



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/9/Report
27 January 2016
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

**Report
of the Executive Committee on its second meeting
Amman, 14-16 December 2015**

Summary

The Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its second meeting, attended by representatives of ESCWA member States, in Amman, from 14 to 16 December 2015.

The meeting agenda covered several items, including progress by the secretariat in implementing recommendations made by the Committee at its first meeting, the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session. The Committee examined several regional and global issues, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action; the Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators; implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region; the Paris Conference on climate change; governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices; the impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region; Israeli occupation in Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law. The Committee also reviewed the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, preparations for the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA, and reports by the Committee on Water Resources and Committee on Social Development on their eleventh and tenth sessions respectively. It finally reviewed three matters regarding the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network.

This report includes an overview of the key issues raised and the recommendations adopted at the meeting.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1-3	4
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND MEETING	4-6	4
A. Recommendations made to ESCWA member States	5	4
B. Recommendations made to the ESCWA secretariat	6	5
II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION	7-66	7
A. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its first meeting	7-10	7
B. Implementation of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session.....	11-19	8
C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action	20-25	9
D. The Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators....	26-28	10
E. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda	29-31	10
F. Technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region.....	32-35	11
G. Paris conference on climate change.....	36-38	11
H. Governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices.....	39-42	12
I. The impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region	43-45	13
J. Israeli occupation in Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law	46-48	14
K. Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019	49-51	14
L. Preparations for the ESCWA twenty-ninth session.....	52-54	14
M. Session reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies.....	55-56	15
N. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network: evaluation of the network.....	57-59	15
O. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network: proposed terms of reference	60-62	16
P. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network: workplan for the biennium 2016-2017.....	63-64	16
Q. Date and venue of the third meeting of the Executive Committee.....	65	16
R. Other matters	66	16

CONTENTS *(continued)*

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
III. ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ITS SECOND MEETING	67	17
IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK	68-76	17
A. Date and venue	68	17
B. Opening	69-72	18
C. Participants	73	18
D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	74-75	18
E. Documents	76	19
ANNEXES		
I. List of participants		20
II. List of documents		22

Introduction

1. The Technical Committee was established pursuant to the decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at its twenty-fourth session, held in Beirut from 8 to 11 May 2006. At its twenty-eighth session, held in Tunis from 15 to 18 September 2014, ESCWA adopted resolution 320 (XXVIII) on redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amending its terms of reference in order to empower it to facilitate direct communication between the secretariat and member States on development, economic and social issues and to submit resolutions directly to the Economic and Social Council. The Executive Committee held its second meeting in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015.
2. The meeting addressed the items on its agenda, including progress made in implementing recommendations made by the Committee at its first meeting, the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session. The Committee examined several regional and global issues, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action; the Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators; implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Arab region; the Paris conference on climate change; governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices; the impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region; and Israeli occupation in Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law. The Committee reviewed the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, preparations for the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA and reports by the Committee on Water Resources and Committee on Social Development on their eleventh and tenth sessions respectively. It also looked at three matters regarding the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network.
3. This report includes an overview of the key issues raised and the recommendations adopted at the meeting.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND MEETING

4. At the end of its second meeting, the Executive Committee reached a number of recommendations and suggestions.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO ESCWA MEMBER STATES

5. The Executive Committee made the following recommendations to ESCWA member States:
 - (a) To take note of progress made in implementing the recommendations of its first meeting and the resolutions adopted at the twenty-eighth session of ESCWA, and urge those member States that had yet to do so to submit progress reports to the secretariat by 1 February 2016;
 - (b) To approve the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/5), and provide the secretariat with comments thereon by 3 January 2016, as stipulated by the mandate of ESCWA, with a view to its consideration and adoption at the next session of the Commission;
 - (c) To take note of the results of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and their impact on the Arab region, and adopt the ESCWA views with regard to financing for development as priorities for future action, which include mobilizing domestic resources, stimulating investment, enhancing tax systems, encouraging workers abroad to channel their savings into financing development and building the capacity of member States to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) To call on member States that have yet to do so to participate in the National Technology Transfer Offices project, with a view to enhancing harmonization of national technology development and transfer systems;

(e) To take note of progress made on setting global indicators for monitoring implementation of the SDGs, and of proposals for consultations on the creation of a regional SDG monitoring framework; and welcome the initiative of the secretariat to hold workshops at meetings of decision makers from various ministries, including for planning and the economy, and from national statistics offices;

(f) To enhance participation in regional and global dialogue on migration, with a view to broadening development capacities and meeting the needs of refugees, displaced persons and other migrants, and of host communities;

(g) To support migration policies in compliance with international conventions so as to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration and to enhance the positive impact of migration on development in countries of origin, destination and transit, and minimize its negative repercussions;

(h) To monitor efforts to develop legal and institutional frameworks that guarantee the rights of migrants and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda;

(i) To support the ESCWA secretariat as it strives to aid the Palestinian people and their institutions to obtain their full rights, and to alleviate the effects of occupation, including by helping to procure extrabudgetary funding for its efforts to analyse and measure the comprehensive and cumulative cost of the Israeli occupation since 1967, on which it is working with the Palestinian Government and other regional and international bodies;

(j) To welcome the invitation by Qatar to host the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA, which will focus on the 2030 Agenda and the road map for its implementation at the national level, and which shall take place at the end of May 2016. The session dates and necessary arrangements shall be determined jointly by the ESCWA secretariat and the host country;

(k) To adopt the following reports submitted by subsidiary bodies:

- (i) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/8/Report);
- (ii) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its tenth session (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/6/Report).

B. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE ESCWA SECRETARIAT

6. The Executive Committee made the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:

(a) To help member States to implement the 2030 Agenda by assisting in the examination of links between its goals and targets, in order to identify areas of common interest to member States, enhance their capacity to incorporate those goals effectively into their national strategies and provide multiple avenues for their achievement;

(b) To build the capacity of member States to monitor progress on achieving the SDGs, generate relevant statistics and ensure the consistency of indicators listed in the regional SDG monitoring framework, for use in the domestic policy of (but not limited to) conflict-affected States;

(c) To support the efforts of member States, especially those affected by conflict, to address technology for development and implement the technology aspects of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the technology bank, intellectual property rights bank, innovative initiatives platform and technology facilitation mechanism;

(d) To provide support for the preparation of national strategies and plans, the development of national science, technology and innovation systems, bearing in mind the link between those strategies and national endeavours to implement the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the priorities and challenges of each country;

(e) To present the member States with an annual report addressing the implementation of the financing for development workplan and technology support;

(f) To support States emerging from and affected by conflict in their efforts to boost their resilience, address development challenges and navigate the post-conflict phases of reconstruction, reconciliation and institution building. Such support may come in the form of technical and normative assistance to develop reconciliation plans and mechanisms, and examination of past experiences of national dialogue and the lessons to be learned from them. In that way it can be determined how best to enhance development, build institutions and foster social cohesion through the inclusion of local communities in to economic and social life, including, for example, through the study of the potential cost of reconstruction;

(g) To deepen overall assessment of the impact of conflict, crises and occupation on affected member States, including measurement of their short-term and generational impact, with a view to building the capacity of those States, and their institutions and peoples, to face challenges, and bolstering the long-term risk-assessment and crisis and conflict analysis capacity of State institutions. Such assessments would also identify shortcomings in those institutions;

(h) To step up efforts in support of the Palestinian people and monitor Israeli violations of international law and their economic and social repercussions, including by:

- (i) Intensifying efforts to analyse and measure the comprehensive and cumulative cost of the Israeli occupation since 1967, improve cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian Government and all concerned regional and international stakeholders, and seek to procure the necessary extrabudgetary resources;
- (ii) Presenting the results of the study on the extent to which Israeli policies regarding the Palestinians can be considered apartheid as defined by international law, and its implications in terms of recommendations, to the member States during the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA;
- (iii) Welcoming the communications strategy outline of the ESCWA secretariat aimed at raising awareness of the Palestinian people's rights and Israeli violations of them, and request that the secretariat develop the outline more fully;

(i) To continue to build the capacity of Arab States with regard to climate change by preparing studies and training workshops in the light of the outcome of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21), embodied in the Paris Agreement, and in particular with regard to implementation of activities contained in reports on national contributions to emissions reduction, financing and technology transfer;

(j) To provide the support requested by Morocco for the preparation of the next Conference of Parties (COP-22), to be held in Marrakesh in November 2016, in coordination with the League of Arab States, the Arab negotiating group and the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA) through training workshops and studies in partnership with stakeholders in the country;

(k) To prepare an assessment of the expected impact of the climate change summit, including a quantitative study of its repercussions, and the extent of its influence on the capacity of member States to achieve other development goals, provided the necessary funding is available;

(l) To also prepare a study on the link between the adverse effects of climate change and emerging conflicts in the Arab region in the light of the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR);

(m) To extend support to member States in the area of international migration by raising awareness, training decision makers and fostering regional dialogue, and support their efforts to collect good quality data on migration in all its forms in order to ensure that policies are evidence-based;

(n) To reactivate the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network, time its next meeting, if possible, with that of the Executive Committee, and review its draft new terms of reference and proposed workplan for the biennium 2016-2017 for presentation at the next meeting of the Network, prior to its submission to the Executive Committee for adoption;

(o) To carry out an independent assessment of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme in 2017.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST MEETING (Agenda item 3 (a))

7. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on progress made by the secretariat in implementing the recommendations issued by the Executive Committee at its first meeting, held in Amman on 8 and 9 January 2015 (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3(Part I)).

8. The representative of Yemen, referring to his country's own experience, requested that a study be conducted on its national dialogue process in order to draw lessons of potential benefit to other Arab countries similarly affected by conflict. The representative of Jordan wished to know what stage had been reached in the drafting of the guidance manual for decision makers on incorporating principles of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in to development planning. The representative of Bahrain asked that correspondence on ESCWA activities in Bahrain should be sent through the appropriate coordinating channels between the secretariat and his country. The representative of the State of Palestine stressed the importance of member States reporting to the ESCWA secretariat on their progress in implementing the Executive Committee's recommendations in order to safeguard the credibility of the Commission's work: those recommendations were agreed upon by the member States and should therefore be acted upon.

9. The Executive Secretary said that the secretariat had initiated studies on the cost of conflicts afflicting certain Arab countries, and referred to the National Agenda for the Future of Syria project, which envisaged a scenario in which all parties would come together. ESCWA intended to launch a similar project in Yemen. She stressed the need for resources to fund such projects in order to put countries in conflict on the path to the future they aspired to. As far as the guidance manual was concerned, ESCWA was working tirelessly on social justice issues and had hitherto prepared numerous related studies that would be used in drafting the manual.

10. The Secretary of the Commission reaffirmed the commitment of ESCWA to using the communication mechanisms agreed to with the members States. With regard to recommendations made to member States, it was important for them to follow the example of the secretariat and submit follow-up reports on implementation to the Commission. Participants agreed that the secretariat should reiterate the need for member States to report on progress on implementation of session resolutions and Executive Committee recommendations for submission at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TUNIS DECLARATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN THE ARAB REGION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ESCWA
AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
(Agenda item 3 (b))

11. The representative of the secretariat reviewed progress in implementing the Tunis Declaration and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session, held in Tunis from 15 to 18 September 2014, and the measures taken to implement them (E/ESCEA/2015/EC.2/3(Part II)). A wide range of studies had been carried out on aspects of social justice, including gender equality; the links between economic growth, employment, poverty and inequality; early childhood policies, given the importance of that formative period in the development of the individual; inequality of access to education; analysis of perceptions of inequality and social justice in the region; and the impact of refugee flows on economic growth in host countries.

12. ESCWA had published a report on aspects of social protection policy in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. It had also created tools to improve the capacity of member States to implement participatory social protection policies. Moreover, ESCWA had held a high-level meeting on participation and social justice, and a regional conference in Riyadh on social protection and development.

13. Pursuant to the ESCWA resolution on support for the Palestinian people, ESCWA had established a partnership with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to conduct a household survey on living conditions in Gaza and the consequences of the attack by Israel there in July and August 2014. It had worked with Birzeit University on the analysis of the survey results and the preparation of a report on its key findings and on the coping mechanisms adopted by Palestinians in Gaza. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/42 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, ESCWA had prepared a technical report on the social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls between July 2012 and June 2014. ESCWA was preparing a report on the effects of Israeli practices on the Palestinian economy.

14. The ESCWA secretariat had held the second session of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development in Manama from 5 to 7 May 2015. It had organized the session with its principal partners in the Forum, the League and Arab States and UNEP, in order to discuss preparations for the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which had taken place in September 2015.

15. The Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 2014/36 on redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amending its terms of reference. The ESCWA secretariat would submit its resolution 321 (XXVIII) on redesignating the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States” to the Council with a view to amending the Commission’s terms of reference, as set forth in resolution 1985/69 of the Economic and Social Council.

16. The representative of Qatar suggested that ESCWA reports on Palestine could be made more comprehensive by making use of studies and reports issued by the General Assembly. The representative of the State of Palestine, however, commended the Commission’s reports on his country and stressed the need to disseminate them to decision makers in Palestine and international forums. Nevertheless, the reports did not adequately measure such aspects as human suffering. The representative of Iraq said that social policies and the tools for their implementation should be put in place to promote the integration of post-conflict communities and those emerging from conflict.

17. The representative of Egypt requested assistance from ESCWA to member States on achieving a united position on sustainable development and financing development. Sectoral studies should be conducted to assess the cost of technology in the region. Arab countries should partner with cutting-edge organizations in order to make full use of technology in important areas such as energy, food, communications and information.

18. The representative of the secretariat said that ESCWA based its papers on scientific analysis of social justice policies and national statistics and surveys, and only had recourse to data from international organizations where national data was unavailable.

19. The Executive Secretary underlined the importance of assessing the cost of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, which was crucial to the defence of the rights of Palestinians. No such studies had been carried out to date. The Commission kept abreast of reports on the occupation by other organizations, but they merely described the situation on the ground. ESCWA, however, was preparing reports to assess the direct and indirect economic cost of occupation. The development of home-grown technology was essential for the Arab region.

C. 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
ESCWA STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION
(Agenda item 4 (a))

20. The representative of the secretariat presented a report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part I)), the aim of which was to explore options open to ESCWA to alter its approach and even its organizational structure so as to facilitate the incorporation by member States of the 2030 Agenda into their national development frameworks and thereby achieve the SDGs. The plan of action set forth clear objectives and priority areas for a broad range of activities to ensure the effectiveness of the Commission's SDG initiatives. The plan of action first needed to be finalized in order to ensure its completeness, harmonize its components and set out a timeline of results, and to decide which entities would carry out its activities and the resources needed.

21. Under the plan, ESCWA would start to prepare a comprehensive set of studies directly linked to the 2030 Agenda. It expected to have a monitoring mechanism in place by 2017 for comparative assessment across the region. Monitoring activities would also include comparative assessment of the work of ESCWA and that of other economic and social bodies. Member States were invited to hold regular meetings, in particular in the form of annual regional forums on sustainable development, in order to review progress made, identify good practices, and discuss challenges and common solutions. With a view to ensuring the coordination of activities, the regional forums would be organized in close cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Regional Coordination Mechanism, and with the involvement of all Arab States.

22. In order to implement that ambitious plan of action, ESCWA would reorganize certain aspects of its strategic framework under the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017, increasing its focus on sustainable development. To that end, additional resources would be allocated in the regular budget, Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Development Account, and extrabudgetary sources. Implementation of the plan would require approximately US\$3 million.

23. The representative of Yemen said it was difficult for countries in conflict to set sustainable development goals. It was imperative to focus on emerging issues such as famine and the environment. The plan should have the flexibility to adapt to developments as they arose. The representative of Jordan said that member States required assistance to mainstream the SDGs into activities at the regional and local levels. Policies were needed to monitor their implementation in local communities. ESCWA should set up an online SDG database for the Arab region and contribute to building the capacity of statistics offices in member States.

24. The representative of the State of Palestine said that a comprehensive implementation plan was needed. He also requested the creation of a dedicated SDG rapid response technical unit to assist member States. The representative of Egypt called on ESCWA to devise a road map on how to meet and finance commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris climate change agreement, given the shortage of international funding. Representatives of the member States said that a request should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for sufficient additional funds to enable the ESCWA secretariat to approach the 2030 Agenda in a way that met the needs of the Arab region.

25. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCWA said that the proposed strategy was a work in progress. Regional integration was vital. The creation of an SDG unit to assist member States would be a key component of the strategy's implementation mechanisms.

D. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SETTING REGIONAL PROGRESS INDICATORS
(Agenda item 4 (b))

26. The representative of the secretariat said that the document on the Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part II)) set forth in detail the efforts of the secretariat to support the Arab States during negotiations on setting indicators for monitoring achievement of the SDGs. It contained an overview of the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission in that regard and the role of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. It highlighted some of the issues that had arisen during regional consultations and established basic principles for SDG monitoring in the region.

27. The representative of Yemen asked whether monitoring the SDGs would have a positive effect on countries in terms of, for instance, raising standards of living or eliminating unemployment. Countries faced difficulties in defining indicators at the governorate level, given the great disparities between them. The representative of Jordan requested the creation of simple measurement indicators in order to ease the work of States, and said that decision makers had a key role to play in determining national and regional priorities. The capacity to produce the information desired under the indicators employed must be assessed in cooperation with national statistics offices.

28. The representative of the secretariat underlined the importance of dialogue between national statistics offices and decision makers. The secretariat stood ready to support member States in their efforts to follow up and monitor progress in the implementation of the SDGs once indicators for each of the goals had been adopted.

E. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA
(Agenda item 4 (c))

29. The representative of the secretariat said that the report on Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part III)) highlighted the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its impact on the Arab region. Efforts should be concentrated on a set of priorities to mobilize funding in the coming period.

30. The representative of Qatar asked whether indicators or statistics were available for measuring progress by Arab States in meeting the commitments made at international development financing conferences (such as the Monterrey conference) prior to the Action Agenda. The representative of Yemen asked about ways and means to put workers' remittances to good use in development finance in Arab countries. The representative of Jordan pointed out that remittances were more often than not used to finance consumption rather than development. He said that it was imperative to find means of attracting foreign investment and to look at how to leverage inter-Arab investment. The representative of Egypt said that it was important not to view remittances as a component of development aid. For the most part, they were used to cover the cost of education and health care. There was no reason to change that state of affairs, given its contribution to reducing poverty.

31. The representative of the secretariat emphasized the need to mobilize resources at the local level to finance SDG-related activities in the face of declining official development assistance (ODA) and the failure of States to fulfil their commitments. It was important to create a favourable environment for investment, fully utilize the liquidity available in Arab banks, clamp down on resource wastage and deal with tax evasion. He proposed setting up an Arab tax policy forum and mechanisms to encourage workers to send savings home and thereby invest in their own countries.

F. TECHNOLOGY MECHANISMS TO ADVANCE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN THE ARAB REGION
(Agenda item 4 (d))

32. Participants discussed technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part IV)), the role of technology in the structural transformation of economies through enhanced efficiency and consistency, and access to resources and services. Technology and innovation could contribute to putting the 2030 Agenda into practice and the role of ESCWA in working with States in the region to build knowledge-based economies.

33. The representative of Yemen asked what mechanisms ESCWA was contemplating adopting in order to help conflict-affected countries, in particular Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and what could be done to improve their competitiveness and that of least developed countries (LDCs). The representative of Egypt underlined the importance of technology in areas such as education, health, food, energy and medicine, with regard to attaining the SDGs, and expressed the hope that ESCWA would help member States in that regard. The representative of Jordan said that ESCWA had a key role to play in fostering partnerships between Arab States and the sharing of successful experiences, and asked how local technology might be produced in the region through research and development, and used to implement the SDGs. The representative of the State of Palestine said that it was crucial to identify the institutions and foundations that would foster the use of technology for development. That meant, above all, education systems, which should be overhauled to place technology at their core, thus ensuring their long-term viability. Education and scientific research should be developed and partnership with the private sector was important. The representative of the United Arab Emirates, noting that technology and innovation had become a fixture in the programme of work of ESCWA, suggested the creation of a national plan for the Arab region on innovation and innovation-led sectors. The representative of Saudi Arabia said that it was important to build partnerships between member States and invited them to profit from his country's own experience of launching a technology plan, in the preparation and development of which ESCWA had played a major role.

34. The representative of the secretariat said that ESCWA was preparing studies on competitiveness in the information and communications technology sector and invited member States to tailor their findings to local requirements. ESCWA was playing a key role in the design of an information technology bank, and there were many e-government platforms in the Arab countries. Successful experiences in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates should be replicated in other countries.

35. Turning to the question of access to technology, the representative of the secretariat pointed to the Technology Bank that the United Nations had set up in Istanbul with a view to helping LDCs, and the ESCWA Technology Centre, which functioned as a technology bank for the Arab region. There was a need for integrated national systems of innovation and technology transfer and consolidation. Member States should help to finance that project.

G. PARIS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(Agenda item 4 (e))

36. The representative of the secretariat, presenting the document on preparations for, and results of the Paris climate change conference (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part V)), said that efforts by the Commission in the two previous years to build the capacity of member States in climate change negotiations had included workshops and a guidance manual.

37. The representative of Yemen said that appropriate statistical indicators should be set to measure climate change and its impact. He wondered how the best use could be made of experiences of other countries with regard to environmental matters such as desertification, drought and natural reserves. The representative of Iraq raised the question of the impact of wars on climate. Representatives of member States agreed to work with Morocco on preparations for the November 2016 Conference of Parties (COP-22). The representative of

Egypt said that Arab States should become fully involved in the Conference, since it was to be hosted by an Arab State, by putting together a special regional initiative that could be prepared in coordination with the ESCWA secretariat. The representative of Saudi Arabia suggested that the secretariat could launch research initiatives on clean energy, support investment in that area and strive to increase cooperation between the public and private sectors, with a view to boosting innovation capacity, facilitating access of populations to clean energy and thus improving their living conditions. The representative of the United Arab Emirates requested that a detailed analysis be made of the Paris Agreement and its implications for development in the Arab region. The representative of Morocco underlined the importance of the support by ESCWA in preparing the COP-22, by holding training workshops and harmonizing the position of Arab States on climate change.

38. The representative of the secretariat said that work was ongoing on the analysis of the Paris Agreement and its implications for the region, and on a workshop to be held in February 2016 on related implementation mechanisms, in particular on financing and technology transfer. Arab States should assess their needs and prepare requests for submission to the Green Climate Fund, one of the financial mechanisms available under the Agreement. With regard to statistical indicators, 80 climate change indicators had been prepared in consultation with specialists in the context of RICCAR. Climate change was one potential cause of war, conflict and migration, and some specific effects of wars on climate change, such as sand storms, could be studied using climate modeling. ESCWA had issued many papers on renewable energy and on the energy-food-water nexus approach designed to improve energy consumption efficiency across sectors, and had conducted several modeling studies on climate change in the Arab region.

H. GOVERNANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE ARAB REGION:
PROMISING PRACTICES
(Agenda item 4 (f))

39. The representative of the secretariat, presenting a document on the governance of international migration in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VI)), said that Arab States had taken steps to establish political and institutional frameworks to deal with major changes in migration patterns and the impact of growing and increasingly complex population movements. Issues included the situation of migrant workers in the Arab region and related matters such as nationality, irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, forced migration and refugee flows. Nevertheless, promising practices in terms of international migration governance in the region had emerged.

40. The representative of Jordan said that the document overlooked services provided to Syrian refugees by the Jordanian Government in many areas, including health and education. The representative of the United Arab Emirates said that his country had set an example of good practice in terms of dealing with foreign migrant workers. The representative of Qatar, underling progress made by his country, said that legislation passed in November 2015 and due to take effect in 2016 allowed for, *inter alia*, the scrapping of the *kafala* system; the transfer of a worker's sponsorship upon expiry of the initial contract; and the creation of an e-platform to facilitate transactions between sponsors and workers. Closer cooperation with the secretariat would ensure that such information appeared in its reports and maximise the utility of its advice and recommendations. The representative of Morocco said that her country had been party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees since the 1950s, and had established a special department to monitor their situation, examine asylum applications and grant residency permits and social security. The representative of Saudi Arabia said that his country had granted hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees residency permits and access to education, health and housing services. It had spared no efforts to provide support for refugees in neighbouring countries, such as Jordan and Lebanon. It had also recently issued regulations to improve the situation of Yemeni residents.

41. The representative of Iraq said that brain drain had an impact on development and wondered what policies might serve to integrate such persons in host communities or encourage their return home. The representative of Jordan raised the issue of the impact of refugee flows on development in host countries, given that achievement of most development goals was measured in terms of the proportion of a country's residents

with access to various services. The great burden placed on host countries yielded negative results by such criteria. The Government of Jordan, together with several United Nations organizations, had drafted a plan to mitigate the effects of the large flow of Syrian refugees into the country, and the ESCWA secretariat should include its results in its report on migration.

42. The representative of the secretariat said that its report on migration, to be issued in January 2016, included reforms that had taken place only between 2012 and April 2015 and could not take into account new developments in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It did contain examples of good practice in migration governance; however Arab States had to do more to protect the rights of migrants. The secretariat intended to look closely at the report of Qatar on its new employment legislation. The problem of brain drain due to conflicts and their repercussions would be examined in future studies.

I. THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY ON DEVELOPMENT
IN THE ARAB REGION
(Agenda item 4 (g))

43. The representative of the secretariat, turning to the subject of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(PartVII)), said that there was a need for: short- and long-term strategies to tackle institutional shortcomings in resolving conflicts and softening their impact; policy mechanisms to contain the risks created by conflict and limit their impact on the regional level; and international conflict-sensitive assistance. New data on the main repercussions of conflicts on development had been used to propose a set of policy options in that regard.

44. The representative of Iraq said that human development was paramount and that her country needed technical assistance from ESCWA in order to establish plans and draft policies to facilitate the rehabilitation and inclusion of individuals, especially women and persons with disabilities, in governorates that had been liberated. The representative of Yemen said that it would be instructive to look at his country's unique experiment with national dialogue and what had undermined it. Similarly, the cost of reconstruction under varying scenarios, societal reforms and mechanisms or binding agreements required of all parties to the conflict in order to achieve social reconciliation in Yemen should be examined. The representative of the State of Palestine demanded a new approach in the preparation of studies, taking into account the different categories of displaced persons (such as women and children) and their needs, and making a distinction between forced and regular migration. The need for societal reconciliation was equally essential in Palestine. The representative of Jordan reiterated the impact that the influx of Syrian refugees had had on her country, which had set back development and led to rising rates of illiteracy and extremism. How to boost the resilience of host countries should be addressed in future studies. The representative of Qatar said that the authorities in his country were looking at ways of enrolling Syrian students in its universities.

45. The representative of the secretariat said that ESCWA was preparing to conduct an assessment of the repercussions of conflict and instability, and to draft a unified vision for some countries in conflict with regard to requirements for reconstruction, looking at various possible scenarios, alternatives and cost impact on development. On the subject of Yemen, ESCWA had invited many of those involved in the national dialogue to a meeting in Beirut two years previously with representatives of other member States to discuss the experience of Yemen and draw lessons from it for the benefit of all. There was a need to find out what had scuppered the dialogue, to bring the parties to the conflict back together and to resume the national dialogue where they had left off. ESCWA had started working with Yemeni experts on background papers dealing with the security, economic, social and political situation, and with a Jordanian research centre on a report detailing the impact of the influx of Syrian refugees on Jordan and making proposals to host countries on how to best mitigate the negative repercussions of such flows. It was the role of ESCWA to help countries in conflict to map out strategies to tailor development goals to their situation and achieve them.

J. ISRAELI OCCUPATION IN PALESTINE: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS
AND VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
(Agenda item 4 (h))

46. The representative of the secretariat, said that the document entitled “Israeli occupation in Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law” (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VIII)) had been prepared in compliance with resolution 316 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014, which had requested the secretariat to submit “periodic reports... on the practices of the Israeli occupation that violate the economic and social rights of the Palestinian people and other rights guaranteed by international law, charters and conventions”. The document addressed violations of international law by the Israeli authorities and examined the extent to which occupation policies and practices might fall under the definition of apartheid.

47. The representative of Yemen said that more such studies on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinians were needed. The representative of the State of Palestine thanked the secretariat for its continued support and efforts to present an accurate picture of the suffering of the Palestinian people.

48. The representative of the secretariat said that ESCWA would be tireless in its efforts to expose the repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people.

K. PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019
(Agenda item 5)

49. The representative of the secretariat presented the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 ((E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/5)), which focused on enhancing sustainable development that was comprehensive and just through effective economic and social policies. The framework rested on three strategic pillars, social justice, regional integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and reflected the integration of the Commission’s activities.

50. The representative for Morocco underscored the importance of closer cooperation with other regional United Nations bodies, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), so as to ensure the consistency of indicators used by all stakeholders. The representative of the State of Palestine, noting the comprehensiveness of the framework, said that it built on its predecessor while taking into account the latest developments in the region and around the world. He requested clarification regarding the mechanism adopted for verification of the reliability of indicators and measurements. The representative of Qatar asked for the section regarding obstacles facing implementation to be condensed. The representative of Morocco asked for more time for the member States to discuss the strategic framework with actors from different sectors so as to reflect their views. The representative of Iraq commended the work of subprogramme 7 on conflict mitigation and development. The representative for Egypt asked how ESCWA planned to mobilize the resources needed to implement its ambitious strategic framework and what would be prioritized in its implementation.

51. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that ESCWA and ECA cooperated in many areas, such as finance for development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), the Arab Customs Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. ESCWA would also look to cooperate with the Economic Commission for Europe on migration issues. Comments from member States would be incorporated into the framework by 3 December 2016. ESCWA was working hard to obtain extrabudgetary funding.

L. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ESCWA TWENTY-NINTH SESSION
(Agenda item 6)

52. The representative of the secretariat, presenting the document on preparations for the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/6), said that the session would be held in the last week of May

2016. The work, main theme and agenda of the session would reflect regional and global priorities and key development issues, above all the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

53. The representative of Qatar expressed his country's wish, after prior consultations with the secretariat, to host the twenty-ninth ESCWA session in the last week of May 2016. He said that the session could be held over three days instead of the usual four. Representatives of other member States said that coordination between the host country and the secretariat was essential, and that they would like to receive session documents at least three weeks in advance. The representative of Yemen said that high-level representation at, and broad participation in the session were essential for meaningful political dialogue.

54. The Secretary of the Commission thanked the representative of Qatar and said that the attendance of ministers at the session was the key to achieving its goal of building political consensus on how to implement the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

M. SESSION REPORTS OF THE ESCWA SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 7)

55. The representative of the secretariat presented the following reports by two ESCWA subsidiary bodies on their sessions, held between the first and second meetings of the Executive Committee:

(a) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/8/Report);

(b) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its tenth session (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/6/Report).

56. In the absence of comments, the reports were adopted by the Executive Committee.

N. ESCWA TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK: EVALUATION OF THE NETWORK (Agenda item 8 (a))

57. The representative of the secretariat, presenting an evaluation of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part I)), reviewed the achievements and activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme, noting that they were funded by the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation and Development Account, and through extrabudgetary resources.

58. The representative of Yemen said that Arab countries, especially those in conflict, had to focus on achieving the SDGs. The capacity of member States must therefore be deepened through technical cooperation activities, with a focus on support for reconstruction efforts. All ESCWA reports and documents on technical cooperation activities should be issued in Arabic. The representative of the State of Palestine noted that no sufficient explanation had been given as to what had impeded the organization of regular network meetings and questioned the need for the network if the Programme of Technical Cooperation was functional without it. The role and decision-making mandates of the coordinating mechanisms with regard to national priorities were unclear. Delays in responding to requests for technical cooperation at times compelled member States to seek other sources of funding. ESCWA should again take up with member States the issue of membership of the network. A meeting could be held in the first quarter of 2016 to discuss development of the network, which could be attached to the ESCWA secretariat. The representative of Morocco concurred with the representative of the State of Palestine and called for reactivation of the network. She said that one-month's advance notice to member States of upcoming advisory missions would facilitate the smoother organization of meetings with national stakeholders.

59. The representative of the secretariat said that it would do all in its power to provide technical assistance to member States according to their needs, including assistance for reconstruction in countries in conflict. It

was imperative that the network be reactivated in order to enhance technical cooperation activities and coordination with member States. The need for technical assistance in the Arab region was greater than ever. The Secretary of the Commission underlined that Arabic was an official language of the United Nations and one of the working languages at ESCWA. The Commission took care to translate all its documents into Arabic and hired Arabic-speaking consultants. Where that was not possible and non-Arabic speaking specialists were needed, all efforts were made to facilitate communication.

O. ESCWA TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK: PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE
(Agenda item 8 (b))

60. The representative of the secretariat presented proposed terms of reference of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part I)).

61. The representative of Iraq said that the functions of the technical cooperation focal points should be more clearly defined. She wished to know more about the annual evaluation programmes, and whether they would cover only network activities or include the work of network members. The representative of the State of Palestine asked for a clear definition of the functions of the network, the coordinating mechanisms and the secretariat. The representative of Bahrain approved the proposal by which one of the two representatives of each member State on the network should also be member of the Executive Committee.

62. The representative of the secretariat said that an internal evaluation form was used for technical cooperation activities and submitted to the Technical Cooperation Network. An external evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Network may also be conducted by a consultant. The evaluation would cover the activities of the network and the performance of its members. The network was a tool for technical cooperation with its own programme. It provided a platform for sharing experiences and enhancing communication on common challenges. Its terms of reference could indeed be formulated more clearly.

P. ESCWA TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK: WORKPLAN
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017
(Agenda item 8 (c))

63. The representative of the secretariat presented the Technical Cooperation Network workplan for the biennium 2016-2017 (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part III)).

64. The representative of the State of Palestine reiterated the need to clarify the network's terms of reference, distinguish between its core functions and specific time-bound activities, hold a meeting in the first quarter of 2016 to relaunch the network, set a detailed workplan for it and adopt it in consultation with member States.

Q. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Agenda item 9)

65. Participants agreed that the third meeting of the Executive Committee would be held at the United Nations headquarters in Beirut, in December 2016. The exact date would be determined by the secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee.

R. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 10)

66. No comments or proposals were made under this item.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ITS SECOND MEETING

(Agenda item 11)

67. At the close of the meeting, the Executive Committee adopted the recommendations submitted to it and drawn from meeting discussions, making comments thereon. The amended recommendations will be incorporated in a comprehensive report on the work of the Committee and its results. It also adopted a draft resolution on the ESCWA strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/RES/L.322). Prior to adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the secretariat read out a note from the United Nations Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts on the financial implications of the resolution. Under rule 24 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the secretariat shall prepare an estimate of the budgetary implications of implementing any resolution involving additional spending by the United Nations. The text of the resolution is as follows:

The Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 305 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and resolution 314 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014 on the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development,

Commending efforts made by the Arab States to achieve sustainable development and those of the Commission in that regard,

1. *Adopts* the Strategy and Plan of Action proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to implement the Strategy and Plan of Action and present periodic reports on the activities carried out to that end, in particular: support for member States to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in to their national development plans; support for statistical systems; regional follow-up processes, such as the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development; monitoring progress made in the Arab region towards achievement of the SDGs; and the preparation of regional follow-up reports using official data;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to take all necessary measures, including the provision of human and financial resources and the creation of a technical unit attached to it for that purpose;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to harmonize the Strategic Framework for the biennium 2016-2017 with the present resolution.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

68. The Executive Committee held its second meeting in Amman, from 14 to 16 December 2015. Pursuant to its terms of reference, which stipulate that the Chair of the ESCWA session shall be designated to chair the Committee, the representative of Bahrain, in their capacity as Chairperson of the twenty-eighth session of ESCWA, held in Tunis from 15 to 18 September 2014, was designated as Chairperson of the Committee. The representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia were designated as first and second Vice-Chairpersons respectively, and the representative of the Sudan as Rapporteur.

B. OPENING

69. The opening session of the second Executive Committee meeting began at 10 a.m. on 14 December 2015. Ms. Rana bint Isa bin Daij al-Khalifa (Deputy Assistant for Arab and Afro-Asian Affairs and Organizations in Bahrain), Chairperson of the second Executive Committee meeting, gave the opening speech. Welcoming the participants, in particular those from the new ESCWA member State, Mauritania, she said that she hoped the delegations would find common ground for closer cooperation between the member States, with a view to achieving their desired goals.

70. Ms. Khalaf (Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA) welcomed participants, the Chairperson of the meeting and, in particular, the representatives of Mauritania, who were participating in a meeting of the Committee for the first time in an official capacity since that country had joined ESCWA. She said that the 2030 Agenda would set the course for development over the coming 15 years and have broad implications for development planning and the implementation of national plans. ESCWA would support member States, building on its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and integrated, cross-sectoral development management experience. Other key global processes included the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Plan on Financing for Development and the Paris climate change negotiations which had produced a new framework for combating the greenhouse effect.

71. ESCWA would monitor implementation of the Tunis Declaration. Social Justice would be a key to determining paths to development in the coming years, not only in the Arab region, but throughout the world. In that context, the Israeli occupation had a negative impact not only on Palestinians but also on other States in the region and on their capacity to achieve the justice and development to which they aspired. ESCWA had produced a great number of technical studies on that subject and had begun work on a guidance manual for decision-makers on how to incorporate social justice issues in development planning. ESCWA also planned to publish a broad report on justice in the coming year.

72. The ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 had been designed to address the regional and global priorities identified in the 2030 Agenda, and define the role of ESCWA in the coming 15 years. Comments and proposals from participants on the framework would be welcome.

C. PARTICIPANTS

73. The second meeting of the Executive Committee was attended by representatives of ESCWA member States. A list of participants is set out in annex I to this report.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

74. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda of its second meeting as set out in document E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.1. The agenda in its adopted form was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up issues:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its first meeting;
 - (b) Implementation of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session.
4. Regional and global issues:
 - (a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action;

- (b) The Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators;
 - (c) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
 - (d) Technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region;
 - (e) The Paris Conference on climate change;
 - (f) Governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices;
 - (g) The impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region;
 - (h) Israeli occupation in Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violations of international law.
5. Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019.
 6. Preparations for the ESCWA twenty-ninth session.
 7. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies:
 - (a) Committee on Water Resources on its eleventh session;
 - (b) Committee on Social Development on its tenth session.
 8. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network:
 - (a) Evaluation of the network;
 - (b) Proposed terms of reference;
 - (c) workplan for the biennium.
 9. Date and venue of the third meeting of the Executive Committee.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting.
75. The Committee adopted the proposed organization of work as set forth in document E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.2.

E. DOCUMENTS

76. Annex II to the present report contains the list of documents considered by the Executive Committee at its second meeting.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bahrain

Ms. Rana Rana bint Isa bin Daij al-Khalifa
Assistant Under-Secretary for Arab and Afro-
Asian Affairs and Organizations

Mr. Fuad Sadiq Albaharna
Consultant
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Khalifa Sultan Nasr
Consultant
Embassy of Bahrain
Amman, Jordan

Egypt

Mr. Majdi Radi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Iraq

Ms. Raghed Ali Abd al-Rusul
Director-General
Ministry of Planning

Jordan

Mr. Ziad Obeidat
Director of the Development Plans and
Programmes Department
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Ms. Hazar Badran
Head of the World Bank Group and United
Nations Relations Section
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Mr. Mutasim al-Kilani
Head of the Sustainable Development Division
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Ms. Raghed al-Shakhaniba
Senior Researcher at the World Bank Group and
United Nations Relations Section
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Mr. Muid Ghanim
Researcher
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Kuwait

Mr. Meshaal Manour al-Aradi
Supervisor, International Organizations
International Economic Cooperation Department
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Mounira Yehie al-Khalifi
Foreign Relations Expert
Ministry of Finance

Lebanon

Mr. Ali al-Mawla
Consultant
Embassy of Lebanon
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Rami Aqlah Basharat
Embassy of Lebanon
Amman, Jordan

Mauritania

Mr. Mohammed Taqrah
Consultant
Ministry of the Economy and Development

Morocco

Ms. Hanan al-Touzani
Commissioner for Studies in the Office of the
Head of Government
Ministry of Public Affairs and Governance

Ms. Meryem Adaou
Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Mr. Said Regragui
Minister Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Morocco
Amman, Jordan

Oman

Mr. Said bin Rashid bin Said al-Qotbi
Director-General of Social Affairs
Supreme Council for Planning

Palestine

Mr. Mahmoud Ataya
Policy and Reform Unit
Office of the Prime Minister

Qatar

Mr. Tariq bin Ali Faraj al-Ansari
Director of the Department of International
Technical Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Oussama Othman El-Fekki Mohammed Ahmad
Consultant
Department of International Technical Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Nasser Saleh al-Abed al-Ghani
Researcher in International Relations
Department of International Technical Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdullah Ali al-Marwani al-Jahani
Assistant Undersecretary for Planning
Ministry of Economy and Planning

Mr. Saleh Fahd al-Shahri
Planning Specialist
Ministry of Economy and Planning

Sudan

Mr. Mahjub al-Hassan Mohammed Aakud
Departmental Director
Ministry of Trade

Mr. Taha Mohammed Ahmed Sumi
Chief Inspector
International Organizations Division
Ministry of Trade

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz al-Shehhi
Undersecretary for Economic Affairs
Ministry of the Economy

Mr. Nizar Faisal al- Meshaal
Director of the Department of Economic
Agreements and Joint Committees
Ministry of the Economy

Ms. Sumaya al-Jinahi
Senior Administrative Assistant
Office of the Undersecretary for Economic Affairs
Ministry of the Economy

Ms. Hanan Abdullah al-Kadi
Economic Researcher
Ministry of the Economy

Yemen

Mr. Nabil Mohammed al-Tayari
Director-General, Economic Modelling and
Forecasts
International Economic Studies and Forecasts
Sector
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Provisional agenda and annotations	2	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.1
Organization of work	2	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/L.2
Follow-up issues	3	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3 (Arabic)
Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its first meeting	3 (a)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3(Part I) (Arabic)
Implementation of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session	3 (b)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/3(Part II)
Global and regional issues	4	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4 (Arabic)
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ESCWA strategy and plan of action	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part I)
The Sustainable Development Goals: setting regional progress indicators	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part II)
Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part III)
Technology mechanisms to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region	4 (d)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part IV)
Preparations for the twenty-first Conference for the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21)	4 (e)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part V) (Arabic)
Governance of international migration in the Arab region: promising practices	4 (f)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VI) (Arabic)
The impact of conflict and instability on development in the Arab region	4 (g)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VII)
Israeli occupation of Palestine: social and economic repercussions and violation of international law	4 (h)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/4(Part VIII) (Arabic)
Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019	5	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/5

Title	Item	Symbol
Preparations for the ESCWA twenty-ninth session	6	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/6 (Arabic)
Session reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies	7	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/7 (Arabic)
ESCWA Technical Cooperation Network	8	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8 (Arabic)
Evaluation of the Network	8 (a)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part I) (Arabic)
Proposed terms of reference	8 (b)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part II)
Workplan for the biennium 2016-2017	8 (c)	E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/8(Part III)