the issuance of the disability card; 4) Creating and qualifying human resources; 5) The final stage is to issue the card and establish the new system.

He touched on the methodology used, stressing the importance of consultative meetings, and noting the difficulty of determining the time period for completing the new system due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has delayed the consultative meetings. He also stressed the importance of developing a communication plan to introduce the new system.

Ms. Ghadeer Al-Haris (Jordan) reviewed Jordan's experience in establishing an updated disability assessment system. She indicated that the reality of disability assessment in Jordan is not different from

many Arab countries. The Ministry of Health in Jordan is currently responsible for the assessment process, which relies on a medical evaluation. The evaluations are carried out by a specialized medical committee for those over 18 years of age, and in diagnostic centres for those under 18 years of age.

The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is currently exploring its possible role in an updates disability assessment system.

It should be noted that the definition of disability adopted by Jordan's national disability law has surpassed the definition contained in the CRPD because it addresses neurological impairments, such as loss of pain sensation. There will be a multidisciplinary team to work on developing the procedure to operationalize this. Further, the Washington Group's definition of disability will be adopted in upcoming census and household surveys.

As for the disability card, at present, any service provided to persons with disabilities requires an assessment. Accordingly, the disability card will be linked to the personal identity card, as the ID will include a chip to enter data for persons with disabilities to enable them to obtain services. It has also been linked to the civil status and is issued electronically. The card is linked to a basket of services, and there is a guideline that includes the process for obtaining services such as tax and customs exemptions. The government is also seeking to establish a network of partnership with the private sector to enhance social responsibility, such as providing inclusive transportation and accommodation by private transportation companies. Applicants can also object the assessment decision and appeal it.

Ms. Ghadeer Al-Haris indicated that the responses adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic did not directly consider the needs of persons with disabilities. It also stated that the most important challenges facing this process are resistance to change by medical staff, in addition to the shortage of some specialties such as paediatric psychiatrists. She also stressed the importance of networking between the various bodies that conduct the assessment and build a protocol in line with the ICF.

Dr. Ashraf Marie (Egypt) indicated that the government has started implementing a new assessment system that is broadly compatible with the human rights perspective and has trained the staff available at the rehabilitation centres distributed over all governorates. He pointed to some challenges, including the public's lack of knowledge of the new card's existence, in addition to the necessity of conducting a separate additional evaluation to obtain some services, such as cars designated for persons with disabilities. He stated that his colleague Mr. Abdel Hamid Kabesh will discuss the details below.

Dr. Abdel Hamid Kabesh (Egypt) discussed the details of the new disability assessment process. He pointed to the completion of functional assessment tool and the start of its implementation in the year 2020, as a person with a disability undergoes a functional assessment in specific centres after the completion of the medical assessment. Because of the great pressure on the medical committees, medical assessments can be done from a wider network of institutions that includes both government or private hospitals. In cases where the functional assessment may not align with the medical assessment, the case is referred to the body that conducted the medical assessment for appeal. There must be an agreement between doctors and the functional assessment committee.

He pointed out that family members cannot be relied on for filling out the data; the medical assessment must be done accurately by a medical authority, while the functional assessment is done by trained staff in the rehabilitation centres.

He stressed the importance of a balance between accuracy and fairness, noting that in some cases, calls for facilitating procedures may lead to the issuance of inaccurate assessments. On digitalization, he noted that all rehabilitation centres are linked to an online network to input and share data on the disability assessment and determination process. The database is housed with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and there is a team of reviewers that periodically review the functional assessments to ensure quality control.

He stressed the importance of reviewing the law and the executive regulations for diseases that qualify for a disability card, as some diseases are medically classified as eligible, but upon the functional assessment, no functional impairment is identified.

In some cases, the need for a disability card is no longer needed when the environment changes, so it is necessary to take into consideration the combined environment factor. There is also a challenge in issuing temporary disability cards depending on the timeframe, and changes to the person's conditions. Due to the high number of persons with disabilities and the high demand for services, there was always a great demand for a disability card. There was agreement on the difficulty of rolling-out the implementation of the new evaluation system in limited governorates, so the decision was taken to roll-it out in all governorates, but with a focus to prioritize persons with severe disabilities in which obtaining rights and services is the most urgent. The case should be assessed as severe by both teams, the medical team and the functional assessment team.

Mr. Suleiman Al-Jahdhami (Oman) addressed the details of updating disability assessment procedures in his country, pointing to the government's commitment to ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities through the establishment of the General Directorate for Persons with Disabilities in accordance with Royal Decree No. (18/2014) to undertake the preparation of national plans and programs for persons with disabilities. This is done in cooperation and coordination with various government, NGO and private sectors.

He also stressed the Ministry of Social Development's keenness to provide a wide range of different services and programs, with the aim of enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and participate effectively in various aspects of life, in cooperation and partnership with the relevant authorities.

Decree 63/2008 and the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities Law was issued to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, in addition to the adoption of the Social Work Strategy 2016-2025, which focused on moving away from the medical approach to disability to a more comprehensive approach focusing on social inclusion and universal support services.

In the context of updating the disability assessment process, the Diagnostic and Assessment Unit at the General Directorate for Persons with Disabilities was inaugurated in January 2017 in the Governorate of Muscat, which is concerned with the process of assessing persons with disabilities, continuous re-evaluation, providing family counselling and guidance, referring applications for inclusive education to the Ministry of Education, and identifying assistive devices and technologies, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, and the implementation of some field and home visits to determine the needs of

persons with disabilities for reasonable accommodation, and ensure accessibility and inclusion in their environment.

Persons with disabilities are assessed in the regional governorates through decentralized teams (specialists in various fields) at Al-Wafa Centres for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in the governorates. A joint team has also been formed between the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Education, since the establishment of the Diagnostic and Assessment Unit.

The team's work is based on the system adopted by the two ministries to assess persons with disabilities (based on functioning) per the following specializations: The Ministry of Social Development (social worker, psychologist, special education specialist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, occupational rehabilitation specialist), Ministry of Education (Director of the learning difficulties unit, director of the hearing impairments unit, director of the intellectual disabilities unit, speech therapist), as well as assessment and re-assessment for people with disabilities, and refer them for inclusive education, identifying assistive devices in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, and carrying out home visits to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and assess the environment in which they live.

The Sultanate is currently going through a pilot phase since 2018 to update the systems for assessing and determining disability for those under the age of 18, in cooperation between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, to conduct functional assessments for disability based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by the World Health Organization. And for those 12 years or older, the assessments have already been completed. They are currently in the process of completing a project and creating a functional assessment tool for those under the age of 12, which was supposed to be completed in the current year 2020 and was postponed to 2021 due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He stressed that one of the most prominent challenges is the existence of a central assessment unit. Therefore, he suggested establishing diagnostic and assessment units in the regional governorates, and to unify diagnostic and assessment procedures. Another challenge is the lack of an experienced doctor in the assessment unit, which is a basic requirement. In addition to the large case load of assessment applications, and also the lack of standards on inclusive labour/work environments.

Mr. Hamood Alshabibi thanked ESCWA. He was sad to hear the Ms. Gisela Nauk was leaving for retirement, but the group will build on her achievements. Mr. Alshabibi noted that Oman was collaborating on a project on disability assessment with UNICEF and had added a new component, i.e. a study of the needs of persons with disabilities, because not only medical aspect was important. Furthermore, Oman formed a working group with participation of different actors (also private sector actors and OPDs to develop national guidelines for disability inclusion and transportation sector to expand the services available to persons with disabilities.

Discussion on session (1) and (2) Disability Assessment and Determination

Mr. Alistair De Gaetano, Parliamentary Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Government of Malta: informed participants that the reforms in Malta were moving slowly because of COVID-19 pandemic and administrative changes: the relevant minister had changed twice, and the civil service structure had also been modified. At the same time, there was political approval to start

the reforms from the Ministry for Health, Ministry for Education and Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, The Family and Children's Rights. A couple of weeks ago the disability portfolio was handed over to the Ministry for Inclusion [and Social Wellbeing]. The first phase of the reforms will start in 2021: Malta will move away from the medical model with an initial component based on WHODAS. The second phase will be more of a functional nature and will take into account certain aspects of ICF.

Regarding the plans for the future, Mr. Gaetano suggested to strengthen cooperation in the area of joint research in 2021 under the “Valetta forum” mechanism, but he was also ready for other suggestions. Mr. Gaetano also noted that he was aware about ESCWA’s work in the area of accessible ICT. There was a foundation with relevant expertise in the [Maltese] government that can cooperate with ESCWA on the topic.

Ms. Noura Aljebali (KSA) noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was working to establish a national unified registry [of persons with disabilities]. To this end, they cooperated with service providers - Ministry for Health, Ministry for Education and Ministry of Social Development - that had their own registries [of users] of the services they provide. This centralized unified registry will be linked to the Ministry of Interior through the civil card. A service of e-assessment of disability is also available: users can upload their disability documents to the website and that allows to extend this service to different regions. In addition, the system of care for persons with disabilities is being accredited. Once accredited, it will be adopted and will be in line with all the relevant conventions.

Ms. Gisela Nauk provided updates on the current ESCWA activities in the area of disability and plans for the next year. Ms. Nauk thanked participants for sharing their experiences and especially for sharing the challenges. She praised Egypt’s determination to build awareness not only among the medical sector employees, but also of public administration at large.

Further she noted that, apart from the paper on disability assessment, ESCWA was working on a regional inventory of organizations of persons with disabilities. The plan is to circulate the list among IGED members for them to add important organizations that have been missing in their countries. She also called upon the participants to provide their updates and comments on the paper on disability assessment. Ms. Nauk added that ESCWA was working on the situation analysis of disability processes in Lebanon in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Further on, ESCWA and UNFPA will support Lebanon to draft a national disability strategy.

In December 2020, ESCWA held an advocacy campaign on disability inclusion in the workplace, with videos of private sector entities from across the region. Since it is an ongoing issue, ESCWA plans to further expand this campaign by collecting additional relevant materials. Ms. Nauk asked participants to share any relevant national-level awareness material.

Furthermore, ESCWA’s consultants – Mr. Ibrahim Abdallah and Ms. Maha Khochen Bagshaw – were working together with Dr. Alaa Sebeh on a set of tools aimed at helping countries to mainstream disability. For example, Ms. Khochen Bagshaw was collaborating with UNESCO to produce modules for policymakers and educators on the needs and tools for inclusive education. Also, ESCWA was working with Libya on mainstreaming disability into COVID-response and with Sudan on developing a training for teachers and social workers to improve COVID-response related to persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, ESCWA's Technology team was launching an accessible website with materials on e-accessibility. The website would include a feature requested by some IGED-members: a password-protected room for governments to safely exchange and discuss topics and draft documents related to disability.

Mr. Nawar Alawa noted that Arab region should put more effort into improving e-accessibility, although many countries (like Qatar and Oman) were well advanced in this area even at the international level. Building on the best regional and international experience, ESCWA is trying to come up with a model to support development of national policies and strategies in Arab countries. Furthermore, ESCWA is trying to identify main international technical standards and criteria aimed at advancing access of persons with disabilities to ICT. The main goal of ESCWA's work is to provide people and decision-makers in the region with tools that can be easily used to develop national policies or technical standards. So, the main objective behind ESCWA's model is to help policymakers to develop national policies and ensure equal rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment and elections, thus, enabling full participation in all aspects of the daily life. The model developed by ESCWA includes the main components for strategy and can help any decision maker in the Arab region to develop a comprehensive policy or select the appropriate technical guidelines. ESCWA has developed a number of templates for websites, mobile accessibility, public access terminals and Smart Cards Accessibility, and for procurement of ICT products and services.

Concluding session: IGED Workplan 2021 and updates

Ms. Gisela Nauk invited participants to discuss the IGED annual plan for 2021. In the interest of time this will be done via email. ESCWA will send a round a list of topics countries had mentioned in the past in order to reconfirm their relevance.

ESCWA will continue to work on e-accessibility and assistive technologies, and a concept note on assistive technologies will be available soon.

In the framework of Valetta forum, ESCWA will try to establish a research network of universities to train better Arab-speaking scholars on disability. ESCWA would like to encourage Arab universities to establish disability studies and connect in one network, such that they can learn from each other and collaborate. This activity was delayed because of COVID-19.

Ms. Nauk also informed the group that she would not be leaving this work soon because of her retirement, but she leaves them in the hands of her colleagues.

Annex 1: List of Participants

<u>Egypt</u> Dr. Ashraf Marie Secretary General National Council for Disability Affairs Mr. Wael Hammam National Council for Disability Affairs Dr. Reham Essam National Council for Disability Affairs	<u>Lebanon</u> Judge Abdallah Ahmad Ministry of Social Affairs <u>Libya</u> Mr. Bashir El-Faitouori Adviser on Disability, Ministry of Social Affairs Secretary-General of the General, Association of Persons with Disabilities; and the vice-chairperson
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<p>Dr. Abdel Hamid Kabesh Consultant at the Ministry of Social Solidarity</p> <p>Dr. Hussein Abouelhassan Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)</p> <p><u>Jordan</u> Ms. Ghadeer AlHares Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p> <p><u>Kuwait</u> Ms. Aisha Bouhamad Public Authority of the Disabled (PADA)</p> <p>Ms. Haneen Al-Awadhi Public Authority of the Disabled (PADA)</p> <p><u>Oman</u> Mr. Hamood bin Mardad bin Hamoud Al-Shabibi Director General Directorate of Persons with Disabilities Ministry of Social Development</p> <p>Mr. Sulaiman Humaid Saeed Al-Gahdhami Assistant Director General Directorate of Persons with Disabilities Ministry of Social Development</p> <p><u>Palestine</u> Mr. Jamal Omar Ministry of Social Affairs</p> <p><u>Qatar</u> Ms. Laalei Abu Alfain Executive Director Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities Qatar Social Work</p> <p><u>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</u> Ms. Nouf Almelaihan Authority for Persons with Disabilities (APD)</p> <p>Ms. Noura Aljebali Authority for Persons with Disabilities (APD)</p>	<p>the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (AFRPD)</p> <p><u>Mauritania</u> Mr. Abdellahi Diakite Legal Advisor to the Minister Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family</p> <p><u>Morocco</u> Mr. Aziz Azerbi Chef de Service de la Prévention et de la Sensibilisation Ministère de la Solidarité et du Développement Social</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u> Ms. Raja Ben Ibrahim Director of Solidarity and Social Development Ministry of Social Affairs</p> <p><u>Malta</u> Dr. Alistair de Gaetano Coordinator Office for Disability Issues (ODI), Valletta</p> <p>Ms. Rhoda Claire Garland Executive Director Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Valletta</p> <p>Ms. Sumaya Almajthoob Associate Social Affairs Officer Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Mr. Anton Bjork ESCWA Consultant Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim Abdallah ESCWA Consultant Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Ms. Liudmila Batura Associate Social Affairs Officer</p>
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<p>Ms. Maha Almohaimeed Head of the Healthcare Coordination Section Authority for Persons with Disabilities (APD)</p> <p><u>League of Arab States</u></p> <p>Ms. Nasteha Ahmed Abdi Development and Social Affairs Sector League of Arab States, Cairo</p> <p><u>ESCWA staff</u></p> <p>Dr. Mehrinaz Elawady Director – Cluster Leader Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Ms. Gisela Nauk Chief, Inclusive Social Development Section, Social Development Division Beirut</p> <p>Ms. Fathia Abdel Fadil First Social Affairs Officer Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Dr. Alaa Sebeh Regional Adviser on Disability Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p>	<p>Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Nawar Alawa Regional Advisor on Technology for Development Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster</p> <p>Ms. Lize Denner Associate Programme Management Officer Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster</p> <p>Ms. Maha Khochen Bagshaw ESCWA Consultant Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p> <p>Ms. Nadine Chalak Research Assistant Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster</p>
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Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

Thursday 17 December 2020	
9:30- 10:00	<i>Login to test platform</i>
10:00 – 10:10	Opening and introduction Gisela Nauk, Chief of Inclusive Social Development Section, ESCWA Round of introductions
10:10 – 10:40	Session 1: Presentation of draft technical paper: “Disability assessment and determination systems in the Arab world” Sumaya Almajthoob, Associate Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA
10:40 – 11:40	Session 2: Country presentations on transitioning to CRPD-compliant assessment and determination systems <i>(5-6 minutes for each country presentation)</i> Moderator: Gisela Nauk, ESCWA
11:40 – 12:10	Discussion on session (1) and (2) Disability Assessment and Determination
12:10– 12:20	IGED Workplan 2021 and updates
12:20 – 12:30	Wrap up