

[United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia](#)

**Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (TAGES) in  
the Arab region 27-28 August 2018;**

**and**

**Regional Seminar on the Supply and Use Tables 29-30 August 2018**

**Beirut, Lebanon**

**Info Note<sup>1</sup>**

**I. Introduction**

The Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and are organizing (UNSD)” a Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (TAGES) in the Arab region 27-28 August 2018; followed by a Regional Seminar on the Supply and Use Tables 29-30 August 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon

**II. Objectives**

The objective of the TAGES is to review the work done as per the priority issues set in the first meeting to be considered in formulating and implementing the regional programs for economic statistics in coordination with ESCWA secretariat. The TAGES will provide guidance to the Bureau and the Secretariat on methodological and technical issues related to the development and periodic revision of the programs on economic statistics and shall contribute to enhancing the coordination and the collaboration at national, regional and international level with a view to produce and disseminate timely core set of economic indicators needed for planning and monitoring in particular the 2030 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

**III. Background:**

The development of economic statistics in the Arab region is crucial for economic policy making, business development, regional integration, distribution of wealth and social wellbeing, in addition to analytical uses. This development also relies on legal basis, institutional arrangements and adequate infrastructure. The use of international standards, classifications, guidelines, concepts and definitions in compilation and dissemination of such statistics are key issues to ensure relevance, quality, timeliness and consistency in economic statistics disseminated at national, regional and international level.

ESCWA presented the latest report on the regional statistical development in Western Asia to the UN-Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its forty seventh session in 2016<sup>2</sup>, which set the priorities for official statistics, the opportunities and achievements; and major challenges facing the statistical

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been issued with no formal editing

<sup>2</sup> [Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the main achievements of statistical development in the region E/CN.3/2016/17.](#)

development in the region in view of the increase demand for data emanating from the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

ESCWA Statistical Committee approved the establishment of the technical advisory group on economic statistics (TAGES) for the Arab Region that was proposed by ESCWA in 2015<sup>3</sup> with main tasks to review and identify priorities and propose means to address the challenges. ESCWA Statistical Committee reviewed during its twelfth session in 2017 the final report of the first meeting of the TAGES<sup>4</sup> held in Cairo in 2016 and requested the commission to continue the work and report<sup>5</sup> to the thirteenth session;

The work of the TAGES is guided by the related recommendations of the ESCWA Statistical Committee meetings and by the reports presented to the UN-ESCWA Statistical Committee on the “*Strategic issues related to official statistics in the Western Asia Region*”,<sup>6</sup> the “*Strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA*”,<sup>7</sup> and the capacity building strategies for the development of economic statistics in the Arab region.<sup>8</sup>

The Supply and Use Table (SUT is a central component of the SNA), a framework that provides three approaches for the calculation of GDP and serves as an effective tool for cross-checking the consistency of GDP. The compilation of SUTs is recommended as a part of the minimum requirement data set (MRDS), and the United National Statistics Division and Regional commissions are multiplying efforts to provide methodological guidance and regional trainings. UNSD issued in 2018 a new Handbook on Supply, Use and Input/Output Tables with Extensions and Applications<sup>9</sup>. ECA implemented a Capacity Building Programme on the Compilation and Application of SUTs in Africa. Therefore ESCWA included in the Development Account Project on Data and Statistics a component on Supply and has been providing bilateral technical assistance, twinning between member countries and now planning a regional seminar that follows the TAGES and that provides a platform for discussion, informed on new developments and best practices and lessons learned on SUT compilations.

Invitations are extended to national statistical offices from ESCWA members of the TAGES specifying heads of Economic Statistics Departments and national accountants, and representatives of regional organizations working on the development of economic statistics in the region are invited as well such as IMF-METAC, the World Bank, Regional Commissions, and UN regional offices, the League of Arab States, and research centers.

#### **IV. Dates and venue**

The Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (TAGES) in the Arab region will be held from 27-28 August 2018, and the Regional Seminar on the Supply and Use Tables will be held; from 29-30 August 2018 in ESCWA HQ in Beirut, Lebanon

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<sup>3</sup> Advisory group on economic statistics in Arab region Terms of reference E/ESCWA/SD/2015/IG.1/CRP.2

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/u593/final\\_report.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/u593/final_report.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [Report of the Twelfth session of the Statistical Committee. Beirut, 4-5 April 2017. E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/7/Report](#)

<sup>6</sup> Strategic issues related to official statistics in the Western Asia Region . ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/4(Part I)

<sup>7</sup> The strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the ESCWA region. E/ESCWA/SD/2010/IG.1/4(Part II)

<sup>8</sup> [Study on Selected Methodological Issue in Economic Statistics: Short-Term Economic Indicators for The Arab Region](#)  
E/ESCWA/SD/2013/10

<sup>9</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SUT\\_IOT\\_HB\\_wc.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SUT_IOT_HB_wc.pdf)

## **V. Logistical Information**

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to return their completed registration form, along with a valid passport, to Mr. Wassim Hammoud, statistics assistant in the statistics division in ESCWA, T. +961 1 978 349, email: hammoudw@un.org, no later than 15 July 2018 to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements for their travel.

More information will be provided to participants on agenda.

Participants are kindly requested to arrive at the building at 8:30am on 27 August 2018 to secure their identification cards and access to the building.

*Languages:* Arabic and English are the official languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation between both languages will be provided.

*Travel:* ESCWA will issue the tickets for their sponsored participants. Participants attending the meeting at their own expense need to make their own travel arrangements.

*Visas:* Participants are to make their own arrangements for obtaining entry visas to Lebanon. ESCWA will facilitate with Visa Letters.

*Accommodation:* Participants are asked to make their own hotel arrangements. A list of hotels will be provided.

Any update Information will be provided to participants in due course.

A pamphlet on practical information on Lebanon and ESCWA available on

[https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page\\_attachments/welcometoescwa15.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/welcometoescwa15.pdf)

## **VI. Correspondence**

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