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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Management issues

Proposed amendments to the programme of work
for the biennium 2016-2017

Summary

This document presents amendments to the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2016-2017, proposed by the ESCWA secretariat. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 at the first Executive Committee meeting (Amman, June 2015).

The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

16-00150

Introduction

1.   This document presents amendments proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 at the first Executive Committee meeting (Amman, June 2015).

2.   The secretariat is proposing these changes with the aim of aligning the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 with the strategic pillars determined for the biennium 2018-2019, in order to ensure programme continuity. The changes are also intended to make an optimal use of the resources available while enhancing the quality, relevance and impact of the services provided to member States.

3.   The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME
OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**

4.   The following matrix provides the proposed amendments itemized by subprogramme.

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
					Status
Subprogramme 1 **Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development**					
Ad hoc expert group meetings					
Joint session with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) at the Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC-6): Renewable innovations towards sustainable energy		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Electrical and natural gas interconnections in the Arab region			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes New title: The third Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ARFREE): Towards Competitive Sustainable Energy Market/Side Event on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030
Non-recurrent publications					
Shared Water: Horizon 2030			1		**Reformulated at the request of member States** during the eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources (Amman, March 2015) to build capacity on climate change issues New title: Arab Climate Change Assessment Report

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Technical material					
The role of super energy service companies in implementing energy efficiency programmes in the Arab region		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Other publications					
Fact sheet: Successful experiences using carbon financing mechanisms, including nationally appropriate mitigation actions, within the Arab region		1			**Added at the request of member States** during the tenth session of the Committee on Energy (Amman, March 2015)
Field projects					
Assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources and socioeconomic vulnerability in the Arab region		1			**Added** as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Adaptation to climate change in the water sector in the Middle East and North Africa region		1			**Added** as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Establishing a regional mechanism for improved monitoring and reporting on access to water supply and sanitation services in the Arab region: the MDG+ Initiative		1			**Added** as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET)		1			**Added** as a project continuing from the previous biennium
Total for subprogramme 1	**0**	**7**	**2**	**0**	
Subprogramme 2 **Social development**					
Parliamentary documentation					
Key issues to promote participation and citizenship in the Arab region			1		**Reformulated at the request of member States** during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice New title: Key issues to promote social justice in the Arab region
Ad hoc expert group meetings					
Outline of the Social Development Report, No. 2			1		**Reformulated at the request of member States** during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice New title: Equality for the promotion of social justice in the Arab region

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Civil society dialogue series: exploring new frontiers			1		**Reformulated at the request of member States** during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice New title: Civil society dialogue series: social justice in the Arab region
Arab region report to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)		1			**Added** pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/216 para. 11, 68/239 para. 9, and 69/226 para. 13; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 para. 11; and resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2016		1			**Added** pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 para. 13 and 70/1 para. 81

Technical material

Activity	Status				Justification
Arab region report to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)		1			**Added** pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/216 para. 11, 68/239 para. 9, and 69/226 para. 13; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 para. 11; and resolution 24/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council
Social impacts of energy subsidy reform in the Arab region		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Role of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		1			**Added** pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/201 para. 10
The Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan		1			**Added** pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/201 para. 10

Special events

Activity	Status				Justification
Side event at the seventeenth General Conference of the Arab Towns Organization: Promoting knowledge and innovation for inclusive and sustainable urban development in the Arab region		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes

Field projects

Activity	Status				Justification
Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region		1			**Added** as a United Nations Development Account (DA) project
Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia		1			**Added** as a DA project

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Time for equality: strengthening the institutional framework of social policies		1			**Added** as a DA project

Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings

Activity					Justification
Support to the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Substantive support to the Habitat III process		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 2	**0**	**12**	**3**	**0**	

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Parliamentary documentation

Activity					Justification
Policy options for reducing trade costs in the Arab region		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes (omitted inadvertently from the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017)

Ad hoc expert group meetings

Activity					Justification
Multi-dimensional poverty in the least developed countries			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes <u>New title</u>: Arab Development Outlook 2017
Total for subprogramme 3	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

Ad hoc expert group meetings

Activity					Justification
Meeting of Arab e-government directors		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Arab digital agenda and plan of action 2025		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Implementation of the ESCWA-League of Arab States initiative for Internet governance		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes

Recurrent publications

Activity					Justification
Review of Technology for Development 2016			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Review of Technology for Development 2017			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
	Status				

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
Non-recurrent publications					
Science, Technology and Innovation: Horizon 2030		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Innovation for Knowledge-based Economies in the Arab Region: Enhancing the Innovation Framework			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes <u>New title:</u> Innovation Policy for Inclusive Sustainable Development
Technical material					
Working paper on innovation and entrepreneurship for Arab youth		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Arab digital agenda and plan of action 2025: an updated Arab information and communications technology strategy		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Global and regional best practices on knowledge stations		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Lebanon: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Egypt: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Tunis: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Morocco: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Oman: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Legislative framework for facilitating technology transfer in Arab countries		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 4	**0**	**13**	**3**	**0**	

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
Parliamentary documentation					
Progress reports on statistical activities		1			**Added by the secretariat** (omitted inadvertently from the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017)

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
			Status		
Technical material					
Public release calendar for ESCWA data		1			**Added** in response to the request of member States
Total for subprogramme 5	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	

**Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women**

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
Technical material					
Gender policy brief: Arab women, leadership and political participation			1		**Reformulated by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes New title: Leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve gender justice by 2030
Women in the Arab region: Horizon 2030		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 6	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	

**Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development**

Activity	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	Justification
Ad hoc expert group meetings					
Joint League of Arab States, Arab Administrative Development Organization and ESCWA 2017 Conference		1			**Added** in response to a request by the League of Arab States
Technical material					
Contribution to the Arab Development Outlook		1			**Added for programmatic purposes**, upon the request of the Economic Development and Integration Division (EDID)
Contribution to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2015-2016		1			**Added for programmatic purposes**, upon the request of EDID
Other publications					
Communication strategy to support the Palestinian people		1			**Added at the request of member States** during the second meeting of the Executive Committee (Amman, December 2015), which asked the ESCWA secretariat to develop its proposed communications strategy outline aimed at supporting the Palestinian people and raising awareness of the Israeli violations of their rights

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Special events					
Annual Conference of the GIFT-MENA (Governance Institutes Forum for Training-Middle East and North Africa) Network on Governance, Fragility and Sustainable Development		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Towards an integrated approach to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action: perspectives from African and Arab least developed countries (as part of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action)		1			**Added by the secretariat** for programmatic purposes
Field projects					
Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia		1			**Added** as a DA project
Total for subprogramme 7	**0**	**7**	**0**	**0**	
Grand total for ESCWA	**0**	**43**	**10**	**0**	