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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT**EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON POVERTY MEASUREMENT
BEIRUT, 28-29 APRIL 2009****Summary**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Statistics Division held the Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Measurement at the United Nations House in Beirut on 28 and 29 April 2009 to improve poverty measurement in the ESCWA region. The meeting brought together experts from the ESCWA region as well as international experts in the field of poverty measurement and was based on three studies—namely, multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies; challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region; and the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). It discussed as well national experiences in poverty measurement and the issue of capacity-building in this field.

The meeting concluded with a set of recommendations, some of which were related to statistics and poverty measurement in general and others to the results of the meeting.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. RECOMMENDATIONS	2-4	3
A. General recommendations	3	3
B. Recommendations related to the meeting results	4	3
II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION	5-32	4
A. Multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies.....	6-12	4
B. Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region	13-24	6
C. Integrated Household Survey	25-31	8
D. Experts' papers on concepts and measurement of poverty.....	32	9
III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK	33-35	10
A. Date and venue	33	10
B. Opening	34	10
C. Agenda.....	35	10

LIST OF ANNEXES

I. List of participants.....	11
II. List of documents	14
III. Timeline for the meeting results.....	15

Introduction

1. ESCWA Statistics Division held an Expert Group Meeting on poverty measurement at the United Nations House in Beirut on 28 and 29 April 2009. The meeting was attended by experts from the ESCWA region as well as international experts in the field of poverty measurement. It was based on three studies—namely, multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies; challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region; and the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). It discussed as well national experiences in poverty measurement and the issue of capacity-building in this field.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Participants defined a set of recommendations, some of which were related to statistics and poverty measurement in general, whereas others covered the results of the meeting. The timeline of the meeting results is included in annex III to this report.

A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Recommendations related to statistics and poverty measurement in general included the following:

(a) To work together on defining poverty and choosing appropriate indicators to prepare studies that would assist in setting evidence-based policies, since the multidimensionality of poverty is reflected in concepts and measurement methodologies, cooperation between all entities concerned with poverty measurement is crucial, in particular between international organizations and specialized institutions, such as the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ESCWA, national statistical bodies, statisticians, experts and economic and social researchers, in order;

(b) To encourage ESCWA member countries to examine available methodologies and adopt the ones deemed appropriate in order to measure poverty with respect to the characteristics of each country, the requirements of scientific objectivity and international comparisons;

(c) To reaffirm the importance of poverty monitoring on the level of different geographic and administrative regions, as well as demographic congregations, to define effective economic and social policies that would limit poverty, focus on poverty mapping as a modern way of measurement with the possibility to resort to other ways to monitor poverty, and make use of national experiences in the ESCWA region and other regions;

(d) To highlight the importance of the continuity of work in statistics for poverty measurement in the ESCWA region. ESCWA, UNDP and the World Bank need to put forward a strategy for a future plan of action to study the importance of common work in this field, organize their consultations, propose a future plan of action within three months and present it to participants for examination and discussion prior to its adoption;

(e) To call upon ESCWA to make use of the final and revised copies of the papers presented during the meeting, as well as questions and contributions made by participants, in order to organize a training workshop to answer some conceptual and technical inquiries brought up during the meeting before the end of the current year to be included in the future plan of action aforementioned.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE MEETING RESULTS

4. In the frame of pursuing efforts to improve poverty-related statistics in the ESCWA region, experts agreed to a number of recommendations to follow-up on the meeting results, including the following points:

(a) Preparation of the final revised copies of the three studies: “Multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies;” “Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region;” and the “Integrated Household Survey (IHS),” after introducing proposed modifications agreed to by the participating experts. These studies will form the core of future work coordinated by ESCWA to set a regional working guide in the field of poverty study and measurement;

(b) The use of IHS in poverty measurement does not make it an alternative for other specialized surveys, therefore a call was made to carry on an experimental study in a member country, in cooperation with ESCWA, the World Bank and UNDP, provided the study of livelihoods measurement is taken into consideration in the formulation of the survey questionnaire;

(c) Necessity of communication between experts according to an appropriate mechanism defined by ESCWA, through establishing, for example, a webpage on ESCWA website with a set of actions to be electronically discussed by participating experts, in order to exchange opinions and consultations on topics related to poverty statistics and measurement, as well as IHS;

(d) Reaffirmation of the importance of experience-sharing between the countries of the region, and calling upon ESCWA to place national experiences on the website, provided member countries supply the necessary information;

(e) Making use of actions carried out by international organizations and statistical research centres in the field of poverty measurement, and calling to add on the page of poverty statistics of ESCWA website electronic links to the websites of the World Bank, the database of the Luxembourg Income Study LIS, and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies.

II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

5. The meeting included four sessions in which three studies were presented and discussed as follows: Multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies; Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region; and the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). Other papers were also presented and tackled the following topics: Statistical mapping of poverty: concepts and measurement; Income/expenditure: reliability and consequences in poverty measurement; Conceptual of poverty and measurement in France; Jordan experience in poverty measurement and IHS; Poverty statistics and measurement in Morocco; Child poverty measurement and disparities in Yemen; and Iraq experience in poverty measurement. The list of documents is contained in annex II to this report.

A. MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY: DEFINITIONS AND MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGIES

6. The first paper covered the different definitions of poverty. Poverty in its wider meaning is a social and cultural conception of an individual social or collective situation. Poverty is also a socioeconomic developmental concept, and its measurement requires extreme accuracy. The compact understanding of poverty requires limiting it to a single dimension of its various ones, and such an understanding is linked to the idea of meeting the fundamental needs. The static concept of poverty measures the phenomenon of poverty as a status given at a particular time. In such a concept, measuring poverty starts with defining the poverty line, then drawing the features of the poor and the map of their geographic spread as well as poverty correlations and reasons.

7. The paper pointed to the different orientations in the development of the poverty concept as follows:

(a) *Poverty and inequality*: resulting in the absolute poverty line and the relative poverty line. The absolute line can be adopted to define poverty in respect of meeting a specific quantity of material food or non-food needs;

(b) *Poverty, exclusion and marginalization*: it describes a situation that prevents the participation of the poor in society because of their incapacity to look acceptable socially, which leads to exclusion and marginalization;

(c) *Poverty, vulnerability and resistance*: such an orientation reveals the situation of the population strata considered not to be poor according to the adopted poverty measures, but are exposed to falling into poverty in case of a certain shock. Such people live just above the poverty line and do not have enough reserve of resources or capacities enabling them to absorb general, private, natural, social or health shocks, which leads to a noticeable regression in their livelihood beneath the poverty line.

8. The IHS, prepared and published yearly by UNDP in the human development report, is considered to be the most common example of the definition and measurement of poverty. The constituents of human poverty are represented in the deprivation of the three dimensions forming the social development index, namely health, education and livelihood. The paper discussed the indicators adopted in developing countries as well as the indicators adopted in developed industrialized countries.

9. The paper considered that the main weaknesses in the human poverty index lie in measuring the level of deprivation on the national level, or in a certain geographic region, instead of the level of households or individuals, which contradicts with the concept of poverty closely linked to households and individuals. The paper also examined the concept of poverty of capacities which calculates poverty as a situation of deprivation of the basic capacities, and not merely a low income, which is a prevailing indicator in defining poverty. Despite difficulties and complications linked to transforming the measurement of the poverty of capacities into a practical measurement, the paper pointed to the following methods, based on the book, *Development as Freedom*, by the Indian economist Amartya Sen, issued by Alam Al-Maarifa publication house (issue 303) in 2004, to measure poverty from the capacities perspective:

(a) Direct method that studies and compares the required extent of functional performance or capacities;

(b) Complementary method that combines the poverty of income with other social characteristics;

(c) Indirect method that combines the household income modified according to some poverty-related specifications.

10. The paper reviewed poverty in Arab countries, namely used measurement styles such as: measurement of income poverty (in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen); measurement of poverty of capacities (Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen); measurement of relative poverty line (in Bahrain and Qatar); participatory poverty measurement (Palestine); subjective poverty evaluation (Egypt); poverty mapping (Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic); and maps on the basis of socioeconomic indicators (Iraq, Lebanon).

11. The adoption of several methods to measure poverty in Arab countries and within a single country is positive in view of the individuality and nature of Arab countries as well as discrepancies in social characteristics and economic capacities. The Arab region is formed of small countries with important resources, such as Kuwait and Qatar, large poor countries, such as the Sudan and Yemen, and countries undergoing war and occupation, such as Iraq and Palestine.

12. Discussions covered several topics that can be summarized in the fact that poverty is a complex phenomenon from a social and measurable perspective. Socially, a question remains as to the study of the individual or the household, and statistically there are numerous ways to measure poverty. Therefore, it is important to define the adopted measurement methodology and tools used to enable international comparisons while taking into account the nature and specifications of the country. Discussions pointed to the necessity of cooperation among all concerned entities, namely international organizations, specialized

agencies, governmental entities, national institutions and policy makers for measurement to become a means and a tool for the formulation of policies aimed at fighting poverty.

B. CHALLENGES OF MEASURING POVERTY IN THE ESCWA REGION

13. The second paper covered challenges to poverty measurement in the ESCWA region as to poverty concepts and ways of measurement. It tackled improving the capacities of ESCWA member countries in the field of developing poverty statistics, and presented a clear statistical framework and approach to measure poverty with sources and means to collect data, verify them and publish them. The paper also examined guidelines to collecting important data for the calculation of necessary indicators in order to achieve poverty eradication according to the first goal of the Millennium Development Goals. Discussions covered the different parts of the paper as follows: poverty concepts and measuring methods, statistical framework for the collection and dissemination of poverty data, and statistical capacity-building.

1. *Poverty concepts and measuring methods*

14. The first part of the presentation included a definition of the concept of physical or income poverty as the material incapability to secure a decent livelihood providing basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing and education, as well as supplying health services, the right to participation and social justice. The presentation examined the methodology and means for human poverty measurement through welfare measurement, where many approaches are available to measure welfare, such as the total household income or consumption, per capita income or consumption, per capita food consumption and food expenditures to total expenditure ratio per household.

15. Different poverty lines were also presented and included the food poverty line depending on the choice of the food basket that fulfils the basic calorie needs determined by nutritionists, and the non-food poverty line which estimates two values of non-food basic needs to result in what is known as the lowest poverty line and the highest poverty line. The relative poverty line defines poverty according to a percentage of the national mean, the subjective poverty line defines poverty based on individuals' assessment of the minimum acceptable living standard in a society, and the severe poverty line which is equal to spending one dollar per person a day and two dollars a day, as the dollar is assessed according to the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

16. The paper mentioned that one of the main advantages of the severe poverty line is that it represents a unified standard for poverty measurement in different countries, however, some flaws remain as follows: (a) it does not reflect the different concepts of poverty related to each country and its socioeconomic growth level; (b) it does not take into consideration the differences in living standards and prices between different regions within the same country, particularly between rural and urban areas; (c) It does not take into consideration the different needs of individuals according to their age and gender; and (d) the food or non-food products in the basket may not reflect the real consumption pattern of the poor.

17. The paper considered human poverty to be the deprivation of opportunities and choices of basic importance for human development. It compared the human development indicator, which focuses on development achieved by every group in the local community, and the human poverty indicator, which combines three main indicators of deprivation—namely health, education and livelihood. It concluded that they were two different methods of evaluating development.

18. The paper summarized the experiences of member countries in poverty measurement, such as the measure of poverty using an expenditure database instead of income data; estimation of the poverty line of each household taking into consideration its size, age, gender structure and the place of residence; using breakdown data at the household level and not classified by household internal or expenditure categories taking into consideration the principle of household members' participation (affluent economies) and the importance of the consistency of the methodological framework and basic principles. The document defined

the means to estimate food and non-food basic needs based on the real practice of the poor when calculating and estimating national poverty lines.

19. The discussion of this part of the document covered several topics, such as improving the quality of data. Discussions recommended the document includes the importance of cooperation and coordination between producers and users of poverty statistics, and the impact on the preparation and implementation of surveys to collect required statistics for devising policies and strategies aimed at limiting poverty. In this context, experts recommended adding a paragraph calling to supply data on poverty to researchers in universities and scientific research institutions to improve the quality of data and set a specific mechanism regulating cooperation, such as for scientific and research centres to provide central statistical entities with a copy of every study or research prepared, provided statistical entities provide them with data while preserving confidentiality. Discussions reaffirmed the difficulty of producing statistics that meet national and international requirements despite the limited budget in central statistical entities. Experts stressed the necessity to take into consideration the adopted methodology and nature of the country when making comparisons.

20. Discussions pointed to the need to update the paper data and statistics and formulate guidelines on how to produce poverty statistics for national purposes that would be comparable internationally and on the national level for different years. It also suggested adding topics, such as analytical capacity-building, increase statistical awareness in governmental institutions and universities to analyse poverty statistics and data quality, update the poverty line and the best strategy in this view, climate change and its impact on welfare, evaluation to include orientations on the importance of evaluating the work of institutions in poverty measurement and strategies used to this extent. Discussions reaffirmed the necessity for the paper to include a clarification for the reference period in using income and expenditure surveys to measure welfare average, clear directives on the preparation of a table of indicators needed for the preparation of the human poverty indicator, as well as indicators on defining the used sample, and in respect of the nature of the country when making comparisons, and the importance of including metadata.

2. Statistical framework for the compilation and dissemination of poverty statistics

21. The paper examined the need for a statistical framework to measure poverty. It overviewed used data to measure poverty, such as household surveys, multi-indicator cluster surveys, demographic and health surveys, living standard measurement surveys, household budget/income and expenditure surveys, and labour force surveys. The phase of data and statistics collection represents the first stage to measure poverty followed by setting and preparing indicators. The document pointed as well to the ways of data and metadata dissemination, such as the development and metadata information system.

22. Discussions underscored the importance of household surveys as a basic source of data, and the necessity to collect accurate data, and define fundamentals to build and enhance capacities, increase awareness on statistics, improve the credibility of data and develop dissemination methods. Experts highlighted the importance of cooperation between data producers and users in order to ensure high-quality statistics in this field.

3. Capacity-building in the field of poverty measurement

23. The paper covered as well the topic of statistical capacity-building in ESCWA member countries in the field of poverty measurement and included the development of national statistical administrations and building their staff capacity. It identified gaps in the field of capacity-building, such as the limitability of data, gaps, inconsistency of methodologies and definitions, unavailability of data for users and researchers and incomparability of produced indexes. The document reviewed the needs in this field, including the definition of a framework to evaluate the quality of data, taking into consideration the dimensions of statistical quality, and defining programmes to build and enhance capacities.

24. Participants agreed to the importance of United Nations organizations and ESCWA member countries to adopt necessary procedures to build capacities in the field of poverty measurement, the definition of strategies to fight poverty, the definition of the poverty line, measurement of its indicators, collection of data standards and quality verification.

C. INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

1. *Specifications of the Integrated Household Survey*

25. The presentation covered the main surveys part of the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), namely, the Labour Force Survey, General Household Survey, Expenditure and Food Survey and the Omnibus Survey. The targets of the IHS as presented were as follows: building a survey system based on units, each unit aims at studying a specific topic that variables and questions are formed according to the requirements of analysis and measurement related to the topic in question; carrying out statistical analysis of results from a comprehensive and composed perspective stemming from the plurality and diversity of variables and their availability within a singular database; and establishing statistical samples in harmony with the nature of IHS topics as well as the periodical and continuous implementation of the survey and best use of financial resources, technical equipments, and human expertise in preparing and implementing statistical surveys.

26. The main phases and steps to be taken into consideration in all stages of preparing and implementing IHS are as follows: defining the survey topics and contents, defining the geographic levels on which the survey is based, defining the survey plan of implementation, building samples of questionnaires and indications, testing those samples, defining the final questionnaires and indications, preparing the necessary statistical sample to implement the survey, form and train working forces, and implement the survey in the field and clerically.

27. The presentation exposed the advantages and disadvantages of IHS. On the one hand, the questionnaire includes a large and varied set of variables and questions, therefore it could reflect a comprehensive statistical image reflecting the reality of the household, the household members and the residence, as it paves the way for deeper statistical analyses. The main disadvantages of such a kind of survey include the high rates of refusal to answer the questionnaire, and the possibility of encountering false or inaccurate answers due to the length of the questionnaire and the large number of variables.

28. The data of the questionnaire included demographic data, data related to education, economic activity, health, procreative health, disabilities and mortality. The presentation included suggestions as to the development of statistical systems and coordination means, such as finding a national referential institution in the field of statistical information, studying the situation of national statistical institutions, updating laws governing the work of statistical institutions, modernizing informatics equipments, programmes and systems, establishing a database, carrying out consultation processes between the users and producers of statistics and enhancing the use of statistics in policy formulation.

29. Discussions covered challenges that may be faced by researchers when carrying out this survey, such as the plurality of targets and aims, lack of financial resources, need to train human cadres, importance of taking into consideration the specifications of the persons answering the questionnaire and those refusing to do so, as well as the necessity to convince countries and donor entities of the importance of this survey.

30. Participants agreed to the necessity of setting examples, including the testing phase in accurate details, and examining expected reasons and results as well as all features of the IHS, as well as defining the size of the sample, giving examples of countries that adopted this kind of survey, and clarifying the difference between multi-target surveys and other surveys. Participants called to make use of surveys carried out by the World Bank, particularly in the African continent.

2. *Building-capacities for the implementation of IHS*

31. IHS was considered to be an advanced step in the field of demographic and social statistical data that helps in preparing developmental plans and programmes, in addition to a set of recommendations on developing statistical systems, such as establishing a database, updating informatics equipments, programmes and systems, as well as updating the work of statistical institutions. As for the process of preparation and implementation of IHS, it included setting a detailed plan of action as well as a timeline for the preparation and implementation of the survey, choosing and training work force, updating the statistical frame, linking the needs of planning and the contents of the survey questionnaires, and making use of technical support programmes and expertise that can be provided by the United Nations entities.

D. EXPERTS' PAPERS ON CONCEPTS AND MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY

32. During this session, papers on the concepts and methodology measurement of poverty, as well as some national experiences in the field of poverty measurement, were presented as follows:

(a) *Statistical mapping of poverty—concepts and measurement*: This paper identified poverty maps not only as a way to present poverty, but also as a reflection of detailed data on database-based poverty. It pointed to the importance and advantages of poverty maps, including their use in policy formulation, small area estimation means, some experiences in using poverty maps and future orientations in countries such as Kenya, Cambodia and Panama;

(b) *Income/expenditure—reliability and consequences in poverty measurement*: This paper included a presentation of the elements that should be taken into consideration when preparing surveys, such as accuracy in design, choice of sample and reaching good statistical means. It considered that IHS provides a rare statistical chance being so integral and multidimensional. The paper discussed poverty measurement through income and expenditure, lessons learned such as the necessity to measure income on the household level, defining the timeline and age group appropriate for education, and income sources. It also pointed to the specification of a way to measure poverty while mentioning some kinds of poverty measurement methods as well as consequences;

(c) *Conceptual of poverty and measurement in France*: The paper presented the way to measure poverty adopted in France. The concept of poverty was defined by an individual's livelihood being inferior to most of the population's or by living beneath a given level, based on a specific rate of acceptable livelihood. The paper tackled as well the three definitions adopted in France to measure poverty namely, poverty of resources, relative poverty and livelihood poverty;

(d) *Jordan experience in poverty measurement and IHS*: This paper presented the method based on the number of calories to define the poverty line in Jordan as well as choosing targeted households to set an indices number for the poverty line, calculating its relative importance, setting base prices and comparative processes to calculate the poverty line of the year of reference based on the indices number. Some indicators collected through a study carried out in Jordan in 2006 based on this method, were presented in parallel with the development of the poverty phenomenon between 2002 and 2006 in Jordan, while pointing to some economic and social specifications of the poor in Jordan;

(e) *Poverty statistics and measurement in Morocco*: The paper examined the adopted ways in Morocco to measure poverty, launched in the mid-1990s in cooperation with the World Bank. Poverty measurement relies in Morocco on the household expenditure. Examples of surveys carried out in 1994 and 2004 were presented along with their results. The presentation concluded with an overview of the evolvement of poverty in Morocco since the mid-1980s until today;

(f) *Child poverty measurement in Yemen*: This paper covered the study implemented by Yemen in cooperation with the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF) to measure child poverty in Yemen, where the situation of children was presented as well as the different ways adopted in measuring child poverty and the advantages and disadvantages of each way. The paper encouraged taking the issue of income and consumption into consideration;

(g) *Indicators of poverty measurement in Iraq*: The paper covered the indicators of poverty measurement in Iraq based on the data of the household social and economic survey carried out in 2007 by the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology in cooperation with the Kurdistan Regional Statistic Office with the support of the World Bank. This survey was the first to be implemented within the frame of the project of policies for mitigating poverty implemented by Iraq and the World Bank. The project is comprised of the following phases: data collection, preparation of a report to evaluate poverty and discrepancies, preparation of a strategy to mitigate poverty, generation of employment and developing a social protection network.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

33. The Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Measurement was held at the United Nations House in Beirut on 28 and 29 April 2009. The meeting brought together 16 regional and international experts. A list of participants is included in Annex I to this report.

B. OPENING

34. Ms. Fathia AbdelFadil, social statistics team leader in the ESCWA Statistics Division, delivered a speech welcoming the participants and thanking them for their cooperation and attendance. Mr. Juraj Riecan, Chief of the Statistics Division, welcomed the experts and stressed that the poverty issue has lately become one of the crucial issues, pointing out that fighting poverty is one of the Millennium Development Goals.

C. AGENDA

35. The meeting included four working sessions in which the papers were presented and experts' presentations on national experiences in the field of poverty measurement were discussed, as well as the issue of capacity-building in the field of poverty measurement and carrying out an Integrated Survey for Households. The programme of discussions included the following topics:

- (a) Multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies;
- (b) Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region: Concept of poverty and methods of measuring;
- (c) Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region: Statistical framework of compilation and dissemination of poverty statistics;
- (d) Integrated Household Survey (IHS): Objectives of IHS, basic components, advantages and disadvantages;
- (e) Integrated Household Survey (IHS);
- (f) Statistical mapping of poverty: Concepts and measurement;
- (g) Income/expenditure: Reliability and consequences in poverty measurement;
- (h) Conceptual of poverty and measurement in France;
- (i) Jordan experience in poverty measurement and IHS;
- (j) Poverty statistics and measurement in Morocco;
- (k) Child poverty measurement in Yemen;
- (l) Iraq experience in poverty measurement;
- (m) Capacity-building issues in poverty measurement and IHS;
- (n) Conclusion and Future Work.

Annex I

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Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

	title
1	Information note
2	Proposed agenda
3	Multidimensional poverty: definitions and measurement methodologies (<i>Mr. Adib NEHMEH</i>)
4	Challenges of measuring poverty in the ESCWA region: Concept of poverty and methods of measuring (<i>Dr. Heba ELLASY</i>)
5	Integrated Household Survey (HIS) (<i>Marwan HOURI</i>)
6	Statistical mapping of poverty: Concepts and measurement (<i>Dr. Katherine SCOTT</i>)
7	Income/expenditure: Reliability and consequences in poverty measurement (<i>Dr. Paul ALKEMADE</i>)
8	Conceptual of poverty and measurement in France (<i>Dr. Madior FALL</i>)
9	Jordan experience in poverty measurement and IHS (<i>Mr. Abdel Fatah JARADAT</i>)
10	Poverty statistics and measurement in Morocco (<i>Dr. Touhami ABDELKHALEK</i>)
11	Child poverty measurement in Yemen (<i>Prof. Muhammed Al Mansoob</i>)
12	Iraq experience in poverty measurement (<i>Mr. Saad Zaghlool ABDULAHAD</i>)

Annex III

TIMELINE FOR THE MEETING RESULTS

Topic	Date
- Preparing the pre-final copy of the three studies, sending them to ESCWA and distributing them to experts	30 May 2009
- Collecting the final additional comments on experts' studies	21 June 2009
- Preparing a final copy of the studies	15 July 2009
- Launching poverty webpage on the Statistics Division pages on ESCWA website	30 May 2009
- Activating the electronic group to discuss poverty statistics and the Integrated Household Survey	15 June 2009
- Proposing a future plan of action shared by ESCWA, the World Bank and UNDP and distributing it to experts	3 months