



## Report

### Fourth meeting of the Executive Committee Beirut, 13-14 December 2017

#### Summary

The Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourth meeting at the United Nations House in Beirut, on 13 and 14 December 2017. The meeting was attended by representatives of ESCWA member States.

The meeting agenda covered several items, notably progress in implementing the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session, and the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting. The Committee examined several regional and global issues, including financing for development; establishing an Arab centre for climate policies; the ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region; multidimensional poverty in the Arab region; the ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery; and the economic cost of violence against women in the Arab region.

Representatives also considered the reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies for sessions held between the twenty-ninth ESCWA session and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, namely the report of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee, the report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy, and the report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources. They also considered the United Nations management reform pursuant to the plan of the Secretary-General, progress in implementing technical cooperation activities, and preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session.

The present report gives an overview of the key issues raised and the recommendations adopted at the meeting.

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## **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 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 fourth meeting at the United Nations House in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2017.
2. The Executive Committee addressed the items on its agenda, including progress in implementing recommendations made by the Committee at its third meeting, the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session, and the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee examined several regional and global issues, including financing for development; establishing an Arab centre for climate policies; the ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region; multidimensional poverty in the Arab region; the ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery; and the economic cost of violence against women in the Arab region. Representatives also considered the reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies for sessions held between the twenty-ninth ESCWA session and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, namely the report of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee, the report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy, and the report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources. They also considered the United Nations management reform pursuant to the plan of the Secretary-General, progress in implementing technical cooperation activities, and preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session.
3. The present report summarizes the key issues raised and the recommendations adopted at the meeting.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS FOURTH MEETING**

4. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to Qatar for its efforts during its leadership of the Committee, and made the following recommendations on the agenda items.

#### **A. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESCWA MEMBER STATES**

5. The Executive Committee made the following recommendations to ESCWA member States:
  - (a) Welcome the secretariat’s efforts in implementing recommendations made by the Committee at its third meeting, and in linking its studies and reports to technical cooperation activities and training it provides to member States and to its efforts in implementing the Doha Declaration;
  - (b) Welcome training activities implemented by ESCWA to build capacity in preparing projects to receive funding from international climate change funds;
  - (c) Approve the proposal presented at the third and fourth meetings of the Executive Committee to establish an Arab centre for climate policies focused on building Arab capacity and preparing studies, especially in the field of climate change negotiations; and present it for consideration at the thirtieth ESCWA session. Member States must submit their detailed comments on the proposal to the secretariat by 15 January 2018;
  - (d) Welcome the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard as a tool to monitor and follow up on all financing sources in the Arab region; and disseminate its results on all related platforms, while taking into account

increasing challenges emanating from the global economic governance system and the resulting international competition over necessary resources for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(e) Intensify efforts to benefit from available financing development sources in the Arab region and from country experiences in that field; apply incentivizing policies to benefit from those resources, especially regarding stimulating trade and private and public investments, and improve financial and tax administration to facilitate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Confirm that, despite the significant cost of financing sustainable development and rebuilding efforts and of tackling the repercussions of terrorism, violent extremism and emerging threats in the Arab region, there is great potential to benefit from available resources in the region by adopting appropriate incentivizing policies, especially on trade, investment and workers' remittances;

(g) Take note of global trends in official development assistance, and urge member States to participate in international events that affect the financing of development processes, especially those related to official development assistance, to directly impact the outcomes of those processes in a way that serves Arab countries;

(h) Commend the ESCWA project on a multimodal transport system in the Arab region, which reflects an integrated vision to deal with the transport sector as a development sector that contributes to achieving sustainable development;

(i) Approve, in principle, "Technology for sustainable development" as the theme of the thirtieth ESCWA session, to be held from 7 to 10 May 2018, in anticipation of consultations with the leadership of the next session on the theme, venue and date; and submit to the secretariat the proposed topics for discussion at the thirtieth session no later than two weeks after the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee;

(j) Confirm the importance of reforming the United Nations system to increase efficiency and responsiveness in implementing the 2030 Agenda; and stress the importance of Arab countries' participation in discussions on reform proposals to ensure that they serve the sustainable development process without reducing resources allocated to development in the new budget for the period 2019-2020;

(k) Welcome the Egyptian presidency of the Group of 77 and China, and what it represents in the way of support to developing countries within the United Nations, in general, and to Arab countries, in particular;

(l) Take note of the meeting of the Technical Cooperation Network, held on 12 December 2017; and emphasize the importance of bilateral cooperation frameworks signed by ESCWA with some member States as a basis for technical cooperation activities, and the importance of developing follow-up mechanisms;

(m) Adopt the following reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies:

- Report of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee (E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/7/Report);
- Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/9/Report);
- Report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/8/Report).

## B. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ESCWA SECRETARIAT

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

(a) Submit at the thirtieth ESCWA session an integrated report on “Implementing the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda” setting out member States’ efforts in implementing the Doha Declaration at the national level;

(b) Stress the importance of providing the documents set out in the Committee’s agenda at least three weeks before the start of the meeting;

(c) Highlight international developments in presentations given at Executive Committee meetings, especially those related to new resolutions on topics discussed by the General Assembly of the United Nations and its various organs;

(d) Focus on ensuring that training sessions are more responsive to member States’ needs, while taking into account country specificities and disparities between Arab countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda;

(e) Continue coordinating between ESCWA, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations on implementing the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Prepare a study on significant trends in the transport sector and their impact on the Arab region, such as the One Belt One Road Initiative, northern navigation, and new technologies including artificial intelligence;

(g) Present the project on a multimodal transport system in the Arab region to specialized Arab ministerial councils to ensure high-level political support for the project, and urge regional and international financing institutions to mobilize resources for its implementation;

(h) Publish the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report periodically; continue working with Arab countries and organizations and support regional efforts to develop programmes to end multidimensional poverty; and provide support to member States, upon request, in measuring and reducing multidimensional poverty by formulating and implementing related policies and plans and by building individual and institutional capacity;

(i) Conduct research at the national level to calculate the economic cost of violence against women, upon countries’ request and in line with the realities, specificities and needs of each society; and encourage policymakers to take appropriate measures to intensify efforts towards preventing and protecting women from violence, and strengthening the exchange of successful experiences between countries that have calculated the economic cost of violence against women and the countries aiming to do so;

(j) Prepare a study on the economic and social costs in member States facing challenges related to the Committee’s mandate, upon countries’ request, with special focus on supporting rebuilding and recovery programmes;

(k) Stress the importance of linking the ESCWA Statistical Committee with the other ESCWA subsidiary bodies to enhance communication between statistical apparatuses and other development sectors; and consider the possibility of holding joint sessions with other committees to discuss various statistical challenges;

(l) Continue working on developing frameworks for technical cooperation activities with interested countries, and draw upon resolutions and reports by the General Assembly and its various organs when providing such technical support.

## II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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

7. Under this sub-item, the representative of the secretariat, with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part I), gave a presentation on the activities and measures undertaken by the secretariat to implement the recommendations issued by the Executive Committee at its third meeting, held in Rabat on 6 and 7 May 2017. He gave a detailed account of progress in implementing the 13 recommendations made to the secretariat and the related achievements to date, indicating that recommendations to member States could be discussed during interventions by member States.

8. The presentation covered numerous studies and reports prepared by ESCWA pursuant to those recommendations, including a document entitled “Perspectives on the digital economy in the Arab region”, the first issue of the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report, a document on providing support to member States emerging from conflict, and the third issue of the Arab Governance Report. He said that ESCWA was preparing the annual note by the Secretary-General on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, and was close to publishing the fifth issue of the Trends and Impacts report on conflict. He reviewed the meetings and conferences held by ESCWA, including the Arab High-level Forum on the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a series of projects such as “Promoting institutional development to provide better services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia”.

9. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Oman commended efforts by Qatar during its leadership of the current and previous meetings, and praised its support to existing projects. He also thanked ESCWA for its efforts. He requested the secretariat to send documents at least three weeks before the start of the Committee meeting, so as to allow countries time to study them and comment thereon. He also requested a summary of the findings of the two technical reports published by ESCWA on improving poor neighbourhoods in Arab countries and on social housing policies in Arab countries, to inform member States of possible actions in that regard. Regarding the Arab High-level Forum on the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he stressed the need to share and benefit from successful international experiences.

10. The representative of the secretariat took note of the requests by the representative of Oman, clarifying that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme would soon publish a report containing the information set out in the two technical reports, but that did not prevent disseminating the reports to member States. He apologized for delays in sending documents. He said that exceptional circumstances surrounding the current meeting had impeded sending the documents at the appropriate time, stressing that the secretariat was committed to providing member States with sufficient time to study them. Regarding digital transformation, he confirmed that an Arab paper on the mechanisms and tools for digital transformation was being prepared because many Arab countries were striving to transform their economies, and one way of achieving that aim was through the digital economy. He added that the paper would be published on the ESCWA website, and would include the services provided by ESCWA in that field.

11. The representative of Yemen thanked Qatar and the ESCWA secretariat for their efforts. He said that current measures on conflict-affected countries were unsatisfactory, especially regarding support for war-torn Yemen that required rebuilding efforts and support to build institutional and human capacity. To date, ESCWA had only held one workshop in that regard. He requested ESCWA to provide guidance to Yemen, support collapsed institutions, and assist the Government in developing a vision for the future and in achieving sustainable development.

12. In response, the representative of the secretariat emphasized the strong relationship between development, stability and security, and the importance of supporting Arab countries emerging from conflict and facing difficult circumstances, clarifying that an agenda item had been dedicated to discussing the issue in detail.

13. The representative of Lebanon welcomed participants. She enquired about the steps taken to prepare a joint study by ESCWA and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on Palestinian refugee camps, and the extent of communication with Lebanese statistical authorities regarding the data included in the study, stressing the readiness of the Lebanese Government to cooperate in that field.

14. The representative of the secretariat said that the study's questionnaire was being prepared, following a request by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, and was being implemented in coordination with the national statistical office and the Prime Minister. She added that the questionnaire would provide the greatest amount of information possible on Palestinian refugee camps that had become hotspots for non-Palestinian poor people and refugees. She commended the professionalism of the national statistical office and its progressive techniques, emphasizing that the questionnaire would assist the Lebanese Government in developing policies in that regard.

B. ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO THE DOHA DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(Agenda item 3 (b))

15. With reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part II), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress in implementing the measures and activities undertaken by the secretariat and member States in Arab countries pursuant to the Doha Declaration, and the resolutions adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session. The presentation highlighted the activities undertaken by the secretariat, divided under nine items. The directors of the ESCWA divisions gave an overview of progress in that regard.

16. The Director of the ESCWA Centre for Women reviewed the Centre's implementation of activities related to the Doha Declaration, notably providing training services to member States and establishing a subcommittee on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. She said that the subcommittee comprised representatives of ESCWA member States and focal points concerned with statistical services and preparing a guide that countries had been trained to use, aimed at facilitating the submission of reports on SDG5 and the Beijing Platform for Action.

17. The Director of the Social Development Division briefly set out the Division's activities under the Doha Declaration, including organizing a series of workshops and developing projects to provide additional support to member States in the field of social development. He said that a toolkit on social justice had been completed and was currently being piloted. He focused on the activities implemented by the Division to provide social protection to persons with disabilities, including a study entitled "Disability in the Arab Region 2017: Strengthening Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities", and noted the activities undertaken by ESCWA to empower young people at the regional level.

18. The Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division reviewed the Division's four main action approaches, namely ensuring consistency between the Division's work programme and the 2030 Agenda, developing a methodology to measure sustainable development indicators and cross-cutting SDGs, publishing a set of reports including one on the prospects of sustainable development, and preparing training material. She said that ESCWA had participated in the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development by preparing a discussion on food security, and had also actively participated in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and in the United Nations Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Water Resources.

19. The Director of the Technology for Development Division reviewed the activities implemented by the Division under the Doha Declaration, including preparing a set of studies; holding workshops; and organizing

expert group meetings, the last of which was held in Beirut on Internet governance and resulted in the Beirut Consensus on Internet Governance. He said that the meeting had paved the way for a new era in the Internet governance process in the region, in close collaboration with the League of Arab States.

20. The Director of the Economic Development and Integration Division reviewed the activities implemented by the Division under the Doha Declaration, including preparing a concept paper on establishing an Arab forum for financing sustainable development in the Arab region, preparing training material to support member States in financial and technical fields, and developing the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard.

21. The Director of the Statistics Division said that the Division was focusing on improving the statistical capacity of member States, given its key role in preparing reports, conducting studies and developing various indicators. The Director of the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division said that the Division was concentrating its efforts on refugees and displaced persons in conflict-affected Arab countries, and on building their capacity to overcome challenges and advance.

22. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Egypt noted the efforts of ESCWA divisions in implementing the Doha Declaration, stressing the importance of taking into account country specificities, especially since Arab countries were not developing at the same rate. For example, Egypt had adopted its Vision 2030 a while ago, while other countries had not yet done so. He considered the issue of statistical indicators, stating that it would be difficult for the United Nations to develop a realistic vision in that regard. Given the disparities between countries, it was not feasible to apply a single model to all countries. He asked whether measurement indicators would be standardized for all countries, or whether each country would have indicators that took into account its specificities.

23. The representative of Oman asked about the extent of coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in implementing the 2030 Agenda, to avoid duplicate activities. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic enquired about the availability of tools to measure progress, and requested information on their use and methodologies. He raised reservations on the use of the word ‘conflict’, stating that he preferred ‘special circumstances’ to describe the situation in his country. He considered the workshop organized by ESCWA for member States, stating that on-the-job training was more useful for trainees given the disparities in country needs, compared with comprehensive workshops that were largely unbeneficial.

24. In response, the representative of the secretariat said that ESCWA based its training sessions on two perspectives. The first was regional and the other was country specific. ESCWA was highly aware of the disparities between countries at all levels (economic, security and social), and it organized country workshops that took into account those specificities. In contrast, regional workshops were useful for exchanging expertise and benefiting from successful experiences. Specific programmes for the Syrian Arab Republic had been developed in collaboration with its Government, which had recently submitted a new request for ESCWA expertise in managing the electricity sector.

25. The representative of the secretariat said that collaboration was ongoing between ESCWA and the League of Arab States. A specialized department for sustainable development had been established at the League of Arab States along with a sustainable development unit at ESCWA, tasked with managing coordination between the two organizations on many topics, especially regional issues. Moreover, a high-level committee on sustainable development had been established at the League of Arab States that met every six months; ESCWA had been invited to participate as a permanent observer. Nevertheless, collaboration efforts between the two bodies were endless, and should be enhanced and strengthened. Regarding indicators, many SDG-related indicators did not reflect reality in the region because of the global nature of the framework. The issue of data reliability was still under discussion but, meanwhile, it was necessary to consider data as reliable given that they were professionally prepared.

26. Representatives reached the following conclusions: commend efforts by the secretariat in implementing the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting, and welcome the various



activities implemented to that end; welcome efforts to implement the Doha Declaration in Arab countries, and move forward to achieve the desired targets; reaffirm the need to make available Executive Committee documents at least three weeks before the start of the meeting to allow member States to study them in detail; ensure that presentations by the secretariat include recent developments and new information regarding the activities and decisions of the Secretary-General; continue providing and developing training sessions in line with member States' needs; and continue developing joint coordination mechanisms between ESCWA and the League of Arab States.

C. ARAB FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD: OVERALL RESULTS  
(Agenda item 4 (a))

27. Under this sub-item, the representative of the secretariat, with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part I), gave a presentation on the components of the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard, which was a regional tool for measuring development financing, and on the overall performance results in that regard under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He began by discussing the availability of sufficient financing in the Arab region to fully achieve the SDGs, and the need to intensify efforts to secure that financing. He said that the region was facing significant challenges in that regard, such as high debt, weak tax collection, illicit financial flows, a lack of international and domestic funding from the private sector, weak intraregional trade, high unemployment, humanitarian crises, and armed conflict. An outlook study had been conducted on the topic, which revealed that the Arab region's population would double by 2030, thus increasing pressures on financing development in view of increasing needs for infrastructure funding, widening food gaps, and rising demand for jobs. He presented a set of solutions for tackling those challenges, including rationalizing expenditure and reducing energy subsidies, promoting international tax cooperation, and strengthening trade as an engine of development. He added that the cost of the challenges facing the Arab region, such as conflict and terrorism, were undoubtedly high, but the region had resources that should be exploited and built upon to finance development, as set out in the above-mentioned document.

28. The representative of Egypt commended the secretariat's presentation, indicating that the ability to bear the debt burden varied between countries, as did the capacity to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In the light of the public financing gap, he stressed the importance of public-private partnerships as a financing source. He added that other financing sources should be considered, requesting the United Nations to develop a model on the most optimal types of investment. The representative of Jordan asked about ways to enhance trade between Arab countries through regional organizations as a financing development tool.

29. The representative of the secretariat said that the Secretary-General's reform plan might impact official development assistance. According to the secretariat, the main problem in that regard was the weak participation of Arab countries in international meetings on global development. Countries were therefore requested to enhance their participation and to keep abreast of developments in New York and Geneva relating to development issues.

D. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS OF THE ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA:  
GLOBAL COMMITMENTS VERSUS ARAB PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD  
OF FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(Agenda item 4 (b))

30. With reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part II), the Director of the Economic Development and Integration Division gave a presentation on the implementation and follow-up mechanisms of the new global framework for financing development, and global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development. He said that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was a comprehensive framework for financing development and the 17 SDGs, indicating increasing international focus on the follow-up and evaluation processes of the Action Agenda. He reviewed international events supporting the implementation of the global framework, notably the joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the high-level preparatory meeting for the Forum on Financing for Development, and the

High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He said that financing for development had gained unprecedented momentum, but the international community needed to intensify efforts to finance development, and monitor progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. He stressed the need to continue monitoring developments in the field of financing development, estimate its regional implications for the Arab region, and mobilize private, public, domestic and international financing sources.

E. PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING AN ARAB CENTRE FOR CLIMATE POLICIES  
(Agenda item 4 (c))

31. With reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part III), the Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division gave a presentation on a proposal to establish an Arab centre for climate change policies. She reviewed the intergovernmental mechanisms that called for and supported climate change evaluation in the Arab region, and the key outcomes and activities related to ministerial decisions. She discussed ESCWA efforts on climate change, such as the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR), renewable and sustainable energy projects, and the Regional Knowledge Hub. She gave an overview of international negotiations on climate change, including the Paris Agreement and the Marrakech Action Proclamation. She also reviewed the regional commissions concerned with climate change, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. She outlined the Arab centre for climate change's proposed components, goals, activities and areas of work (providing technical assistance and advisory services, enhancing and supporting regional forums and government mechanisms, building capacity through workshops, providing and disseminating regional information, among others), and the required budget to operationalize the centre. She called on the Executive Committee to provide guidance on the centre's proposed areas of work to determine the necessary financial resources for its establishment, so as to commence coordination with partners to support the centre. She added that, as per the submitted comments, a detailed project was under preparation, and support and financing was being requested from potential partners and donors.

32. Representatives welcomed the establishment of the centre, which would focus on Arab capacity-building with regard to climate change and preparing related technical studies. The representative of the secretariat said that member States should submit their comments on the centre by mid-January 2018, and that the centre would be funded from the regular budget.

F. ESCWA VISION FOR A MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB REGION  
(Agenda item 4 (d))

33. Under this sub-item, the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region, with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part IV). He gave an overview of the project and its goals, main partners and financiers. He reviewed the reasons that drove ESCWA to develop the vision, including weak infrastructure and transport services, and various geographic, environmental, demographic and social challenges at the international and regional levels. When developing the vision, ESCWA had referred to a series of conventions and activities in the field of transport, such as the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq, while focusing on the need to benefit from those agreements' strengths and note their weaknesses. He reviewed the five phases of the project and their respective activities and measures, and gave an overview of the related administrative procedures and the required partnerships to implement the project, including with ministries of transport and public works in Arab countries and relevant regional and international organizations. He also reviewed the proposed follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, namely internal follow-up conducted by teams, follow-up carried out by the ESCWA administration, and an evaluation conducted by external independent bodies towards the end of the project, in addition to organizing follow-up and evaluation workshops.

34. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Jordan stressed the importance of providing political support to the project to ensure its implementation. The representative of Egypt enquired about reasons other than transport that weakened trade, not covered in the study. He said that the volume of transport had decreased by 20 per cent globally because of driverless ships. As such, it was vital to equip Arab ports to host those ships. He also asked about the impact of new transport lines, especially the northern line that was growing because of melting snow in the North Pole, on the volume of transport in Arab countries. The representative of Qatar enquired as to whether Arab countries were dealing with the One Belt One Road Initiative (or the new Silk Road) promoted by China as a challenge or as an opportunity. The representative of Oman asked about the success of transport agreements and the resulting transport committees in achieving their targets, so as to assess the establishment of a multimodal transport system in the Arab region on that basis.

35. In response, the representative of the secretariat said that there were disagreements on the One Belt One Road Initiative with regard to the challenges it presented at the regional and global levels, and called for a dialogue on transforming that challenge into an opportunity at the next session of the Committee of Transport and Logistics, to be held in Beirut on 20 and 21 December 2017, since there were no preconceived judgements on the topic to date because further clarification was necessary. The northern line would become available in a few decades, and would have many repercussions requiring assessment under a framework of future transport challenges. The integrated multimodal transport system in the Arab region would be a general framework covering all developments in the field.

36. Representatives agreed that a study on the impact and repercussions of global transport trends on the transport sector in the Arab region should be prepared and presented to the Executive Committee at its fifth session. Member States were invited to move forwards on the project. The secretariat would communicate with ministerial councils and financing institutions to secure the broadest support possible for the project.

#### G. MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN THE ARAB REGION (Agenda item 4 (e))

37. Under this sub-item, and with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part V), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report, aimed at developing measurements for multidimensional poverty in line with the Arab region's specificities, and at establishing foundations on which to build Arab strategies and poverty-reduction programmes. The presentation covered the steps taken to prepare the report and the guide on a multidimensional poverty index derived from the global Multidimensional Poverty Index, comprising three dimensions (education, health and living standards). New indicators had been added to the guide to reflect the specificities of Arab countries, and the 'poverty' and 'extreme poverty' thresholds had been amended in line with the realities of poverty in the region. The report found that multidimensional poverty was widespread in the Arab region, household vulnerability to poverty was high, and education deprivation was the main cause of household poverty. The presentation concluded with three recommendations: bridge gaps in accessing education, especially at the secondary level; develop regional strategies and programmes to reduce extreme poverty; and build capacity in the region and strengthen the transfer of expertise in the field of poverty reduction by supporting national efforts to end poverty, promoting regional efforts, and organizing annual training workshops.

38. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Jordan stressed the need to focus on the quality of education as well as its availability, by building the capacity of education mechanisms and providing qualitative education on par with global education standards. The representative of Morocco enquired about the data sources used to prepare the report, expressing the readiness of all relevant departments in her country to facilitate ESCWA work. The representative of Mauritania emphasized the importance of highlighting youth poverty and its impact on the future of development in Arab countries, especially conflict-affected countries.

39. The representative of the secretariat corroborated the importance of focusing on the quality of education, in view of the clear regression in that regard. The three surveys used to prepare the report had not contained questions on education quality. A proposal had been made to prepare a standardized multidimensional Arab

survey, but that was an ambitious project requiring intensive efforts. The Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning had participated in preparing the report, and played a key role in providing data on poverty. Youth poverty was a major challenge in the region, requiring further detailed research.

40. Representatives agreed on the need to tackle gaps in accessing education, especially secondary education, by urging countries to identify policy options that ensured the systematic enrolment of all children in school; to develop regional strategies and programmes to reduce extreme poverty; to build capacity in the region and enhance the transfer of expertise in the field of poverty reduction by supporting national efforts; to promote regional efforts and organize annual training workshops for all partners, including the League of Arab States and United Nations organizations; to publish a biennial report on poverty, and assist countries in preparing such reports by providing training and guidance; and to consider the possibility of measuring multidimensional poverty at the national level following requests by member States.

#### H. ESCWA VISION ON POST-CONFLICT RECOVERY: TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES (Agenda item 4 (f))

41. Under this sub-item, and with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VI), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the process to achieve the SDGs in the Arab region by 2030, despite the difficult circumstances caused by conflict, occupation and terrorism. The presentations reviewed data highlighting the impact of armed conflict on the multiple dimensions of human development in the region, reflected in both its direct challenges and in the restrictions it placed on the development of skills and human capital, including the resulting long-term impact on individuals, societies and national economies. Most of the data focused on Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and on the State of Palestine that had suffered 50 years of Israeli occupation. The presentation also covered the ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery, which focused on the following main issues: studying the impact of conflict on human development, analysing the dynamics and repercussions of conflict, developing baselines for SDG indicators, strengthening national and regional approaches to tackle the consequences of conflict, establishing technical platforms for dialogue, cementing good governance practices in institutions in the post-conflict recovery period, and monitoring and preventing violent extremism. The representative of the secretariat stressed the importance of combining such operational procedures with an understanding of the root causes of extremism and terrorism to develop policies that prevent individuals from joining violent extremist groups, to deter community support for those groups, and to establish an environment that discourages violent extremism.

42. The representative of Yemen thanked the secretariat for its presentation. He said that the study had omitted the economic and social costs of conflict, and expressed hope that another detailed study would be prepared on those costs and on rebuilding costs. He reviewed the dire social and economic situation that his country had reached in view of the ongoing conflict, calling for the development of a rebuilding project in Yemen that covered the economic and social costs. The representative of Iraq emphasized the importance of rehabilitating the generation that had been destabilized and indoctrinated by extremism, through the development of appropriate school curriculums. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed significant reservations about the data on his country set out in the report, indicating that they had been collected from unreliable sources. He said that the programme for the Syrian Arab Republic would not be presented until the Government had approved it. The Chair proposed a dialogue with the Syrian Arab Republic to address the prevailing confusion on the issue. Representatives then discussed how to define violent extremism. The representative of Egypt expressed reservations about the concept, stating that it was employed to avoid labelling certain groups as terrorist organizations. He preferred the term 'violent extremism resulting in terrorism'. The Chair said that the term 'violent extremism' was used in related General Assembly resolutions, and was widely accepted in United Nations literature.

43. The representative of the secretariat underscored the importance of the issue of education curriculums and rehabilitation raised by the representative of Iraq. He said that data on the Syrian Arab Republic had been collected from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He stressed the participation

of Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen in formulating their respective post-conflict programmes so as to ensure a clear understanding of those countries' needs. He added that an ESCWA team would soon visit Aden and Sanaa to that end.

I. ECONOMIC COST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
(Agenda item 4 (g))

44. With reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VII), the Director of the ESCWA Centre for Women gave a presentation on violence against women in Arab countries, indicating that the Arab region was one of the most affected by such violence. She reviewed the impact of violence on women's health, education and labour force participation, and the increased expenditure resulting from such violence (protection, prevention, compensation, prosecution) that negatively affected national economies and societies. She gave examples from Arab and other countries on the cost of violence against women, and reviewed the first and second phases of a United Nations regional project to estimate the cost of violence against women, clarifying the aim of the two phases and their outcomes. She said that the project was currently being implemented in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

45. The representative of Egypt thanked the secretariat for its presentation. He asked about the difference between the legal and constitutional amendments indicated in the presentation, and about the possibility of combining both terms into one. He also enquired as to why the experience of the State of Palestine had been reviewed at the last Alexandria meeting, especially since that project was still in its infancy. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic asked about the feasibility of developing an economic programme to estimate the cost of violence against women given the limited resources and lack of data that should form the basis of the project. He said that data would remain incomplete because of the prevailing customs and traditions in the Arab region, which required women to remain silent on violence. The representative of Yemen thanked the Centre for its efforts. He enquired about the methodology employed to estimate the cost of violence against women, especially given the significant disparities in estimated costs resulting from the multiplicity of methodologies. He asked about the possibility of including country variables in the calculation process, such as the variable related to inheritance in Yemen, for example, which was considered a type of violence against women.

46. The representative of Morocco said that her country was giving the phenomenon significant attention, and was closely collaborating with ESCWA through the Moroccan Ministry of Social Affairs concerned with providing protection to women and the national observatory on violence against women tasked with collecting related data and statistics. She noted that Morocco was about to pass a law on violence against women. She requested the secretariat to facilitate her country's access to data and assist in its projects on women. The representative of Mauritania stressed the need to take into account the level of unreported violence, as well as other issues such as inheritance. The representative of Qatar asked about the type of violence referred to when discussing violence against women in the Arab region and whether it was limited to physical violence, and about the status of the Arab region in that regard compared with other regions.

47. In response, the representative of the secretariat said that amendments to the constitution were not always translated into laws. He agreed that customs and traditions affected data on violence against women, but were not a valid reason to not calculate the economic cost of violence. He said that the experience of the State of Palestine had been presented at the Alexandria meeting since the Egyptian experience had been presented at length at the meeting because it was fully completed, whereas the Palestinian experience had just begun.

48. The representative of the secretariat said that eight global methodologies had been adapted to Arab countries, and the model had been readapted in each study in line with country specificities, as was the case with the State of Palestine. He mentioned the data provided by Morocco on women, and reaffirmed the continuing collaboration in that regard. He said that 90 per cent of women did not report violence against them: such data gaps were filled by using certain methodologies, such as assessing the budgets of some ministries, including health ministries, because they indicated the number of women admitted to hospital because of

violence; or by sending data to households without mentioning the term ‘violence’ to make it easier for women to respond. As such, the data were only estimates and did not fully reflect reality. In response to the question by the representative of Qatar, he said that a report on the gender gap was published annually containing country rankings worldwide, with Arab countries always coming below 100th place. Regarding the type of violence referred to, the study focused on partner violence as it was the most widespread. The type of methodology employed varied according to the kind of violence.

49. Representatives agreed on the need to conduct research at the national level to estimate the cost of violence against women, in line with country specificities and following requests by countries; encourage policymakers to intensify efforts to protect women from violence, especially with regard to altering customs and traditions; and benefit from international experiences in the field of violence against women.

#### J. SESSION REPORTS OF ESCWA SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 5)

50. Under this item, the Committee considered the reports of three ESCWA subsidiary bodies on their sessions held between the twenty-ninth ESCWA session and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee. The reports contained recommendations, topics for discussion, and details on the organization of the meetings, participants and documentation. The following reports were adopted by the Committee:

- (a) Report of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee (E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/7/Report);
- (b) Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/9/Report);
- (c) Report of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/8/Report).

#### K. UNITED NATIONS MANAGEMENT REFORM: PLAN OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (Agenda item 6)

51. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the Secretary-General’s proposal to improve and simplify programme planning and budgeting processes. He gave an overview of the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General on programme planning and budgeting, and their potential impact on the ESCWA planning and budgeting processes for the biennium 2020-2021. He reviewed the recommendations presented by the Secretary-General, notably to enhance interaction between resident coordinators, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional commissions to provide the necessary technical support; clarify the distribution of work between the regional commissions, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations operational bodies; and enhance the role of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to work in collaboration with the regional commissions on providing political guidance and support at the national level.

52. In the ensuing discussion, the ESCWA Executive Secretary, Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, said that budgeting and administrative reform were pressing issues within the United Nations system. The Secretary-General had committed to reorganizing the Organization’s administrative and financial structures, especially since many years had passed without significant change. It was still unclear how to implement those reforms, and what responsibilities ESCWA would bear in that regard.

53. The representative of Egypt said that the current framework, although unclear, supported the role of the Secretary-General at the expense of member States. He expressed doubt that the United Nations would reduce its development financing and scale back its peacekeeping role because they were the foundation of the Organization. The real concern was whether peacekeeping operations would be prioritized over development activities. The representative of Yemen said that the reforms seemed to be directed towards reducing the budget rather than altering mechanisms. Reforms should take into account the efficiency rather than the amount of expenditure, given that the Arab region required more (not less) resources; any reduction would have a detrimental effect on the region.

L. ESCWA TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME:  
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING PLANNED ACTIVITIES  
(Agenda item 7)

54. Under this item, and with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/6, the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the progress in implementing the planned activities of the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section gave a brief summary of the activities agreed at the meeting of the Technical Cooperation Network, held in Beirut on 12 December 2017, and the resulting recommendations: provide ESCWA member States with technical reports issued by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; disseminate to member States the presentations given by ESCWA and Morocco at the meeting; and urge member States to periodically check the website of the Technical Cooperation Programme. He discussed the new direction of the Technical Cooperation Programme, entailing the adoption of a programmatic approach focused on medium- and long-term planning; strengthening regional cooperation and integration and South-South cooperation, while focusing on Arab least developed countries; and improving communication processes with partners, information exchange and accountability. He reviewed the achievements accomplished during the biennium 2016-2017, including advisory services, capacity-building services, study tours and fellowship programmes, and workshops in countries emerging from conflict to assist them in implementing the 2030 Agenda. He also reviewed the medium-term bilateral memorandums of understanding on technical cooperation.

55. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Egypt commended the implemented workshops, stressing the importance of not applying a standardized model for all countries. The representative of Jordan expressed his country's enthusiasm to develop a cooperation programme with ESCWA, similar to those adopted by other Arab countries. The representative of Qatar emphasized the importance of the Technical Cooperation Network's work, which should be guided by the latest United Nations resolutions and inputs to increase the value of cooperation programmes. The representative of Morocco enquired about the possibility of developing mechanisms to follow up on and evaluate technical cooperation requests submitted by member States, to maximize benefits from implemented cooperation activities and from those still underway.

56. The representative of the secretariat said that the idea of conducting a comprehensive evaluation of technical cooperation activities had been under consideration for a while, and could be developed by establishing a reference framework to evaluate the Technical Cooperation Programme. Representatives agreed to take note of the activities presented at the meeting of the Technical Cooperation Network held in Beirut on 12 December 2017, and to stress the importance of bilateral cooperation frameworks between ESCWA and member States. They requested the secretariat to establish similar frameworks in collaboration with willing countries, and to develop a mechanism to follow up on progress in implementing technical cooperation activities.

M. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ESCWA THIRTIETH SESSION  
(Agenda item 8)

57. Under this item, and with reference to document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/7, the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session. He listed the bodies that constituted ESCWA, namely the ESCWA session held biennially, the subsidiary bodies, the Executive Committee that met every six months to evaluate developments between ESCWA sessions, and the Advisory Committee. He considered the evaluation policy implemented by ESCWA since 2010, aimed at strengthening its capacity to present its accomplishments and evaluate its commitment to its mandate. In 2014, ESCWA had launched a revised evaluation policy, in which it identified the framework guiding evaluation processes, to ensure greater commitment to the standards set out by the United Nations Evaluation Group. The policy aimed to evaluate the quality and efficiency of meetings so as to improve the work of future sessions to better fulfil the needs of member States, with reference to the comments provided in the Arabic survey distributed to heads of delegations at the end of meetings.

58. He said that the thirtieth ESCWA session was expected to be held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 7 to 10 May 2018, on the theme “Technology for Sustainable Development”. Three discussion panels would be held on the following topics: identifying national challenges in Arab countries; opportunities and successful experiences in using and benefiting from technology for sustainable development; and incorporating technology in national development and innovation plans to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The main aim of the discussions would be to identify mechanisms to harness science and technology to implement the SDGs, reach political consensus on the required policies and procedures, agree on the role of innovation in achieving sustainable development, and identify national challenges in Arab countries to draft a ministerial statement setting out the aspirations of member States.

59. In the ensuing discussion, representatives focused on the thirtieth ESCWA session. The representative of Yemen emphasized the importance of incorporating conflict into the discussions. The representative of the secretariat said that it would be possible to tackle the issue of conflict in the region during the ministerial discussion panels even if it was not the main theme of the session.

**N. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
(Agenda item 9)

60. Participants agreed that the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee would be held at the United Nations headquarters in Beirut in December 2018. The exact date would be determined by the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

**O. OTHER MATTERS**  
(Agenda item 10)

61. No issues were raised under this item.

**III. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE AT ITS FOURTH MEETING**  
(Agenda item 11)

62. At the close of its fourth meeting, the Executive Committee adopted the recommendations submitted to it, and made comments thereon. The amended recommendations would be incorporated in a comprehensive report on the work and outcomes of the Committee.

**IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**A. DATE AND VENUE**

63. The Executive Committee held its fourth meeting at the United Nations House in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2017. 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 Qatar, in his capacity as Chair of the twenty-ninth session of ESCWA, was appointed Chair of the Committee. The representatives of Tunisia and the Syrian Arab Republic were designated as first and second Vice-Chairs, respectively, and the representative of the Sudan as Rapporteur.

**B. OPENING**

64. The opening session of the fourth Executive Committee meeting began at 10 a.m. on 13 December 2017 at the United Nations House in Beirut. Mr. Tariq al-Ansari, Director of the Department of International Technical Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and Chair of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, made a statement on behalf of Qatar. He welcomed participants, thanked Lebanon for its hospitality, and expressed his happiness to be participating in the current meeting in Beirut. He thanked



the Secretariat for its support to the Qatari leadership of the Executive Committee since the twenty-ninth ESCWA session held in December 2016. He reviewed the items on the meeting agenda, including progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting, operationalizing the Doha Declaration, recommendations to be adopted by the Committee at its fourth session, various development issues, and priority issues for the Arab region.

65. The ESCWA Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Khawla Mattar, made a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nation and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim. She welcomed participants and expressed her happiness to be participating in the current meeting. She said that the main aim of ESCWA was to support Arab countries in achieving balanced sustainable development, indicating that achieving that aim was impeded by many development challenges in poverty reduction, food security, women's empowerment, youth unemployment, integrated social policies, the sustainable management of natural resources, and technology for development. She noted the bloody conflicts currently affecting the region, some of which had lasted for years and posed a significant challenge to preserving the State.

66. She reviewed the five main pillars underpinning ESCWA's work to alter the current situation, namely to revive Arab regional integration based on detailed approaches to measure the current situation; propose a new model based on inclusive and fair economic and social reforms in line with Arab countries' needs and specificities; support Arab countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda by increasing knowledge and expertise and supporting partnerships; consider financing development issues a priority in ESCWA's work since they were fundamental for achieving the 2030 visions; and focus on the impact of conflict on development in the Arab region and propose integrated plans for rebuilding processes in conflict-affected countries.

67. She added that ESCWA would continue working with member States by developing existing technical cooperation mechanisms to better meet their needs, indicating that the ESCWA Executive Secretary would visit all member States to closely consider their priorities. She said that solutions existed to development challenges, but the will to transform them into national policies and reforms was absent. She stressed that, in the next biennium, ESCWA would continue working on bridging the gap between available knowledge and expertise and what was invested in decision-making processes.

#### C. PARTICIPANTS

68. The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee was attended by representatives of ESCWA member States. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

#### D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

69. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda of its second meeting as set out in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.1. The agenda was adopted 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 third meeting;
  - (b) Action taken pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States.

4. Regional and global issues:
    - (a) The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: overall results;
    - (b) Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development;
    - (c) Proposal for establishing an Arab centre for climate policies;
    - (d) ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region;
    - (e) Multidimensional poverty in the Arab region;
    - (f) ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery: towards more effective development outcomes;
    - (g) The economic cost of violence against women.
  5. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies:
    - (a) Report of the Statistical Committee on its twelfth session;
    - (b) Report of the Committee on Energy on its eleventh session;
    - (c) Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its twelfth session.
  6. The United Nations management reform: plan of the Secretary-General.
  7. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities.
  8. Preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session.
  9. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee.
  10. Other matters.
  11. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its fourth meeting.
70. The Committee also adopted the proposed organization of work as set forth in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.2.

#### E. DOCUMENTS

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

Annex I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Egypt

Mr. Said Hendam  
Ambassador  
Assistant to the Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Ghada Shawky  
Third Secretary  
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

Iraq

Ms. Nihal Ali Hussain  
Third Secretary  
Embassy of Iraq in Lebanon

Jordan

Ms. Zeina Toukan  
Director of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Mr. Malek Brayzat  
Head of the Arab Relations Section  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Lebanon

Ms. Caroline Ziade  
Ambassador  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Reina Heloui  
Diplomatic Attaché  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mauritania

Mr. Mohammed Toqr  
Director of Strategies and Studies  
Ministry of Economy and Trade

Morocco

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

Oman

Mr. Imad bin Taleb al-Ajami  
Director  
Arab and International Organizations Department  
Supreme Council for Planning

Mr. Said bin Rashid al-Qatabi  
Director General  
General Directorate for Social Sectors  
Supreme Council for Planning

Qatar

Mr. Ali bin Hamad al-Marri  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Qatar in Lebanon

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  
Expert in International Cooperation  
Department of International Technical Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammed al-Obaidan  
Third Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Saltan Mubark Alkubaisi  
Counselor  
Embassy of Qatar in Lebanon

Ms. Taghrid Rida  
Media Officer  
Embassy of Qatar in Lebanon

Sudan

Mr. Taha Mohammed Ahmad Soumi al-Bashir  
Assistant Director of the International  
Organizations Division  
Ministry of Trade

Sudan (continued)

Mr. Mahjoub Akoud  
Director  
Ministry of Trade

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Fadlallah Gharzeldeen  
Deputy Head of Planning Affairs  
Planning and International Cooperation  
Commission

Tunisia

Ms. Imen Drissi  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Tunisia in Lebanon

Yemen

Mr. Muhammad Ahmad el-Hawri  
Undersecretary, Ministry of Planning  
International Economic Studies  
and Forecasts Sector  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

## Annex II

### **List of documents**

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.1
Organization of work	2	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/L.2
Follow-up issues	3	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3
Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting	3 (a)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part I)
Action taken pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States	3 (b)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/3(Part II)
Regional and global issues	4	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4
The Arab Financing for Development Scorecard: overall results	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part I)
Implementation mechanisms of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: global commitments versus Arab priorities in the field of financing for development	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part II)
Proposal for establishing an Arab centre for climate policies	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part III)
ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region	4 (d)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part IV) (Arabic only)
Multidimensional poverty in the Arab region	4 (e)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part V)
ESCWA vision on post-conflict recovery: towards more effective development outcomes	4 (f)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VI)
The economic cost of violence against women	4 (g)	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/4(Part VII)
Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies	5	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/5
Report of the Statistical Committee on its twelfth session	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/7/Report
Report of the Committee on Energy on its eleventh session	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.1/9/Report
Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its twelfth session	5 (c)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/8/Report
ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities	7	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/6 (Arabic only)
Preparations for the ESCWA thirtieth session	8	E/ESCWA/2017/EC.4/7 (Arabic only)