Foreword

I am pleased to present the *Gender in Figures 2013-14*, an e-publication which can be accessed at the Statistics Division homepage (www.escwa-stat.org).

The Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in its third issue of Gender in Figures, attempts to bring about gender issues in the Arab region through analysis, a new added feature to the publication, using graphs and charts to analyze the 2013 sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators. It attempts to contextualize Arab gender issues through facts and figures, and where possible pair those with relevant national policies and practices compiled from international and comparable national sources.

With this publication, ESCWA aims to raise issues in gender equality, exhort stakeholders to conduct in-depth analysis and formulate policies for more accountable and transparent commitment to human rights. In addition, it will provide an assessment regarding availability and quality of data at the country and regional levels for the 22 Arab countries. It also highlights lack of data in areas to call for further efforts to build gender statistical capacity and literacy.

I am particularly pleased to present the Gender in Figures as the result of a concerted effort by all partners at the national, regional and global levels to produce gender statistics to support the efforts of development partners and governments to formulate, implement and monitor policies for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

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