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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

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Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

**MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007**

**Summary**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has reviewed some of the planned outputs in the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 and proposes certain modifications aimed at realigning the programme in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its 60th session and the review of mandates requested by the States Members of the United Nations.

Additionally, the proposed modifications incorporate the recommendations of the review of the clusters of United Nations entities in the economic and social sphere in order to increase synergies through synchronization and coherence of outputs, and to avoid possible duplication. The information set forth in this report is presented in a table format to facilitate the review of the proposed changes.

The Commission is invited to review and approve the proposed changes.

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<b>Subprogramme 1. Integrated Policies for the Management of Regional Resources for Sustainable Development</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert groups</i>					
Expert group meeting on harnessing technology for enhanced small and medium-sized enterprise profitability and innovative abilities			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title:</u> Harnessing Technology for Enhanced Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Productivity and Competitiveness.
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Follow-up on the activities of the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development	1				<b>Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> and re-instated as a seminar for programmatic purposes.
<i>Group training (seminars, workshops, symposiums)</i>					
Seminar on the Follow-up of the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development		1			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 268 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and to recommendation 4(b) of the fifth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 11-12 October 2004).
<i>Field (country, regional, interregional) projects</i>					
Cooperation programme on energy efficiency for the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (KAHRAMAA)		1			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 268 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and to recommendation 4(b) of the fifth session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 11-12 October 2004).
Regional initiative on the use of technologies for poverty alleviation		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).
<b>Total for subprogramme 1:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Subprogramme 2. Integrated Social Policies</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert groups</i>					
Model for Integrating Demographic Changes in the Development Process in the Arab Region		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
Expert group meeting on models for integrating population variables in economic development			1		<b>Reformulated by legislation</b> pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004 on international migration and development. <u>New title:</u> International Migration in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities.

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Population and development report, Third issue: Regional estimates and projections			1		<b>Reformulated by legislation</b> pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004 on international migration and development. <u>New title:</u> "Population and development report, Third issue: International migration in the ESCWA region".
<i>Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.)</i>					
National reports on social policies		7			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 259 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on social policies.
Community development approach as a tool for formulating social policies at the micro level		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<i>Group training (seminars, workshops, symposiums)</i>					
Regional Workshop on Methods of Demographic Analysis		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
<i>Field (country, regional, interregional) projects</i>					
Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the ESCWA Trust Fund.
Enhancing the institutional capacities of policymakers to formulate integrated social policies		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> in implementation of ESCWA resolution 259 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on social policies.
Capacity-building of human resources in local community development - Phase II		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds to be provided by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).
Technical cooperation in the field of community development in Lebanon		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by two Lebanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs), namely: Safadi Foundation, and Azm and Saade Association.
<b>Total for subprogramme 2:</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>		

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<b>Subprogramme 3. Economic Analysis and Forecasting for Regional Development</b>					
<i>Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.)</i>					
Conceptual framework on development under conditions of conflict and Instability in Western Asia		1			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 260 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions.
Monitoring and analysis of political, social and economic developments in countries affected by conflict		4			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 260 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions.
Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA homepage on development in countries affected by conflict and crisis		2			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2005/12 of 22 July 2005 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States.
<b>Total for subprogramme 3:</b>		<b>7</b>			
<b>Subprogramme 4. Regional Integration and Responding to Globalization</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert groups</i>					
Transport facilitation for regional integration			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons. <u>New title:</u> Towards the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq, which highlights the roles of Governments and the private sector in activating shipping traffic and the application of information and communication technology in the seaports of ESCWA member countries.
Progress made on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in member States			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons. <u>New Title:</u> The Role of Capital Markets in the Economic Development of the ESCWA Member Countries.
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Annual review of developments in globalization and regional integration in the countries of the ESCWA region			2		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons to reflect increased coverage of the publication to include all Arab countries. <u>New title:</u> "Annual review of developments in globalization and regional integration in Arab countries".
<b>Total for subprogramme 4:</b>			<b>4</b>		

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<b>Subprogramme 5. Information and Communication Technology for Regional Integration</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert groups</i>					
Expert group meeting on the formulation and implementation of information and communication technology national plans of action			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> to take into consideration commitment No. 29 of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and to promote interest for open source software in building the information society, especially in developing countries. <u>New title:</u> Open Software Solutions for the Public Sector in the ESCWA Region.
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Review of information and communication technologies and development			2		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons to increase the frequency of issuance from annual to semi-annual with electronic dissemination in order to enhance communication with member countries and to provide them with frequent updates on the ICT sector.
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Promoting information and communication technology venture capital and entrepreneurship in the region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons. <u>New title:</u> "Information and communication technology financing, venture capital and entrepreneurship in the ESCWA region".
Needs for building national and regional knowledge-based economies	1				<b>Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic reasons. This subject will be incorporated in the publication, entitled "Regional profile for the information society".
<i>Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.)</i>					
Profile of information and communication technology and the information society in ESCWA member countries		12	1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the addition of 12 regional profiles. National profiles will be used to monitor the national progress in achieving WSIS recommendations and will provide an input to the "Regional profile for the information society".
Development and maintenance of a web-based platform for measuring the information society	2				<b>Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes and amalgamated with the programmed activity, entitled "Development and maintenance of a portal for information and communication technology partnerships and networks" (see below).

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Development and maintenance of a portal for information and communication technology partnerships and networks			2		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes to facilitate access and efficient use to an information society portal with integrated modules. <b>New title:</b> "Development and maintenance of an information society portal with integrated platform for partnerships and networks and for measuring ICT for development".
<b>Total for subprogramme 5:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>Subprogramme 6.</b>					
<b>Comparable Statistics for Improved Planning and Decision-Making</b>					
<i>Intergovernmental meetings</i>					
Meeting of the Statistical Committee Bureau		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Compendium of environmental statistics in the ESCWA region		1			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to ESCWA resolution 268 (XXIII) of 12 May 2005 on the adoption of the final reports of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and to recommendation 3(m) of the Statistical Committee on its sixth session (Beirut, 6-8 October 2004).
<i>Advisory services</i>					
Symposium on Statistics for Development Dialogue between Users and Producers		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes in response to a request from the Planning Council of Qatar. ESCWA will provide advice and act as a resource agent.
<i>Field (country, regional, interregional) projects</i>					
Preparations for the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme in Western Asia		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by Oman.
Building Capacity and Statistical Literacy for Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Monitoring at the Country Level		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> with the availability of extrabudgetary funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
<b>Total for subprogramme 6:</b>		<b>5</b>			

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<b>Subprogramme 7. Advancement and empowerment of women</b>					
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Regional shadow report of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> to focus on CEDAW given that other agencies have produced shadow reports of NGOs on the implementation of Beijing +10. <u>New Title:</u> "Regional shadow report of NGOs on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women".
<i>Technical material for outside users (databases, software, etc.)</i>					
Database on gender activities in the United Nations system		1			<b>Added by legislation</b> pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/168 of 20 December 2004 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.
Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in selected Arab countries: summaries of concluding observations		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<b>Total for subprogramme 7:</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>TOTAL FOR ESCWA:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	

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