



## **Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division**

### **Concept Note and Agenda**

#### **SED Thematic Meeting:**

### **Introductory Presentation of the Draft Baseline Studies and Coordination of the Advisory Group**

Tunis, 25-26 February 2019

#### **Programmatic Context**

The Libya Socioeconomic Dialogue Project is managed and implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), thanks to a partial funding by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation). The goal of the project is to provide and support a platform for Libyans to formulate, discuss, evaluate and advocate for a socioeconomic Future Vision to achieve stabilization and development in Libya.

The platform will base its discussions on evidence-based research produced by the project in its initial, normative phase. The first step in the project is to conduct three baseline studies on the state of the Libyan economy, society and public governance. The research will leverage ESCWA's in-house expertise as well as wide range of Libyan experts, and regional partners and collaborators.

Rather than aim towards presenting new evidence or making recommendations, the studies will be broad and comprehensive, to provide insight into the workings of the Libyan economy, society and governance system, identify key challenges and opportunities, and ask astute questions that aim to precipitate intellectual debate on institution building and alternative socioeconomic frameworks for sustainable development in Libya.

These studies will use the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a benchmark and will seek to identify potential priority themes that could serve as entry points or catalyst for broader transformative change and assist Libya's progress in achieving the SDGs. Each study will be enriched through consultations, or Expert Meetings Groups, held for each of the three pillars.

Once the baseline studies are finalized, participants in the dialogue groups will discuss key questions identified beforehand.

**The objective of the meeting** is to allow ESCWA and GIZ team members, as well as Advisory Group members and external Experts to introduce one another; for Consultants to present their work's preliminary findings; for participants to discuss and exchange feedback and directions to prepare for the final version of the Baseline Studies.

The opening session of the meeting will be dedicated to present the progress made so far and challenges encountered, and upcoming planned activities. It will help participants familiarize further with the project's mission and stages.

The following sessions will aim at presenting the initial outline of each study. The participants will discuss the developed structures and content of the initial drafts developed by the three Baseline Studies Consultants. These sessions will feature debates on the design of each study (*e.g. What choices were made to build the outline? Which logical sequence was implemented?*), core issues (*e.g. What is the historical, practical key studies referred to, resulting in current and potential future challenges?*), the research questions that are being tackled (*e.g. How are they being answered? Are there any gaps in the research questions?*), the perspectives out of which the studies are being analyzed (*e.g. What is the methodology followed?*), sources (*e.g. What is the existing literature? What are other potential material and data sources?*) and any additional aspect that needs further consideration and recommendations.

The meeting will also include a harmonization session, entitled "Towards an integrated Libyan Vision" which will aim at summarizing the feedback that came out of previous discussions, making sure that the research conducted is consistent with the project's mission and agenda. This session will also help avoiding any duplication of work when topics overlap, after which participants are expected to identify key issues to address for each pillar during the upcoming Dialogue Group meetings.

The Agenda of the meeting will be the following:

**Day 1 – Date: 25 February 2019**

9:00 – 9:30      **Arrival** and registration

9:30 – 10:30      **Introduction:** This session aims at introducing ESCWA and GIZ team members and reintroduce the whole purpose of the project. Moreover, the ESCWA team will inform the rest of the participants about the progress made so far and the work plan for the months to come.

Advisory Group Members and Experts will be informed of their expected contribution and roles during the different stages of the meeting and project.

**Welcoming remarks:** Dr Tarik Alami, *Director of ECRI, ESCWA*

**Introduction of ESCWA Staff:** Dr Youness Abouyoub, *Chief, Governance and State-Building section, ESCWA*

**Presentation of the project and meeting:** Jala El Akoum, *Research Assistant, ESCWA* and Ibrahim Grada, *Consultant, ESCWA*

10:30 - 11:00      **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 13:30      **Presentation, Economics:** The first presentation will concern the baseline study on Economics, where the consultant will explain the choices made in the outline and what has been produced so far, as first draft of the study. ESCWA, GIZ team members, the Advisory Group, and external Experts are expected to give feedback and directions for the consultant to prepare the final version of the study.

- *What choices were made to build the outline? Which logical sequence was implemented?*
- *What is the historical, practical key studies referred to, resulting in current and potential future challenges?*
- *How are they being answered? Are there any gaps in the research questions?*
- *What is the methodology followed?*
- *What are the 5 core socio-economic development themes / issues that are being proposed which will then be further detailed as a core part of the study*

- *What is the existing literature? What are other potential material and data sources?*
- *Any additional aspect that needs further consideration and recommendations.*

**Baseline Studies Consultant:** Dr Hamid Abdalla

**Chairperson:** Dr Attia Elmahdi Elfeituri

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Grada

13:30 - 15:00

**Lunch Break**

15:00- 17:30

**Presentation, Society:** The second presentation will be based on the baseline study on Society. During this presentation, the consultant in charge of the study will introduce the choices made in the structure and what is the research made of so far - as preliminary draft of the baseline study. After the presentation, participants will be giving feedback and directions for the consultant to follow for the final version of the study.

- *What choices were made to build the outline? Which logical sequence was implemented?*
- *What is the historical, practical key studies referred to, resulting in current and potential future challenges?*
- *How are they being answered? Are there any gaps in the research questions?*
- *What is the methodology followed?*
- *What are the 5 core socio-economic development themes / issues that are being proposed which will then be further detailed as a core part of the study*
- *What is the existing literature? What are other potential material and data sources?*
- *Any additional aspect that needs further consideration and recommendations.*

**Baseline Studies Consultant:** Dr Ali Ahmida

**Chairperson:** Dr Mustafa Attir

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Grada

## Day 2 - Date: 26 February 2019

9:30 - 12:00      **Presentation, Governance:** The third presentation will be dedicated to the baseline study on Governance. The consultant will explain the decisions made in the outline and what the first draft of the study is made of so far. The consultant will be receiving feedback and directions from ESCWA, GIZ team members, the Advisory Group, and external Experts, which should give directions to follow for the final version of the baseline study.

- *What choices were made to build the outline? Which logical sequence was implemented?*
- *What is the historical, practical key studies referred to, resulting in current and potential future challenges?*
- *How are they being answered? Are there any gaps in the research questions?*
- *What is the methodology followed?*
- *What are the 5 core socio-economic development themes / issues that are being proposed which will then be further detailed as a core part of the study*
- *What is the existing literature? What are other potential material and data sources?*
- *Any additional aspect that needs further consideration and recommendations.*

**Baseline Studies Consultant:** Dr Amal El Obeidi

**Chairperson:** Dr Zahi Bashir Mogherbi

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Grada

12:00-12:30      **Brief of Dr. Abdella Zidan Allag,** Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bureau of Statistics and Census in Libya.

12:30 - 14:00      **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30      **Towards an integrated Libyan vision:** Participants will summarize the feedback that came out of previous discussions, namely advice given and topics which need deeper research. Recommendations and feedback should ensure as much harmonization and consistency as possible among the Baseline Studies. This session will help avoiding any duplication of work

when topics overlap. In addition, leading questions that will be asked during the meetings of the Dialogue Group will be identified.

**All three chairpersons:** Dr Attia Elmahdi Elfeituri, Dr Mustafa Attir, Dr Zahi Bashir Mogherbi

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Grada

15:30 - 16:00      **Coffee Break**

16:00- 17:00      **Closing session and way forward:** Consultants and participants will agree upon upcoming milestones and way forward. Administrative matters will be conducted at the end of the session, e.g. evaluation forms.