

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/S-7/9  
21 November 2022  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Seventh special session  
Amman, 20-21 December 2022



Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**ESCWA support to Arab least developed countries:  
Yemen vision for recovery and development****Summary**

Four member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are classified as least developed countries (LDCs), namely Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen. The State of Palestine also enjoys the preferential treatment accorded to LDCs. As instability continues to impact this group of countries, the repercussions of hostilities on peoples and societies, compounded by other health and climate shocks, have further exacerbated their fragility and vulnerability. The case of Yemen is a clear example of how armed conflict and its ramifications affect development trajectories and reverse gains acquired over decades. It also shows how the vicious cycle of weak development drives conflict, and how conflict exacerbates those development challenges.

As part of its commitment to supporting Arab LDCs graduate from the LDC category, ESCWA has launched a project to assist Yemen in achieving a sustainable recovery by enhancing governance and strengthening institutions. The project will also create a platform for technical dialogue on recovery among Yemeni experts to develop a vision for recovery. The present document offers an overview of that project. The Commission is invited to review its contents and make comments thereon.

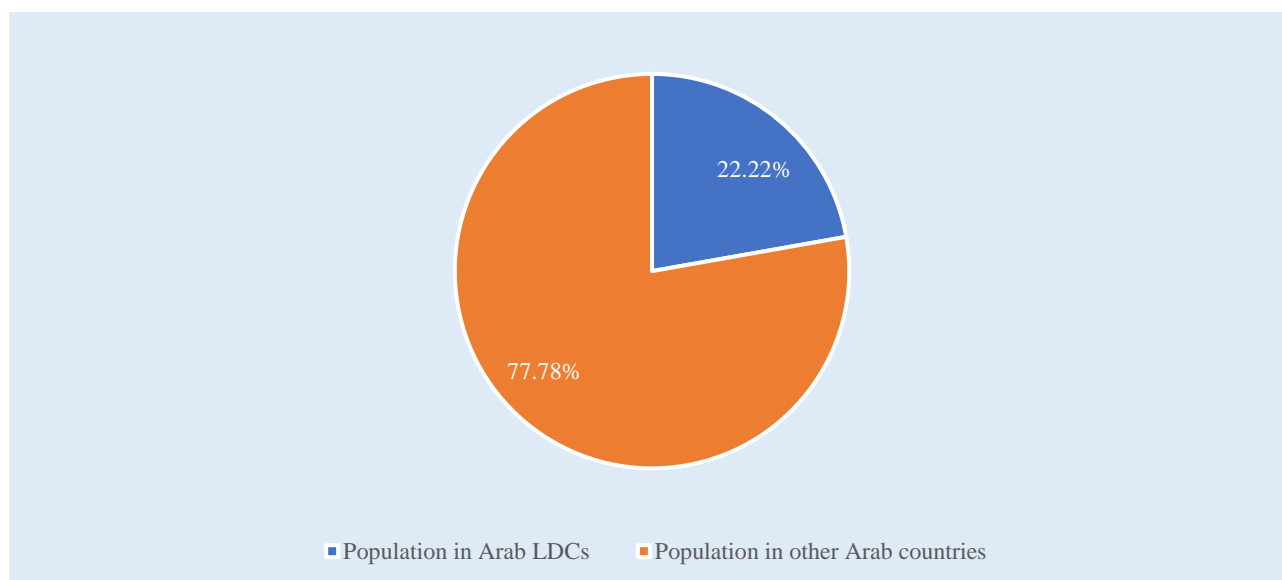
## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1-10	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. Yemen vision for recovery and development</b> .....	11-16	6
<b>II. Yemen technical socioeconomic dialogue</b> .....	17-23	7
<b>III. Institutional capacity development for recovery</b> .....	24-31	8
A. Yemen institution-building and capacity-development platform.....	27-28	8
B. Capacity-development approach.....	29-31	9
<b>IV. Partnerships</b> .....	32-35	11
<b>V. Conclusion</b> .....	36-38	12

## Introduction

1. Least developed countries (LDCs) include some of the world's most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Highly exposed to economic and environmental shocks, LDCs are low-income countries facing severe structural impediments to sustainable development. A country's inclusion in the LDC category is subject to the following criteria: income, human assets, and economic and environmental vulnerability. As at 2022, six Arab countries, including four member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), were classified as LDCs, namely the Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen, which are home to over 22 per cent of the Arab region's population (figure 1). While those six Arab States are classified as LDCs, another Arab country, the State of Palestine, enjoys the same preferential treatment accorded to LDCs as per General Assembly resolution 43/178 of 20 December 1988 on assistance to the Palestinian people. Challenges facing Arab LDCs include weak social infrastructure, rapid population growth, commodity dependence, poor governance, weak institutional capacity, and limited technology transfer, all of which drive a vicious cycle of low productivity and investment and ultimately low levels of human development.

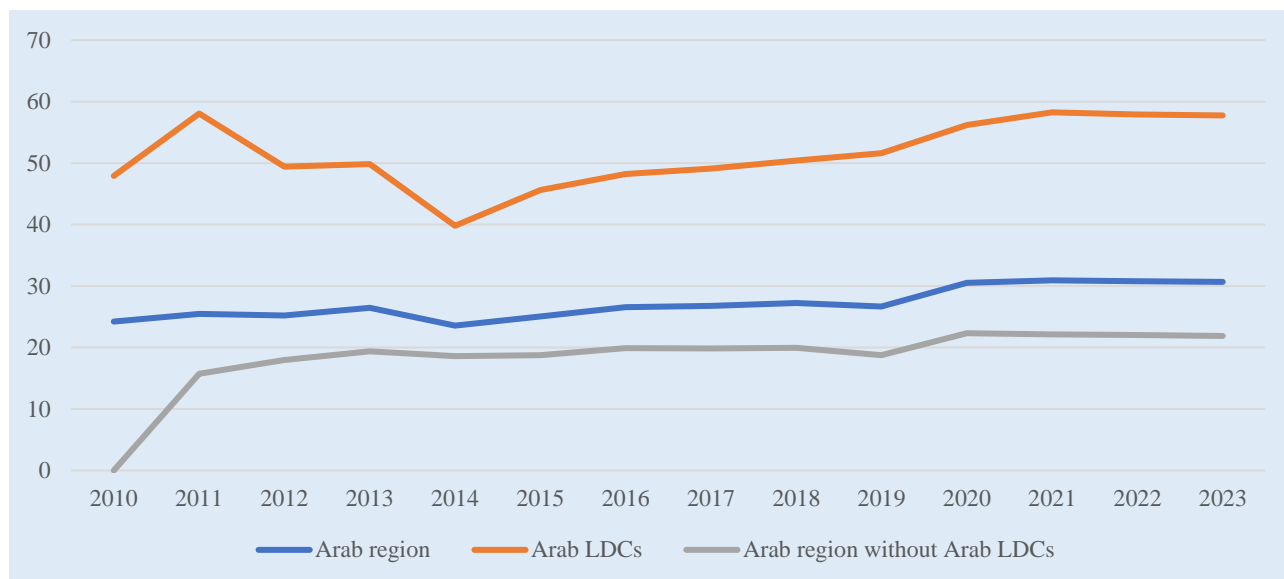
**Figure 1. Share of the Arab population living in least developed countries**



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database (accessed 10 November 2022).

2. In 2010, the poverty rate in Arab LDCs stood at 48 per cent (figure 2) – twice as high as the regional poverty rate, and nearly three times that of other Arab countries. In 2011, Arab countries excluding LDCs witnessed a slight improvement in poverty compared with 2010, while Arab LDCs witnessed a significant increase in their poverty rate to 58 per cent, driving up the regional poverty rate. This rate has been fluctuating over the past decade, reaching 58 per cent again in 2021, and is expected to remain almost stable at this rate until 2023. Fluctuations in other Arab countries were relatively small, and the poverty rate is expected to stand at around 22 per cent in 2023. In both LDCs and non-LDCs in the Arab region, the COVID-19 pandemic drove the poverty rate up by nearly 4 percentage points.

**Figure 2. Poverty headcount**

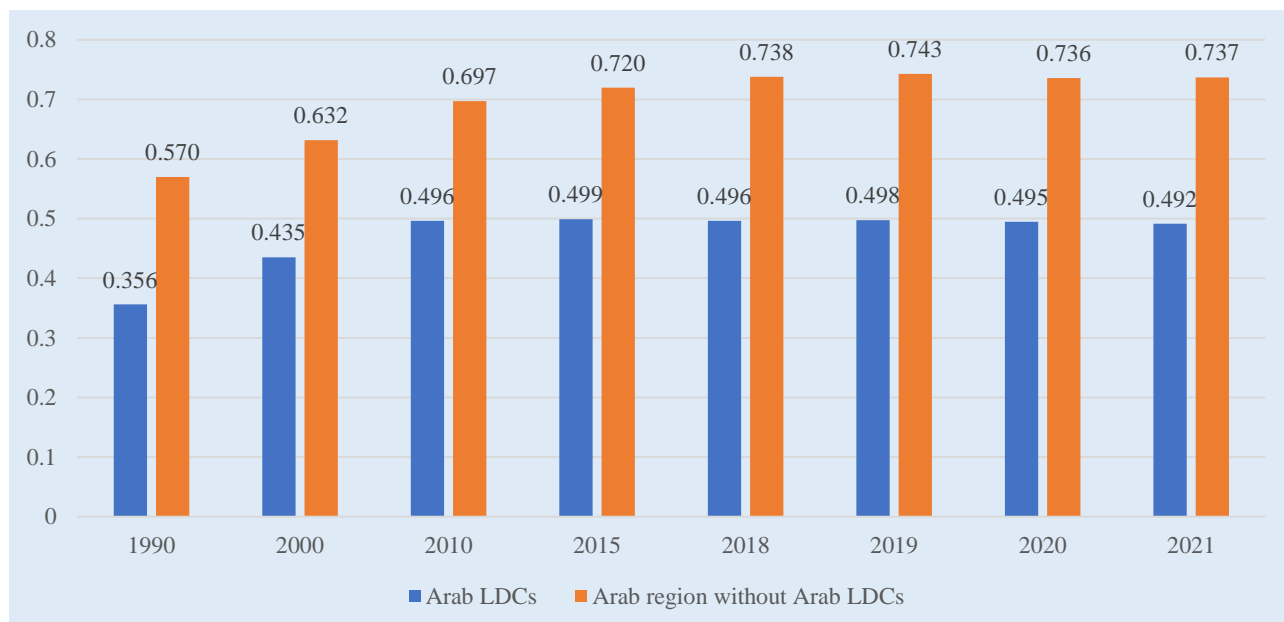


Source: ESCWA data as at November 2022.

Note: No data available for Libya.

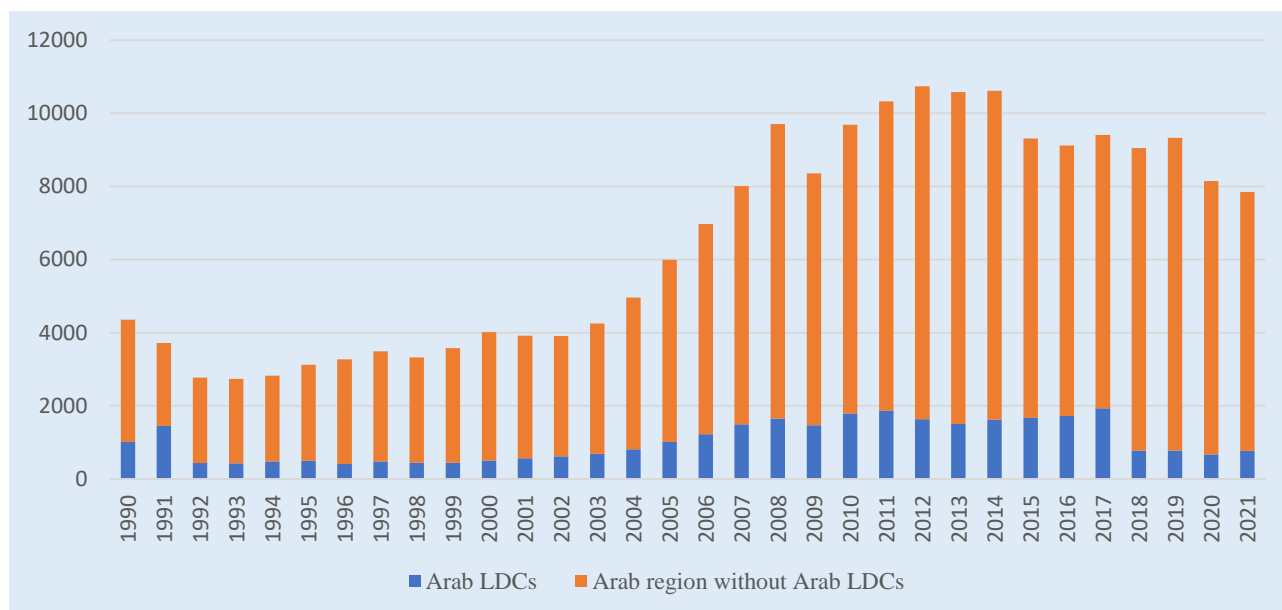
3. As in most of the world's regions and subregions, the Human Development Index (HDI) has seen some improvement in Arab LDCs (figure 3). However, while other Arab countries have passed the high human development threshold, Arab LDCs remain within the low human development category. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita figures show high and widening gaps between Arab LDCs and other Arab countries (figure 4). For instance, the ratio of GDP per capita in Arab LDCs to GDP per capita in other Arab countries is 11 per cent, compared with a ratio of 30 per cent in the early 1990s.

**Figure 3. HDI in Arab LDCs and the rest of the Arab region**



Source: ESCWA calculations based on 2022 data from the Human Development Report [data centre](#) (accessed 10 November 2022).

Note: No data available for Somalia.

**Figure 4. GDP per capita in Arab LDCs and the rest of the Arab region**

Source: ESCWA calculations based on 2022 data from the World Bank, [World Development Indicators](#) database (accessed 10 November 2022).

4. In recent years, government efforts to build sound governance systems to make economies more resilient have been hampered by conflict, climate shocks, and health emergencies. The protracted conflict in Yemen continues to take an enormous toll on the population, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. In Somalia, decades of armed violence, marginalization, insecurity, political instability, and weak development have increased humanitarian needs. While Mauritania currently has an elected Government and enjoys relative security and political stability, it is still affected by regional volatility and struggles with high levels of inequality, food insecurity and poverty. The political contestation in the Sudan continues to exacerbate an already volatile economic situation, leading to an increase in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance and in the share of people living in extreme poverty.

5. As instability continues to impact Arab LDCs, the ramifications of hostilities on peoples and societies, compounded by other shocks or megatrends, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, have further exacerbated fragility and vulnerability. The pandemic has intensified existing structural weaknesses in health care and social protection, collapsing essential service delivery. From severe drought to intense flooding, the Sudan and Yemen are teetering on the brink of total collapse. The worst desert locust outbreak in Somalia has added further strain on crisis management systems and resources. In addition, as a result of natural disasters, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen have serious difficulties coping with a large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, most of whom are in conditions of long-term distress.

6. The case of Yemen is a clear example of how armed conflict and its ramifications affect development trajectories, reverse gains acquired over decades, and pose serious risks for sustainable development and peace efforts. The growing human and economic costs of conflict have accelerated momentum for Arab LDCs and the international community to focus on improving prevention efforts.

7. The draft Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries showcases commitments by LDCs and their development partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), build resilience against shocks, and enable graduation from the LDC category. It also underlines that ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for LDC development rest with the LDCs themselves.

8. The Doha Programme will have six key focus areas for action, as follows:

(a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind;

(b) Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity;

(d) Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration;

(e) Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development;

(f) Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation.

9. The Doha Programme emphasizes the significance of enhancing good governance by building efficient public institutions, and enhancing their capacity in tackling the enormous challenges facing LDCs. The positive role of sustainable development in mitigating drivers of conflict and preventing relapse into conflict can be achieved by building durable peace and sustainable, inclusive and resilient development. In addition, multilateral dialogues and collaboration are essential to preventing conflict and providing peaceful solutions to existing conflicts. The Doha Programme also stresses the importance of making more effective use of global funds for peacebuilding and State-building, which can be achieved by facilitating better coordination with long-term approaches among development actors.

10. As part of its commitment to supporting Arab LDCs graduate from the LDC category, and in response to requests for technical cooperation and support, ESCWA is helping Yemen achieve a sustainable recovery by enhancing governance and strengthening institutions.

## **I. Yemen vision for recovery and development**

11. According to the [2021 United Nations Yemen Common Country Analysis](#), Yemen was behind in achieving the SDGs even prior to the escalation of armed conflict in 2015. The conflict has therefore not just interrupted the development trajectory of Yemen, but has also reversed development gains made in key sectors up to 2014, with Yemen maintaining its status as the poorest country in the Arab region. Progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs continues to be delayed owing to the ongoing conflict, an absence of coordinated national leadership, and a lack of strategic planning. With control of the country divided between competing and warring parties, humanitarian, development and peace efforts continue to face significant challenges.

12. The challenges facing Yemen and its recovery from the ongoing conflict are immense. Development challenges, such as weak governance and institutions, poverty, illiteracy and weak natural resource management, predate the current conflict. The nature of the conflict in Yemen highlights how a lack of development drives conflict, and how conflict exacerbates development challenges.

13. To address these development challenges, the impact of the Yemeni conflict and its structural causes, and prevent relapse into violent conflict, it is necessary to implement an inclusive process of recovery and development, with a long-term objective of Yemen graduating from the LDC category. Recovery requires inclusion of all segments of society, and building consensus around governance mechanisms and institutions that are capable of building and sustaining peace through democratic representation, ensuring more efficient local governance, establishing and maintaining the rule of law, and efficiently and fairly managing resource distribution.

14. To build Yemeni institutional capacity towards achieving inclusive recovery and sustainable development, it is essential to engage all local, regional and international stakeholders in the recovery planning process, so as to develop a people-centred recovery vision that stresses the importance of good governance and identifies the institutional gaps hindering rapid recovery and preventing Yemen from graduating from the LDC category. In addition, building institutional capacity in such a fragile State is essential to enhancing institutions' resilience to future challenges and shocks, so as to prevent relapse into conflict.

15. In accordance with the Doha Programme and as part of its mandate to promote sustainable economic and social development in the Arab region, ESCWA launched the Yemen vision for recovery and development project in 2022 as a response to the dire conflict in Yemen. ESCWA aims to support Yemenis in developing a national vision for recovery and sustainable development by undertaking the following:

(a) Providing a space for technical socioeconomic dialogue among Yemenis to develop a consensus-based recovery vision to inform development actors' recovery and reconstruction plans: a technical dialogue platform on recovery and sustainable development will be established. Yemeni experts and stakeholders will engage in a dialogue to develop a socioeconomic vision for recovery and sustainable development;

(b) Building institutional capacity to translate vision outcomes into action: institutional readiness, which is vital for recovery, will be supported through capacity-building, technical assistance and strengthened partnerships. Public institutions and civil servants will be trained through institution-building programmes to realize the expected outcomes of the recovery vision.

16. The project builds on previous ESCWA work on strengthening governance and institutional capacity, tackling development challenges in LDCs, and supporting national socioeconomic dialogues in countries transitioning to peace. It focuses on building institutional capacity to increase institutional readiness for recovery, based on a Yemeni-owned vision of recovery and sustainable development.

## **II. Yemen technical socioeconomic dialogue**

17. In accordance with the Doha Programme's commitment that LDCs own, lead and take full responsibility for their development by identifying national priorities, and by formulating and executing coherent economic and development policies and strategies, Yemen requires an articulated vision for recovery, which identifies priorities and defines policies and strategies. This can be achieved through an inclusive technical dialogue on socioeconomic issues relevant to recovery and sustainable development.

18. The Yemen socioeconomic dialogue will bring together key Yemeni experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, alongside representatives of women, young people, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, to discuss a vision for recovery and sustainable development that addresses the impact of the conflict in the pre-recovery phase and paves the way for sustainable development in the post-conflict period. The dialogue will constitute the first pillar of the recovery vision, which will focus on inclusivity, social reconciliation and integration, and sustainability. ESCWA has developed a list of criteria for a rigorous selection process which will guarantee that all participants in the dialogue possess technical expertise in their respective fields, and represent the balance of age, gender, political views and regional affiliation that the dialogue should reflect.

19. The technical socioeconomic dialogue aims to provide a space and support for Yemenis to develop a non-partisan recovery vision for the whole of Yemen. Participating Yemeni experts will engage in rounds of discussions to identify goals, immediate, medium- and long-term priorities and policy recommendations, and strategies for the implementation of the recovery vision.

20. The outcomes of the dialogue rounds will serve to formulate a holistic vision for recovery that acknowledges the entwined relationship between all topics, and identifies institutional capacity gaps and needs that must be addressed to enable public institutions to implement the vision's recovery actions. The vision will

be validated in a series of discussions with local, regional and international stakeholders, and launched at a forum in collaboration with the Yemeni Government.

21. The recovery vision will rely on evidence-based policy recommendations, meaning that knowledge production is a crucial component of the vision. The socioeconomic dialogue will be complemented by policy briefs on the various thematic areas and different topics. Estimating the cost of war and the benefit of peace is crucial to supporting the vision's policy recommendations. Exploring sources of financing for recovery is also an important component of the recovery vision.

22. In July 2022, ESCWA held a consultative meeting with key Yemeni experts in Amman to define the main themes and topics of the dialogue, which are most relevant to recovery. The deliberations focused primarily on topics related to the following thematic areas:

- Economic development and sustainability.
- Social cohesion.
- Governance, institutional infrastructure and rule of law.
- Environment and resource management.

23. The consultations included discussions on key challenges facing recovery, and key priorities in the thematic areas and other vital issues such as regional cooperation on Yemen, and the relationship between Yemen and the surrounding region. The priorities identified in those consultations will guide the upcoming rounds of the socioeconomic dialogue, culminating into a recovery vision for Yemen.

### **III. Institutional capacity development for recovery**

24. The conflict in Yemen has caused famine, drought, disease, disruption of basic service delivery, displacement and an unprecedented unravelling of Yemeni society. Yemeni institutions, which were weak before the start of the crisis, have become weaker than ever. Unable to provide basic services, they also lack the capacity to absorb humanitarian and development aid. Planning for recovery and sustainable development in such a complex situation requires a vision for recovery and strong and resilient public institutions that will implement recovery strategies, achieve sustainable peace and development, and prevent relapse into conflict.

25. Over the years, various Yemeni stakeholders have benefited from ESCWA support, including capacity-building, advisory services and training on multiple issues, such as women's empowerment, economic policymaking, and institutional development, which means that ESCWA is well placed to support Yemeni institutions prepare for recovery through capacity development, technical assistance and strengthened partnerships.

26. The second pillar of the recovery vision is ensuring institutional readiness for recovery. Capacity-building activities will be provided to institutions that are vital for recovery, such as financial institutions, to guarantee economic stability and forge partnerships to develop strategies for financing recovery. Institutions vital to human development in areas of education and health will receive capacity-development support to provide a consistent and holistic approach to recovery.

#### **A. Yemen institution-building and capacity-development platform**

27. To strengthen partnerships among international, regional and local development actors, ESCWA has established a Yemen institution-building and capacity-development platform: an online tool that will enable better collection and exchange of information on capacity-building activities provided by all stakeholders, facilitate more efficient collaboration between providers of technical assistance, and help avoid duplication of activities. ESCWA recently joined the Capacity Development and Technical Assistance Group (CDG), led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which coordinates the technical assistance and capacity development support provided by international development actors to Yemeni institutions.



28. In November 2022, ESCWA participated in the CDG inauguration workshop, held in Riyadh. The workshop deliberations focused on the institutional needs of the Yemeni Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Electricity, the Ministry of International Planning and Cooperation, and the Executive Bureau for the Acceleration of Aid Absorption and Support for Policy Reforms. In closed meetings with CDG members, comprising international development actors, ESCWA presented the platform, which features capacity-building activities and programmes mapped out by CDG as a tool to coordinate the work of the various CDG members, to be later expanded to include a mechanism that allows Yemeni institutions to communicate their institutional needs to CDG. The platform was well received by CDG, and discussion will take place to further develop the platform to accommodate the needs of various development actors.

## **B. Capacity-development approach**

29. Rebuilding institutions and strengthening capacity are essential for peacebuilding, recovery and sustainable development. Moreover, building institutional capacity should be based on national priorities for recovery. To enable Yemeni public institutions to implement the recovery vision's priority actions and strategies successfully and competently, ESCWA will provide Yemeni institutions with capacity-building and technical assistance.

30. During the socioeconomic dialogue, an exercise will be conducted to identify long-term capacity needs to increase key institutions' recovery preparedness, and their ability to deliver the critical functions of economic, social, administrative, political and judicial governance. Capacity-development activities will be tailored in accordance with the outcomes of the exercise. ESCWA also aims to provide capacity-building activities to meet the capacity needs identified by Yemeni institutions and communicated to CDG.

31. Capacity-building and technical-assistance activities provided by ESCWA will focus on the following areas:

(a) Strategic planning within fragile contexts: providing training on approaches and methodologies to understand and assess fragility, and on conducting strategic planning in the light of fragile contexts, with a focus on the following:

- Planning in fragile contexts from the perspective of gender equality, and evaluating the effects of fragility on women and men.
- Planning from an SDG perspective, including a focus on integrating the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development into planning processes.
- Introducing ESCWA tools for enhancing integrated national development planning.
- Investing in digital transformation and open government to strengthening the resilience of public institutions and prevent relapse into conflict.
- Utilizing digital technology in the recovery and reconstruction process, and in strengthening multilateral partnerships.
- Conducting an applied exercise to define the nature and elements of fragility, including its political, economic, social, security and environmental dimensions at the local level.

(b) The operationalization of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, known as the triple-nexus principles: capacity-building in operationalizing the triple nexus should be guided by the capacity mapping and policy analysis of existing national strategies, and should be calibrated to support the advancement of the triple nexus and the collective outcomes of its operationalization. Trainings will be offered on the following topics:

- Establishing a coordination mechanism and formulating the collective outcomes of the operationalization of the triple nexus.
- Planning and programming, including financing of programmes.
- Monitoring and evaluation of triple nexus programmes.

(c) Public administration reform in Yemen: reforming the weak and inflated public administration in the country is a prerequisite for improving basic service delivery. Institutions should be able to enact an effective public administration reform agenda through a consultative and participative process with private sector, academia, young people, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, which addresses key challenges and covers the following non-exhaustive substance areas of public administration:

- Support public service and human resource management by undertaking the following:
  - Engaging in an evidence-based, holistic, consultative and participatory design of public-sector restructuring, and adopting a legal framework that is adequate, clearly defined and applied in practice across the public sector.
  - Providing support to institutions with critical functions to retain talent, and help critical public services from being disrupted.
  - Building managerial and delivery capacities in line ministries, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, to enable the transition of administrative capacities for social protection implementation (social registries, delivery of cash transfers) from humanitarian to government actors.
  - Adopting regulatory and legislative reforms that reinforce accountability schemes and bodies in charge of civil service oversight, such as the Civil Service Board (a central inspection body), and moving towards a merit-based system with flexible and attractive remuneration schemes.
- Support public servants and policymakers in identifying capacity and policy needs to conduct a digital transformation of governance and strengthen e-service delivery.

(d) Assessing Development Challenges: the ESCWA World Development Challenges Report's toolkit will help Yemeni institutions design national development policies. This toolkit includes the standardized indicators of the three dimensions of the Development Challenges Index (DCI), namely quality of human development, environmental sustainability and governance, in addition to related indicators on resilience, inequality and conflict over a period of two decades. The toolkit allows policymakers to assess the level of challenges facing Yemen, and compare its performance with that of other countries. It also shows the impact of improvements in specific dimensions and indicators on the overall performance of DCI.

(e) Designing a national multidimensional poverty index (MPI): SDG target 1.2 aims to reduce by half, by 2030, the proportion of men, women, and children living in multidimensional poverty according to national definitions. In recent years, numerous countries have designed their own national MPIs to track target 1.2, and to inform policies for poverty reduction. ESCWA is well positioned to provide capacity training on designing a national MPI for Yemen, targeting both statisticians and non-technical policymakers. Using unique ESCWA tools that facilitate the design process, including the selection of indicators and cut-offs, and the setting of poverty reduction targets and simulations, the capacity training will be geared towards empowering key stakeholders to understand and apply the MPI methodology. Once a national MPI has been established, and poverty reduction policies are designed and owned by Yemeni stakeholders, additional capacity training in the field of spatial analysis and shock response, targeted towards the MPI-poor and left behind, can be provided.

(f) Data and statistics capacity-building: to guarantee an evidence-based planning process, it is vital to strengthen the capacity of central and local administrative systems to collect, analyse and report data that are disaggregated by age, gender, displacement status and other socioeconomic conditions, and to follow

international standards on several social, economic and environmental dimensions to achieve a sustainable and durable recovery.

(g) Women, young people and other vulnerable groups: inclusion of women, young people, people with disabilities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is essential for a sustainable recovery. Mainstreaming the role of marginalized groups in recovery and identifying their needs is important to guarantee an efficient recovery process, cut recovery time, and strengthen the resilience of society to prevent relapse into conflict. The rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities in society and the labour market is essential for a sustainable recovery process. Durable solutions do not necessarily mean returning IDPs to previous areas of residence, but rather meeting other targets identified in the recovery vision, which will be informed by the SDGs and leaving-no-one-behind strategies that will underpin a framework for inclusive recovery. Furthermore, ensuring that social justice principles and concepts are integrated in the development and implementation of socioeconomic policies and programmes is key to the peacebuilding and State-building process in Yemen. ESCWA will build the capacity of Yemeni policymakers to identify and address social justice gaps in current policies, and support them in devising and applying innovative policy solutions at the national and local levels.

(h) Implementing the national action plan on women, peace and security in Yemen: the country has adopted its first national action plan on Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). However, the plan includes many gaps and implementation challenges, and is undergoing revision. ESCWA will ensure that priorities and interventions in that plan align with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, so as to support the active participation of women in relief, reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts.

(i) Natural resource management: given the nature of the economic grievances that led to the ongoing conflict, it is essential for public institutions to focus on natural resource management when planning for recovery, so as to guarantee a sustainable recovery and prevent relapse into conflict. This is of significant importance to rural areas' economic development and to the sustainable and effective development of the energy and agricultural sectors, including crop production, livestock and pastoralists activities, and fisheries. Disputes and conflict over natural resources are critical factors impeding sustainable development, and include various social, economic, political, institutional and environmental aspects. Establishing community dialogue on resource management is key to a sustainable recovery.

#### **IV. Partnerships**

32. The recovery vision's goals will be interlinked with outcomes of other guiding frameworks, in particular the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the economic framework developed by the Resident Coordinator's Office in Yemen. The project will draw upon existing assessments of the impact of conflict including, those of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, [ODI](#) and the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies. The process leading to the vision will be facilitated by ESCWA, in close partnership with other United Nations entities and international stakeholders, and in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, to align efforts related to the economic track. Leading development actors will be invited to participate as observers in the socioeconomic dialogue, and share insights with Yemeni participants.

33. ESCWA is part of CDG, which facilitates and coordinates the capacity-building efforts of several international development actors working in Yemen. Capacity-development activities provided to Yemeni institutions will be coordinated with other CDG members to guarantee efficient support to Yemeni institutions that focuses on stabilization and recovery. It is vital to strengthen collaboration and information exchange between leading actors to increase institutional readiness for recovery.

34. ESCWA will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Arab Coordination Group, which serves as a coordination body between several Arab development funds, each with its specificities but all with the common goal of helping developing countries achieve their economic and social development objectives. At the

meeting, which will be held in the first quarter of 2023, upcoming ESCWA work with Yemen will be presented to explore collaboration possibilities between ESCWA and the Arab Coordination Group.

35. Collaboration between stakeholders in Yemen, such as the United Nations system, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, trust funds, Yemeni experts, civil society organizations, and local development actors, is essential to build sustainable peace, help Yemen graduate from the LDC category, and pave its path towards sustainable development.

## **V. Conclusion**

36. The process of providing support to Yemen, facilitated by ESCWA, draws on expert consultations, trainings and national dialogues to build consensus on recovery priorities, and increase institutional capacity to implement recovery actions. It provides an example of ESCWA engagement with the Arab LDCs, focused on supporting them in formulating and executing coherent economic and development policies and strategies; and emphasizes the importance of enhancing good governance to tackle the numerous development challenges that they face.

37. The ultimate goal of ESCWA is to assist Yemen and other member States to graduate from the LDC category. Supporting Yemen and preventing its relapse into conflict can be achieved by fostering an inclusive and sustainable recovery through strengthened public institutions. Formulating a Yemeni-owned vision for recovery and development will guarantee that national and international development actors are better able to plan recovery and reconstruction efforts. Moreover, building institutional capacity will help Yemeni institutions and civil servants be better prepared to implement recovery actions in the recovery phase.

38. ESCWA proposes to mobilize international and regional solidarity to help the Arab LDCs. Technical and financial assistance is critical to support ESCWA efforts to close the human development gap in the region by enhancing good governance and building inclusive institutions that are capable of tackling development challenges, to establish and maintain peace, and to break the cycle of de-development and conflict in the region.

-----