



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/S-7/5
E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/6
10 November 2022
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Seventh special session
Amman, 20-21 December 2022

Item 5 of the provisional agenda



Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre

Summary

The present document reviews the activities undertaken by the Technology Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the past two years. It also contains the meeting outcomes of the Centre's Technical Committee.

The Commission is invited to take note of the present document and comment thereon.

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Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) established the ESCWA Technology Centre pursuant to United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/5 of 20 July 2010 to build member States' capacity in developing and managing technology and innovation systems; developing, transferring, adapting, and applying appropriate technology; improving the legal and commercial framework for technology transfer; and increasing scientific and technological knowledge in key economic sectors. Jordan hosts the ESCWA Technology Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). The Centre receives support from RSS and the Higher Council for Science and Technology of Jordan.

2. The Centre is also committed to helping ESCWA member States implement global policy frameworks, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by developing their science, technology and innovation (STI) capabilities. In early 2020, the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). The Centre has shifted gears to adapt its projects in response to those challenges, changing how it operates and shifting focus to devising practical solutions to overcome those challenges.

3. The present document reviews the ESCWA Technology Centre's activities in the last couple of years. The Centre's programme plan for 2021 and 2022 set out the following expected accomplishments:

(a) Designing national STI road maps, and enhancing technology development and transfer to contribute to achieving sustainable development;

(b) Improving knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation on technology as a key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Empowering Arab young people and women through skill development and interactive tools in technology and entrepreneurship;

(d) Establishing a practical framework to improve the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Arab region to enable them to plan, manage and scale up their businesses, as well as achieve financial sustainability; and build member States' capacity to design and deliver programmes and services that meet entrepreneurs' needs.

4. Various activities were undertaken in the period 2021-2022 to achieve those objectives, including expert group meetings, workshops, studies, technical reports and projects. The present document presents an overview of those activities and sets out the advisory services provided by the Centre over the same period, following requests by member States and its national, regional and international partners.

5. The present document also presents the results of the Centre's Technical Committee's periodic meetings and key recommendations on developing the Centre's work programmes.

I. Activities of the Centre in the period 2021-2022

A. National STI road mapping and enhancing technology development and transfer for sustainable development

1. Workshops and trainings

6. On 12 May 2021, the Centre hosted a webinar on [STI road mapping for SDGs in the Arab region](#), in collaboration with Cambridge University and its implementation arm, IfM Engage. This event introduced the ESTIMRAR Toolbox. It also launched the regional programme for supporting ESCWA member States in establishing their STI road maps for the SDGs, and assisting the STI community of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs to map their innovation and technology development to match market and national development needs.

7. The Centre supported the coordination of the [International Sustainability Resources and Technology Conference](#), held in Muscat from 13 to 15 March 2022, as part of the Oman Sustainability Week. The Conference promoted the development of strategic action plans and sustainable technology road maps for achieving the SDGs in key economic sectors. It brought together policymakers, captains of industry, investors, entrepreneurs and researchers to help the region benefit from the latest technological developments and innovations when making major investment decisions, or adopting economic diversification strategies and plans.

8. On 24 March 2022, in collaboration with the Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO), the Centre conducted an online workshop on the theme “[Mechanisms for linking scientific research and the industrial sector in the Arab countries](#)”. The workshop shed light on the importance of encouraging the Arab industrial sector to maximize its benefit from the experiences of universities and scientific research and innovation centres in Arab countries, so as to develop appropriate mechanisms for commercializing the outputs of scientific research to achieve comprehensive Arab industrial development and to tackle technological obstacles.

2. Participation in meetings

9. On 3 May 2021, the Centre participated in the [High-level Side Event on Science, Technology and Innovation \(STI\) for SDGs Road Maps](#), an online event held on the sidelines of the United Nations STI Forum 2021, to raise awareness of the results achieved as part of the Global Pilot Programme of STI Road Maps for the SDGs in pilot countries.

10. On 9 July 2021, the Centre also participated in the [United Nations High-level Dialogue on the Partnership in Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Road Maps](#), held virtually on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Centre highlighted the challenges faced by the Arab region, including a lack of local skills and capacities in technology-related fields, and limited efficiency of policies and enabling environments, which were compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre emphasized that there was no alternative to building solid foundations for STI to realize the SDGs, notably through sharing experiences.

11. On 23 November 2021, the Centre participated in the [twenty-first meeting of the Coordination Committee for Arab Industrial Research Centres in Arab Countries](#), of which it is a member. The Committee aims to achieve coordination and collaboration between Arab industrial research centres, and to link industrial production bodies and research centres.

12. On 5 and 6 May 2022, the Centre and partners held Special event 3: Supporting national capacities and the Partnership in Action on STI for SDGs Road Maps at the seventh [Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#). Participants discussed means to support national technology capabilities through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team’s joint work on the development and roll-out of STI policy frameworks, STI action plans, and STI road maps. The event also discussed the way forward for the Partnership in Action, following the successful inception of the Global Pilot Programme of STI Road Maps for the SDGs.

3. Projects

13. In 2021, the Centre started implementing a project funded by the United Nations Development Account entitled “Expanding the science-policy nexus in support of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region”. Set to be implemented in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Oman, the project will also be extended to Tunisia and the Sudan. The aim is to strengthen Arab innovation stakeholders’ capacities to create and implement an enabling policy environment for results-oriented innovation in the region. This would be demonstrated by improved coordination among stakeholders in the national innovation ecosystem through newly established knowledge

and innovation centres, and the adoption or implementation of a road map and tools developed under the project for enhancing collaboration between relevant actors. The implementation period will extend until 2023.

**B. Improving knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation on technology,
and reinforcing its role as a means of implementation
of the 2030 Agenda**

1. Workshops and trainings

14. From July to October 2021, the Centre organized entrepreneurship community workshops in six Arab countries, namely [Algeria](#), [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#), [the Sudan](#) and [Tunisia](#), to collect national input and feedback on entrepreneurship ecosystems and explore areas for expanding them. The workshops produced mappings of key actors in the countries' ecosystems in the following six main categories: policy and regulation, money capital, human capital, business support, community building, and innovation and support.

15. In Amman, on 8 November and 7 December 2021, the Centre organized a national round-table discussion on the green technology ecosystem in Jordan, so as to identify challenges and the key institutions responsible for formulating, implementing and enforcing policy instruments in green technology in the country.

16. On 9 March 2022, the Centre, in collaboration with [Cewas](#), held the “[360° ecosystem for green entrepreneurs](#)”, which introduced the activities of the Green Entrepreneurship Network Jordan. The event aimed to attract additional partners to the ecosystem, and expand support for green entrepreneurs and markets. The Centre also provided training on green technology and business models for participants.

2. Participation in meetings

17. From 24 to 28 October 2021, the Centre participated in [Cairo Water Week 2021](#) on the theme “Water, population and global changes: challenges and opportunities”. The event addressed population issues, the impact of overpopulation on common management of transboundary rivers, and the impact of global changes such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and land use challenges. On the sidelines, the Centre co-organized the High-level Joint Technical Committee for Water-Agriculture of the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States.

18. From 1 to 3 February 2022, the Centre participated in the first edition of the [LEAP tech conference](#) in Saudi Arabia, which attracted 100,000 visitors. The representative of the Centre delivered a presentation at a session on the theme “Under-realized opportunity of disruptive automation”.

19. In Beirut, on 18 and 19 May 2022, the Centre participated in the [Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade](#), and delivered a presentation entitled “Fostering innovation in the water sector”.

20. On 13 April 2022, the Centre participated in a virtual webinar on the theme “Intellectual property for promoting innovation and SMEs in the Arab region”, which provided an overview of the status and challenges of intellectual property systems in the Arab region and their role in promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and SMEs.

21. On 15 June 2022, the Centre participated in the Virtual Regional Arab Meeting on IP and Startups, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The representative of the Centre made a presentation on the theme “Use of the intellectual property systems and challenges faced by startups in the Arab region”.

3. Reports and studies

22. During the period 2021-2022, the Centre produced and published the following four compendiums: “[Compendium of extended reality technologies and business models for the Arab region](#)”, “[water, sanitation and hygiene compendium](#)”, “[Compendium of digital agricultural technologies for the Arab region](#)”, and “[Compendium of renewable energy in the Arab region](#)”. Each of these compendiums features 10 business models under the acceleration toolbox, containing essential information on business approaches to make green technologies succeed. The acceleration toolbox is structured around proven business models for green technologies, including key assumptions and decisions related to an entrepreneur’s offering; customers and the market; a company’s role within the value chain; company partners; and company finances. Moreover, every compendium contains a description of the required technology, design considerations, advantages and disadvantages, and applications in the Arab region.

23. During the period 2021-2022, the Centre conducted and published ecosystem mappings on the [agritech](#), [renewable energy](#), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors for Arab countries, producing 66 maps covering the 22 Arab countries. The ecosystem maps identify the various institutions responsible for formulating, implementing and enforcing policy instruments (government institutions), or developing and adapting the agritech, renewable energy and WASH technologies (private sector, public-private partnerships, research and development organizations) in each country.

24. In February 2022, the Centre published five technical booklets on [water harvesting](#), [green fertilizers](#), [solar dryers](#), [small-scale food processing](#), and [extending the life of agricultural products through bio-preservation](#) (available in Arabic), under an ESCWA initiative entitled “[Enhancing resilience and sustainability of agriculture in the Arab region](#)”.

4. Projects

25. In February 2022, the Centre launched the online platform [Digital Enabling Platform for the Arab Region \(DEPAR\)](#). The platform serves as a one-stop online regional entrepreneurship destination that promotes innovation, knowledge, connectivity, opportunities, and inclusive growth. DEPAR is a virtual working platform for Arab SMEs, where they can build, support, fund and scale their businesses. The main objectives of DEPAR are to compile all tools and knowledge about SMEs and entrepreneurship in an online database; utilize all the knowledge, experiences and connections of the United Nations to support SMEs; and activate a community of practice and guidance for peer-to-peer support. The platform has 2,000 active users, 70 active community groups, and over 500 posts and events.

C. Arab young people and women’s empowerment for technology and entrepreneurship

1. Workshops, trainings and meetings

26. From September 2021 to January 2022, the Centre held a series of national round-table discussions in [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#) and [the State of Palestine](#) to discuss the main challenges that women face in accessing technology and entrepreneurial opportunities. The meetings also gathered recommendations to improve development programmes, which centred around the need to reform and decentralize non-governmental assistance provided to women entrepreneurs, so as to integrate innovation and sustainability, adopt community-based approaches, increase the importance of financial and digital literacy and the intersection between them, set up gender-sensitive social and digital security mechanisms to protect small businesses from financial and human crises, incorporate the concept of entrepreneurship in education curriculums to inspire girls and young women, and establish a unified platform through which women entrepreneurs can reach national networks and funding opportunities.

27. From September to December 2021, the Centre hosted the ESCWA annotation training programme, which was attended by 42 trainees from Brazil, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United States of America and Yemen. Participants collected, annotated and verified data from job openings advertised on the Internet to support the development of the [ESCWA Skills Monitor](#), a platform which collects real-time information from more than 100 regional online job posting platforms, and uses them to analyse labour market demands and employment prospects and to track skills relevance.

28. On 8 and 9 December 2021, the Centre and the International Chamber of Commerce organized a Forum on the theme “[Preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs in the Arab region](#)”, which brought together international development experts and practitioners, SME representatives, policymakers, corporate leaders, and representatives of chambers of commerce to share their sector expertise and provide SMEs with the tools to succeed.

29. On 16 December 2021, the Centre and the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation held a joint webinar on the theme “[Youth and innovative entrepreneurship](#)”. The webinar focused on introducing the SDGs to young people, while stressing their social significance and implementation challenges. The webinar showcased the experience of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in mainstreaming the SDGs in its activities and in helping member States achieve them. The webinar was attended by government officials, young entrepreneurs, and students from D-8 countries.

2. Participation in meetings

30. On 8 September 2022, the Centre participated in the [Jordan Youth Climate Summit](#), organized by the [Green Generation Foundation](#). The Summit brought together young activists to boost their climate action skills. The Summit focused on the position of Jordan at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 6-18 November 2022) and on climate justice at the national level, raising awareness that climate change can have various social, economic, public health, and other adverse effects on underprivileged populations. Several panel discussions were held on the impact of climate change on the transport sector, and the representative of the Centre made a presentation on the theme “Achieving climate justice at the national and local levels”.

3. Study

31. In July 2022, the Centre, in collaboration with the ESCWA Centre for Women, conducted a study on women’s access to technology and entrepreneurship (forthcoming). The study lies at the nexus of technology, entrepreneurship and gender equality. Promoting entrepreneurship and access to technology has become a prominent driver of employment, economic growth, and gender equality. The study provides an analysis of the barriers to women’s entrepreneurship in the region, including access to and use of technology, with a focus on national insights from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. Projects

32. In January 2021, the Centre launched the Women’s Empowerment for Technology and Entrepreneurship (AWETE) programme to address the national challenges hindering women’s empowerment in technology and entrepreneurship across the Arab region. The programme resulted in an integrated [toolbox](#) containing practical knowledge and toolkits with hands-on strategies to enhance women’s engagement in technology and entrepreneurship in the region. Throughout 2021, the Centre developed [women empowerment ecosystem maps](#) for all Arab countries to identify the key actors and experts advocating for women’s rights in the region.

33. In 2021, in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the United Nations, the Centre launched the [Arab Innovation Platform](#) aimed at enabling and empowering innovation in the Arab region and facilitating collaboration between United Nations entities, Arab Governments and innovators to develop digital solutions to SDG-related challenges. The Platform hosts challenges and

competitions conducted with various United Nations entities to familiarize participants with various funding and sponsorship opportunities. It currently has 30,000 users and is growing with every challenge. The Platform also provides information and resources to guide organizers in launching innovative challenges, with the support of ESCWA member States. Such challenges include “[Restoring hope: beyond war and suffering](#)” and the “[Startups facing hardship challenge](#)”.

34. In August 2022, the Centre supported the preparation of the [JOSOUR Toolbox](#) as part of the JOSOUR initiative aimed at strengthening commitment to creating opportunities for unemployed young men and women, and helping them enhance their employability prospects by upgrading their skills, acquiring new skills to meet the changing requirements of the future of work, and improving their suitability for job market demands. The initiative serves as a bridge between key stakeholders in the private sector and talented young men and women looking for opportunities in the Arab region.

D. Entrepreneurship and improving MSME capacity in the Arab region

1. Workshops, trainings and meetings

35. On 24 August and 14 September 2021, the Centre conducted two workshops in [Amman](#) and [Beirut](#), respectively, on improving programmes for SMEs. The workshops examined governmental and non-governmental programmes for SMEs, and assessed regulations that directly or indirectly impact the establishment of new SMEs and the operations of existing enterprises. The workshops resulted in a set of recommendations that address the gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystems of both Jordan and Lebanon.

36. On 16 September and 12 October 2021, the Centre conducted two workshops in [Amman](#) and [Beirut](#), respectively, to mentor and coach local startups to scale up. The workshops examined ways to support national incubators and public enablers to mentor and coach local startups in scaling up to a regional level, and resulted in recommendations and solutions to guide and unite incubators and enablers in Jordan and Lebanon.

37. On 2 November 2021, the Centre conducted a workshop in Jordan on the theme “[Designing and implementing entrepreneurship policies and strategies](#)”. The workshop brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to formulate initiatives to improve government agencies’ performance in assisting SME growth, and to establish a road map with clear milestones for cooperation between SMEs, Government and non-government sectors.

38. On 15 December 2021, the Centre conducted a workshop on the theme “[French opportunities for Arab SMEs](#)”. The workshop linked business associations in France with SMEs in Arab countries. It brought together stakeholders from the agritech and foodtech communities from 22 Arab countries with their French counterparts to discuss partnership and networking opportunities. The event formed a basis for future collaboration between France and Arab SMEs in agriculture and food technologies.

39. On 27 June 2022, the Centre held an expert group meeting on the theme “[Reviving the digital economy in Lebanon](#)”. This meeting was a national call to revive the Lebanese digital economy, by creating a bridge between individuals, the community, the private sector and the public sector, and providing Lebanese businesses with the tools to succeed. The meeting brought together entrepreneurs, government representatives, SME owners, startup founders, corporate leaders, representative of non-governmental organizations, and other key players in the digital economy.

40. During the period 2021-2022, in collaboration with Cewas Middle East, the Centre co-facilitated the bimonthly meetings of the [Green Entrepreneurship Network – Jordan](#), which is an informal network of like-minded green entrepreneurship support actors that operates as a community of practice, focusing on open exchange, joint learning and networking. Members collectively devise solutions for emerging challenges in the sector, and form task forces on issues needing improvement. Network members include over 20 partner organizations and 35 individual members.

41. From 30 October to 1 November 2022, the Centre, in partnership with Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), hosted the first [Arab SMEs Summit](#) in Amman. It aimed to help Arab SMEs access regional and international markets, mobilize diverse financial resources, benefit from regional and international networks, and increase their ability to scale up. Moreover, the Summit, as an annual event, hopes to act as a regional platform for national and international leaders from the public and private sectors to advocate inclusive policies and strategies required to support Arab SMEs. The Summit brought together around 650 selected participants, including entrepreneurs, investors, business influencers, political leaders, economists, journalists, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and donors, to discuss regional and international business opportunities for Arab SMEs across 20 main sessions and 10 side events.

42. On 13 April 2022, the Centre facilitated a meeting on the theme “Intellectual property for promoting innovation and SMEs in the Arab region”, organized by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship in partnership with WIPO. The event aimed to give entrepreneurs insights and the support required to tackle the complex intellectual property system in the Arab region.

43. On 7 April 2022, the Centre facilitated an [information session on the eCommerce Acceleration Programme \(eCAP\)](#) to give SMEs the opportunity to learn more about the Programme and meet eCAP organizers and coaches.

2. Reports and studies

44. Throughout 2021, the Centre has developed and published [entrepreneurship ecosystem maps](#) for all Arab countries, which identify critical actors in each country’s entrepreneurship landscape and disaggregates them by field of work.

45. In August 2022, the Centre developed and disseminated a survey on “[Enabling environment for entrepreneurship – evaluation model for entrepreneurs](#)”, focusing on the support system available in every Arab country for startups and SMEs.

46. In September 2022, the Centre conducted a study entitled “Enhancing the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region” (forthcoming) to remedy gaps in the entrepreneurial system of the Arab region, and offer practical solutions to address infrastructure and enabling conditions for tech-driven entrepreneurship.

47. On 13 March 2022, the Centre published its mapping of [International Business Opportunities for SMEs](#). The maps show key organizations in the following five sectors: agritech and food; WASH; renewable energy; recycling; and information and communication technology. The data were collected from five European countries, namely Czechia, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

48. On 25 April 2022, the Centre published the [MSMEs toolbox](#) comprising 15 essential startup tools to equip entrepreneurs with a set of essential tools for SMEs, including strategy, marketing, financial management, innovation, and business planning tools.

3. Projects

49. Since 2021, the Centre has been leading the activities of a project funded by the United Nations Development Account, entitled “Improving the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab region”. The project is initially being implemented in three Arab countries (Algeria, Jordan and Lebanon), and will later be extended to other Arab countries.

50. During the period 2021-2022, as a steering committee member, the Centre continued its strategic support to the ICC-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship launched in 2020. The Centre of Entrepreneurship is devoted to improving citizens' livelihoods in the Arab region through the following objectives: inspiring future entrepreneurs; digitizing SMEs, and scaling up startups.

51. On 7 April 2022, the ESCWA Technology Centre, with the support of the Centre of Entrepreneurship and the International Trade Centre, launched [eCAP](#) to empower Arab SMEs on their journey into online selling. The Programme will build the capacity of up to 100 SMEs from the Arab region, either by developing their transactional e-commerce websites, or by helping them sell in existing online marketplaces. Participating SMEs will benefit from business and technical expertise, one-year support and critical setup fees to build/optimize the online platform or sell on existing marketplaces, one-on-one coaching, in addition to exposure and access to networking opportunities.

52. In May 2022, the Centre, in collaboration with ICC and the Economic Commission for Africa, launched centres of entrepreneurship in [Casablanca](#) and [Riyadh](#) to inspire innovation and improve the business environment for entrepreneurs and SMEs in Morocco and Saudi Arabia. The centres of entrepreneurship will work with various stakeholders, including businesses, chambers of commerce, academic institutions, and intergovernmental and governmental agencies, to connect local entrepreneurs to global markets and enhance regulatory conditions for SMEs to thrive, including by developing the skills of young people who face uncertain employment prospects and mentoring local startups and entrepreneurs.

II. Advisory services

53. Since 2022, the Centre, in collaboration with UNCTAD, has been implementing the [e-registration digital government for development](#) programme in Jordan, supporting the Ministry of Industry and Trade in establishing an e-registration portal for small enterprises. The Centre is preparing for the implementation of the programme in the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, as per their respective requests.

54. In March 2022, the Centre prepared an "Analytical study of the regulatory framework for electronic applications in the Syrian Arab Republic, and regional and international practices" to support the building of an efficient enabling environment for e-applications in the country.

55. In 2022, the Centre supported the ESCWA Taskforce on the Metaverse in shedding light on the economic opportunities and benefits offered by the metaverse globally and regionally, at the request of Saudi Arabia. A better understanding of the economic opportunities and impact of the metaverse in the Arab context is necessary to ensure that future metaverse developments in the region deliver sought-after benefits.

III. Partnerships

56. The Centre has forged various partnerships through its work activities with governmental and private institutions, civil society, and several regional and international organizations to increase the impact of its normative activities, such as reports, studies and joint proposals, and improve the efficiency of services provided to member States. Partnerships can be long or short term, and some have a broader scope than others. The table below sets out those institutions and organizations.

Institutions and organizations that partnered with the Centre to implement its activities over the period 2021-2022

Institution/organization	Country
Royal Scientific Society	Jordan
Higher Council for Science and Technology	Jordan
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation	Jordan
iPARK	Jordan

Institution/organization	Country
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply	Jordan
Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO)	Jordan
Princess Sumaya University for Technology	Jordan
Jordan Youth Innovation Forum	Jordan
Orange	Jordan
Zain Group	Jordan
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Jordan
Bank al Etihad	Jordan
Berytech	Lebanon
DxTalk	Lebanon
Arab Industrial Development Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO)	International
Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)	International
International Chamber of Commerce	International
Google	International
World Trade Organization	International
Meta in MENA	International
UNCTAD	International
WIPO	International
International Centre for Water Management (Cewas)	International
Platform for Transformative Technologies	Belgium
Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)	Spain
Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa	Sweden
Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)	United States
XR Safety Initiative	United States
International Trade Centre	MENA
India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	Bahrain
Cambridge University	United Kingdom
SME Corporation	Malaysia

IV. Meetings of the Technical Committee of the ESCWA Technology Centre

57. The ESCWA Technology Centre held the [eighth meeting of its Technical Committee virtually](#) on 24 November 2021 to discuss the Centre's work programme and technical matters concerning its operations. The meeting also aimed to identify member States' priorities and challenges in harnessing national STI capabilities. The meeting was attended by 62 participants representing 13 Arab countries, academia, research institutions, industry, non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs, and other United Nations organizations, in addition to regional and international organizations. The meeting resulted in key messages and recommendations that the Centre will take into consideration when preparing its work programme.
