

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

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MANAGEMENT ISSUES**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011****Summary**

In introducing the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General indicated that he would continue the process of strengthening the Organization through the preparation of its programme plan (proposed strategic framework) and budget proposals (proposed programme budget) for 2010-2011.

Since the programme of the United Nations should be demand-driven by the Member States and should be jointly developed by the Member States and the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other departments are required to conduct intergovernmental reviews of their respective parts of the strategic framework for 2010-2011 proposed by the Secretary-General, prior to consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session, which will be held in New York from 9 June to 3 July 2008.

The document presents the revised draft strategic framework for 2010-2011, pertaining to Programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia. In January 2008, the draft strategic framework for 2010-2011 was submitted to the Technical Committee, whose membership comprises senior officials from member countries and which is mandated by the Commission to follow up implementation of programme activities and support ESCWA in achieving its aims. Recognizing the multidisciplinary nature of the ESCWA programme, the Technical Committee decided that member countries should provide the secretariat with consolidated comments after consultation with the relevant line ministries in the capital. The revised draft strategic framework, before the Commission, takes into account the comments provided by six member countries by 8 March 2008, the recommendation of the Committee on Transport, which had the opportunity to review the part of the draft strategic framework pertaining to its work, and the advice from United Nations Headquarters.

The Commission is invited to exchange views on the overall programme orientation and programme focus areas and strategies contained therein, taking into account the specific mandates of the Commission and the general mandates of the General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council; make concrete recommendations for further improvement, as necessary; and endorse the revised draft strategic framework for 2010-2011.

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Introduction

1. In introducing the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General indicated that he would continue the process of strengthening the Organization through the preparation of its programme plan (proposed strategic framework) and budget proposals (proposed programme budget) for 2010-2011.

2. Since the programme of the United Nations should be demand-driven by the Member States and should be jointly developed by the Member States and the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other departments are required to conduct intergovernmental reviews of their respective parts of the proposed strategic framework for 2010-2011, prior to consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its forty-eighth session, which will be held in New York from 9 June to 3 July 2008.

3. The strategic framework of ESCWA for 2010-2011 will be developed in accordance with the following four stages, set by the General Assembly:

Stage 1: Development of a draft strategic framework by the ESCWA secretariat, based on the relevant global and regional mandates (time frame: October to December 2007);

Stage 2: Refinement of the draft strategic framework by the ESCWA member countries through the first meeting of the Technical Committee and the twenty-fifth session of the Commission (time frame: January to May 2008);

Stage 3: Consolidation of the proposed strategic framework of all programmes of the United Nations by United Nations Headquarters (time frame: February to early April 2008);

Stage 4: Global intergovernmental reviews by CPC, the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (time frame: June to December 2008).

4. In October 2007, the ESCWA secretariat embarked on the preparation of the draft strategic framework for 2010-2011, based on the following methodology: (a) desk review of the recent mandates and recommendations by the Commission and intergovernmental committees and the recent global mandates in the economic and social development fields; (b) desk review of the programme achievements of ESCWA in the past two bienniums, namely, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007; (c) regional situation analyses through ESCWA studies; (d) informal consultations with line ministries and Government offices through member country visits and contacts during ESCWA-organized activities; and (e) consultations with other regional commissions and United Nations entities which are members of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA).

5. The Technical Committee,¹ whose membership comprises senior officials from member countries and which is mandated by the Commission to follow up implementation of programme activities and support ESCWA in achieving its aims, held its first meeting in Beirut on 16 and 17 January 2008 and carried out the review of the draft strategic framework of Programme 18 on economic and social development in Western Asia for the biennium 2010-2011. Recognizing the multidisciplinary nature of the ESCWA programme, the Technical Committee decided that all member countries should consult with the relevant line ministries in the capital and should submit their consolidated comments in writing to the secretariat by 1 March 2008.

6. By 8 March 2008, the secretariat received written responses from Egypt, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Committee on Transport, at its ninth session (Beirut, 26-28 February 2008), reviewed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011, pertaining to its work

¹ Established by the Commission at its twenty-fourth session. See paragraph 49 of the Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the twenty-fourth session (E/ESCWA/24/10).

under subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration. The secretariat also received advice from United Nations Headquarters on the introduction of minor changes to the draft strategic framework for 2010-2011, highlighting of the latest global development challenges and harmonization of approaches with other regional commissions. The revised draft strategic framework for 2010-2011, before the Commission, takes into account the comments provided by six member countries, the recommendation of the Committee on Transport and the advice from the United Nations Headquarters. The Commission's attention is drawn to the fact that one of the responding countries made a proposal to establish a fund to support research programmes related to water and water preservation, which could be financed from a pre-determined percentage of oil revenues from oil-producing countries in the region.

7. The Commission is invited to exchange views on the overall programme orientation and programme focus areas and strategies contained therein, taking into account the specific mandates of the Commission and the general mandates of the General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council; make concrete recommendations for further improvement, as necessary; and endorse the revised draft strategic framework for 2010-2011. The decisions of the Commission will be immediately communicated by the Chairperson of the present session of the Commission to the Chairperson of the forty-eighth session of the CPC.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011

A. PROGRAMME ORIENTATION

8. The overall orientation of Programme 18 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region, and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of ESCWA and with other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for implementation of the programme.²

9. Policy direction for the programme is provided in the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, establishing ESCWA and amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission.³ Further direction is provided in Commission resolution 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, in which ESCWA was requested to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports, in addition to increasing coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and, through its lead role in the Regional Coordination Group, fostering partnerships and cooperation with those organizations.

10. Acting in their dual role as regional arms of the United Nations and parts of their respective regional institutional landscape, ESCWA and the four other regional commissions will continue to pursue their common key objectives, namely, to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels; to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs; and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps in their member countries and subregions. In order to achieve those objectives, the regional commissions, through their convening power, will continue to generate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking at the regional level, and will work together to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation, both between themselves and through collaboration with other subregional and regional organizations.

11. The region has made progress in the social field, notably in the education and health sectors. Some countries in the region made efforts to develop mechanisms that will enhance the investment of surplus capital savings resulting from high energy prices and accelerate economic growth and social development. Political instability and lack of adequate reform continue to influence economic performance in the countries of the region. Good governance is another area that requires urgent attention in order to ensure transparent and inclusive policymaking and implementation mechanisms for the effective delivery of public goods and services. Against that backdrop, the region remains in the grip of a widening gap in income and wealth distribution within, as well as between, countries.

12. Furthermore, it is envisaged that global climate change will adversely impact on the economic and social development of the region, especially when water and agricultural land become less available to fulfil the fundamental needs of its population. The poor and other vulnerable groups, including women and youth without employment, are expected to suffer most from adverse weather changes, particularly in conflict-stricken areas, further aggravating the instability of the region. In December 2007, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change which constitutes the basis for future actions and reflects their position in dealing with climate change issues. While emphasizing that developed countries should fulfil their commitment to support developing countries, including Arab countries, in meeting climate change challenges, the Declaration affirms the commitment of the CAMRE ministers to, inter alia, include policies dealing with climate change issues in all sectors of national and regional policies for sustainable development in a manner that harmonizes with sustained economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty, and to adopt national and regional action plans dealing with climate change.

² As reformulated by CPC at its forty-sixth session.

³ As reformulated by CPC at its forty-sixth session.

13. It is, therefore, essential for the region to enhance its collective efforts to address those critical issues through ESCWA-promoted regional integration initiatives. In order to accelerate regional economic integration, it is a fundamental necessity to promote intraregional trade and investment, integrate transport and communications infrastructure, harmonize trade and transport facilitation and coordinate strategies and plans for the development of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector within the global framework of the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which were adopted at Phases I and II of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, respectively. Integrated social policies that balance economic development and social needs should also be pursued with insight and vigour.

14. The need to enhance statistical institutional capacity continues to be essential if countries in the region are to produce timely, reliable, comparable and increased gender-sensitive statistics for policy and programme formulation, and for monitoring the progress made towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA and the programme will advocate gender equality and the advancement of women, paying due attention to regional specificities and values. It will provide full support to member countries in their participation in the Beijing+15 review in 2010 and follow up on its outcomes. Throughout the programme, priority will be given to least developed and conflict-stricken countries.

15. In the biennium 2010-2011, ESCWA will pursue the programme objective by promoting economic and social integration at both the subregional and regional levels, and fostering solidarity in the international political arena and global economy. Such regional integration will be scaled up to cover the Arab region through strategic partnerships with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Office for North Africa and with such regional and subregional organizations as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes which focus on four regional priority areas and three cross-cutting issues, which are set forth below:

(a) Stimulating sustainable management of water, energy and other natural resources, with due consideration for climate change;

(b) Promoting integrated social policies;

(c) Stimulating sustainable economic development based on higher productivity and competitiveness and through regional integration and cooperation in a globalizing world;

(d) Accelerating the development, adaptation, diffusion and use of advanced technology;

(e) Enhancing statistical capacity development;

(f) Promoting gender mainstreaming, the advancement of women and their effective participation and involvement;

(g) Giving special consideration to people living in conflict-stricken countries.

16. ESCWA will carry out analytical and normative work, building on its accumulated knowledge and multidisciplinary expertise, which will be supported by the provision of technical cooperation. It will also facilitate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking on the outcome of the work of the Commission on national, regional and global development issues, taking due consideration of the outcomes of the global meeting on South-South cooperation to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. In pursuance with the United Nations global priority, gender mainstreaming will be promoted throughout the programme and within the Commission, and lessons learned from evaluation will serve as the basis for further improvement in the light of the United Nations commitment to promote evaluation in order to enhance learning and accountability.

17. It is expected that regional support provided by ESCWA will contribute towards the following:

(a) Increased national capacity to formulate and implement pro-poor, inclusive economic and social policies and programmes, and to tackle transboundary issues;

(b) Improved provision of joint responses to multifaceted problems encountered by the countries of the region through the coordinated efforts and consolidated resources of United Nations entities;

(c) Enhanced work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions in the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

(d) Increased knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation between the countries of the region and with countries in other regions, thereby promoting regional and interregional cooperation.

18. Consultations at the level of thematic clusters have taken place between concerned ECESA entities and are expected to lead to better coordination and more collaborative work in the economic and social sectors between programmes in major common work areas of the United Nations Secretariat. At the regional level, ESCWA will lead the Regional Coordination Group in identifying priority areas where the concerned United Nations entities could provide collective support for development interventions in the ESCWA region, as well as in the broader context of the Arab region.

B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE SEVEN SUBPROGRAMMES

Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Logical framework

Objective: To achieve integrated sustainable management of natural resources in the ESCWA region, with particular emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors and due consideration to the relevant climate change issues

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate, adopt and implement policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on fulfilling MDGs and addressing climate change challenges	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of policies and measures adopted and/or implemented by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to improve the sustainable management of natural resources for achieving MDGs, particularly Goals 1 and 7
		(ii)	Increase in the number of policies and measures developed, adopted and/or implemented by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to improve the integrated sustainable management of natural resources, including climate change mitigation and adaptation
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply best practices and methods for improving sustainable agriculture and rural development, and increasing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) using appropriate and affordable environmentally sound technology	(b) (i)	Increase in the number of new/existing institutions applying best practices and methods, with ESCWA assistance, to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
		(ii)	Increase in the number of measures taken by SMEs, with ESCWA assistance, to enhance their competitiveness using appropriate and affordable environmentally sound technology
(c)	Strengthened South-South cooperation in the integrated management of natural resources, with a focus on challenges related to water, energy and climate change	(c)	Increase in the number of responses to and/or initiatives by member countries concerning participation in ESCWA-promoted South-South cooperation in respect of challenges related to water, energy and climate change

External factors

19. The subprogramme is expected to achieve the above accomplishments provided (a) member countries are willing to adopt and apply sustainable development policies advocated by world summits and by global and regional conferences; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding; and (c) political stability is improved, thereby allowing for a more cooperative environment in member countries in the region and more effective technical cooperation.

Strategy

20. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The capacity to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner in the region needs to be developed, in particular, energy, water and land resources, which are being increasingly affected by climate change. This necessitates enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of production and consumption patterns in the water, energy and production sectors, particularly with respect to the use of fossil fuels and associated greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of the scarce water resources, which adversely affects their quality. Furthermore, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of production and consumption patterns in the water, energy and production sectors would also contribute to redressing land, degradation and desertification symptoms. Inadequate energy and water supplies and sanitation services in rural, remote and poor urban areas, and limited use of sustainable environmental technologies adversely affect opportunities for employment creation and income generation.

21. The subprogramme will concentrate on facilitating the formulation, adoption and implementation of integrated sustainable development strategies and policies in the light of the relevant global mandates arising from the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the attainment of MDGs, particularly Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability, in addition to the outcome of the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

22. The subprogramme will continue to (a) advocate and promote sustainable production and consumption patterns of energy and water resources, including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by a wider section of the region's population, especially disadvantaged groups; (b) serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means of enhancing synergy between the countries of the region in sustainable development priority issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation; (c) facilitate cooperation between member countries in the management of shared water resources and development of energy networks; (d) increase awareness of the possible impact of climate change on water resources and potential natural disasters and the precautionary measures required; (e) support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the fields of integrated management of water resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy (solar, wind and biomass) applications, cleaner fossil fuels, sustainable agriculture and rural development; and (f) facilitate regional coordination and preparation for the implementation of regional

and global commitments on sustainable development, in particular on the thematic clusters to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

23. The subprogramme will also support SMEs, in order to enable them to take advantage of opportunities presented by the provision and use of appropriate and affordable environmentally sound technologies to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in a sustainable manner. That will be achieved by undertaking quality research and analytical work; disseminating best practices; building capacity and rendering advisory services on priority sustainable development issues; promoting South-South cooperation through partnerships with other regional commissions and organizations, in particular the League of Arab States, GCC, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and strengthening ESCWA regional mechanisms for coordination on energy and water as regional forums for advancing such sustainable development issues as those identified by the respective interagency mechanisms UN-Water and UN-Energy and by the UNEP Environmental Management Group.

Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies

Logical framework

Objective: To strengthen a vision of social policy that is based on social equity and equal opportunity for all, taking into consideration regional specificities and cultural sensitivities

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Enhanced capacity of national Governments to integrate social equity priorities and perspectives in public policies	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of exploratory and follow-up measures pursued by Governments, with ESCWA assistance, indicating increased understanding of social policy options and implications
		(ii)	Increase in the number of social policy mechanisms and instruments adopted by Governments, with ESCWA assistance
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to address the implications of demographic changes with particular emphasis on the youth bulge, migration and good urban governance for national policymaking processes and adopt relevant policies	(b) (i)	Increase in the number of follow-up measures taken up by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, indicating increased understanding of the socio-demographic implications of the youth bulge for migration and development
		(ii)	Increase in the number of measures and policy provisions adopted by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to integrate demographic changes with particular emphasis on the youth bulge and migration in development plans and programmes
		(iii)	Increase in the number of urban governance initiatives undertaken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, in order to address secure housing for poor persons

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(c)	Enhanced participation of civil society in social policy dialogue and the formulation of Government social policy	(c) (i)	Increase in the number of consultative processes, networks and agreements on shared social policy agendas forged with ESCWA assistance
		(ii)	Increase in the number of instances in which, with ESCWA assistance, civil society institutions, including the media, advocate social issues and participate in social policy processes

External factors

24. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) member countries remain committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals and continue to support activities that promote an integrated social policy approach; (b) there is political will to engage in social policy dialogue and strengthen partnership with national and regional social policy stakeholders; (c) Governments of the region commit to seeking harmony and balance between economic priorities and social outcomes; (d) extrabudgetary financial resources are commensurate with planned activities; and (e) there is a minimum of political stability and a secure working environment.

Strategy

25. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. Experiences around the world have so far proved that a “growth-first philosophy” did not necessarily deliver socially stable societies or achieve equitable, gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly development dividends. On the contrary, countries that have achieved higher social development dividends and sustained equitable social well-being for all ultimately achieved those targets by ensuring synergy between economic and social objectives, adopting an integrated social policy framework that incorporates a policy vision and equal access to basic social and economic services, and establishing mechanisms for consensus building between public offices and interest groups.

26. The aforementioned three-tier structure can be best captured at the following levels: (a) the vision and public policymaking level, which usually rests with the duty bearers or Governments and institutions that hold public office and are responsible for formulating, implementing and monitoring public policies, including social policy; (b) the management and coordination level of social services, provided either directly through Government departments, or indirectly through institutions of civil society at the central and subnational level, prompting a stronger role for civil society institutions in monitoring the impact of public and social policies on different interest groups and society; and (c) from a programme and advocacy perspective, undertaking an evidence-based social policy analysis, advancing knowledge and documenting the demographic, social and economic conditions and trends of groups of interest or issues of relevance to equitable and sustainable social development.

27. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained during several earlier bienniums, and continue to advocate equity and social justice as guiding principles for public policymaking in member countries and civil society organizations in the region. During the biennium 2010-2011, specific attention will be paid to promoting and implementing an integrated social policy approach and devising measures that mainstream issues of the youth bulge, the disadvantaged and other vulnerable groups in public policymaking processes, in addition to focusing on population mobility and good urban governance, while recognizing the role of social safety nets in maintaining social and political stability.

28. Having documented and disseminated knowledge about social policy tools and institutional mechanisms, the subprogramme will seek to build the capacity of member countries to adopt and institutionalize social policy in their public policymaking, including the finding of mechanisms to finance social development. The subprogramme will also continue to assist member countries in the implementation of internationally agreed plans of actions and recommendations, including MDGs.

29. In order to achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will involve meetings, normative field analysis and technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, capacity development workshops and field projects. Social policy mechanisms in selected member countries will be tested and findings disseminated through publications, meetings and available information technology. Partnerships will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and civil society groups.

Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

Logical framework

Objective: To attain sustainable economic development for reducing poverty through regional integration in a globalizing world

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Increased knowledge among stakeholders in the region of the issues that should be taken into account in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation in line with MDGs	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of stakeholders in the region acknowledging that they benefited from ESCWA analytical services and outputs in the area of macroeconomic policies and development strategies
		(ii)	Increase in the number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, to promote and implement macroeconomic policy and development strategies based on ESCWA analytical work
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and/or implement policies and measures recommended by the Monterrey Consensus, taking into consideration the outcomes of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha in 2008	(b)	Increase in the number of policies and/or measures adopted by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to implement the Monterrey Consensus, taking into consideration the outcomes of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development
(c)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to implement the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) and other measures promoted by ESCWA in order to improve regional and international transport linkages, with due consideration given to environmental issues	(c) (i)	Increase in the number of policy measures and actions taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to implement the ITSAM agreements and the National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees (NTTFC)
		(ii)	Increase in the number of measures taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to promote road safety and environmentally friendly and sustainable transport systems
(d)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase intraregional and international trade	(d) (i)	Increase in the number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, to participate in the Single Window Initiative based on ESCWA analytical work

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
		(ii)	Increase in the number of instances where member countries acceded to, negotiated and/or implemented trade agreements with ESCWA assistance upon the request of member countries.

External factors

30. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) member countries are willing to increase their subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding; (c) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; and (d) up-to-date and reliable economic statistics, including transport statistics, are made available.

Strategy

31. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The region as a whole shares several economic problems, including rising inflation, high unemployment rates, underdeveloped financial sectors and inadequate and unsafe transport systems that contribute to global warming. Furthermore, participation in the multilateral trading system and interregional and intraregional Arab trade remains below potential, and political instability could derail the region's aspirations to sustainable economic prosperity.

32. In order to achieve the expected accomplishments at the macroeconomic level, the subprogramme will engage in the following: (a) a continuous assessment of the region's macroeconomic performance for timely identification and analysis of socially inclusive macroeconomic policy issues, including, but not limited to, diversification of production and knowledge-based economies; and (b) economic policy formulation and use of modelling forecasting and other quantitative approaches to formulate evidence-based policies and strategies to make progress towards MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

33. The subprogramme will also assist member countries in analysing and evaluating global and regional financial development and propose regional strategies and coordinated responses. Emphasis will be placed on the development of strategic partnerships with financial institutions and development funds in order to promote the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha in 2008. The subprogramme will also undertake normative and analytical studies on the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows within, as well as into, the region, and assess the barriers hindering FDI inflows into the region. Consequently, appropriate action to increase FDI flows in the region will be proposed.

34. Work will continue on the development of ITSAM, including the implementation and monitoring of international road, rail and maritime agreements and international treaties and the trade and transport facilitation mechanisms and recommendations promoted therein. The subprogramme will work closely with the League of Arab States for the development and implementation of a regional multimodal transport agreement for the Arab region in anticipation of the finalization of the draft convention on contracts for the international carriage of goods wholly or partly by sea (UNCITRAL draft convention).

35. The subprogramme will continue to work to enhance interregional and intraregional trade, in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), with special emphasis on South-South cooperation, the elimination of non-tariff barriers and the introduction of trade facilitation measures, particularly through the application of ICT and the Single Window Initiative, which aims to accelerate and simplify information flows between traders and Governments in order to bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. ESCWA will also promote a more coherent approach that could result in a coordinated implementation of the Aid for Trade initiative.

36. The analytical output of the subprogramme will be utilized in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on policies and strategies pertaining to macroeconomic development issues, financing for development, promotion of trade and facilitation of transport in the region. Those aims will be achieved through organizing effective expert group meetings, workshops, training seminars and policy advisory services. Increased interaction with global and regional stakeholders and governmental and non-governmental bodies, including GCC and the League of Arab States, will be sought in order to promote regional cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology for regional integration

Logical framework

Objective: To narrow the digital divide and build an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society in the ESCWA region in accordance with the outcomes of the WSIS and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including MDGs

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Perceptible improvements in the ICT production and services sector of the region, substantiated by the implementation of ICT strategies and ICT action plans	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of member countries formulating and/or implementing ICT strategies and action plans that are related to the development of the ICT production and services sector, with ESCWA assistance
		(ii)	Increase in the number of regional partnerships, projects and initiatives aimed at creating ICT applications, improving ICT services and developing digital Arabic content, with ESCWA assistance
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to measure and benchmark their progress towards the realization of the information society and realign policies and strategies accordingly, giving due consideration to gender dimensions	(b) (i)	Increase in the number of member countries collecting data and producing reliable and gender-sensitive statistics and indicators on the information society in accordance with international standards and relevant models, with ESCWA assistance
		(ii)	Increase in the number of member countries analysing data with a view to drafting new or reformulating existing ICT policies, strategies and action plans, with ESCWA assistance

External factors

37. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) extrabudgetary resources for its operational activities are made available to the Commission in a timely manner; and (b) political stability is sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment between member countries in the region and enable the effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Strategy

38. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Information and Communication Technology Division. The digital divide remains an impediment to development in the ESCWA region. At the internal level, the divide exists between the countries of GCC and other member countries, on the one hand, and between urban and rural areas, on the other hand; and externally, between the region and other

regions of the world. Currently, most ICT indicators for the region as a whole are lower than world average. At the same time, the region has development potential, particularly in terms of the common language and cultural heritage, that must be harnessed in order to build the information society. Greater efforts must be exerted in order to increase literacy and education levels and tap human resources and talent, especially among women and the growing youth population. With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, in harmonization with the Arab ICT Strategy of the League of Arab States, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action in order to build an inclusive, people-centred information society that is based on productive national ICT sectors.

39. The subprogramme will carry out analytical studies, convene meetings and provide advisory services to support that endeavour, act as a catalyst for changes in policymaking in member countries, and develop a more comprehensive set of ICT measurements and indicators that will help strategic decision-making to identify priority areas of policy action. It will also assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress, evaluate impacts and benchmark national development with other countries based on international indices, with a view to improving the productivity and competitiveness of the ICT sector in the region.

40. In order to enhance national capacity, with special focus on human resources development in the ICT sector, and take advantage of the digital opportunities pertaining to socio-economic development in the region, pilot field projects will be implemented in selected ESCWA member countries. In order to build a people-centred information society, field projects will incorporate a social dimension through the active involvement of local communities, with a focus on youth employment and the empowerment of women.

41. The subprogramme will also place special emphasis on promoting an enabling environment and harnessing the development of ICT thematic applications, including e-government and digital Arabic content, with the aim of building on ICT as an agent of change to empower citizens and improve the quality of life.

42. Building on the accomplishments of the previous biennium in activating partnerships for implementing ICT projects, the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and partnerships in activities that can lead to an inclusive, people-centred information society and will contribute to efforts aimed at harnessing science and technology, particularly ICT, for socio-economic development. To that end, it will promote the establishment of mechanisms aimed at exchanging information and sharing knowledge among regional players and with counterparts outside the region. The subprogramme will also seek close coordination and joint efforts with other ESCWA subprogrammes and with international and regional organizations in order to achieve more effective results.

Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Logical framework

Objective: To improve the production and dissemination of quality socio-economic statistics and indicators, including MDG indicators and gender-disaggregated data, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i)	Increase, with ESCWA assistance, in the number of good practices of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics followed by the national statistical offices of conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
		(ii)	Increase, with ESCWA assistance, in the number of national statistical offices following good dissemination practices in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
(b)	Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, reliable and comparable economic and social statistics and indicators, including MDG indicators and gender-disaggregated data, in compliance with international standards and recommendations	(b) (i)	Increase in the percentage of core statistics and indicators that are disseminated by member countries
		(ii)	Increase, with ESCWA assistance, in the number of new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations implemented by national statistical offices
		(iii)	Increase in the percentage of statistical experts who apply the knowledge and skills gained through ESCWA training at the national level

External factors

43. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) member countries are willing to produce and disseminate their statistical data; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (c) there is minimum political stability and a secure working environment, with political stability being sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment in member countries in the region and enable the effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Strategy

44. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a need to improve the production and dissemination of statistics in the region, bring the national statistical systems in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and develop methodologies for improving data comparability at the regional level in social, economic and cross-cutting issues. Addressing those challenges will strengthen the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking, monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policy and following-up on international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Istanbul Declaration on Measuring the Progress of Societies.

45. During the biennium, the subprogramme aims to focus on two key areas, namely, (a) adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; and (b) capacity-building of national statistical offices to produce, analyse and disseminate quality statistics and indicators to monitor economic and social development, including the MDG indicators.

46. In respect of the first area, the subprogramme will advocate the importance of full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and build the capacity of national statistical offices to implement them, especially those which address the following issues: (a) the importance of the impartiality of official statistics and their availability to the public; (b) the use of appropriate methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; and (c) the presentation of information on sources and methods according to internationally agreed standards. The subprogramme will facilitate opportunities for conflict-stricken countries and those which are less statistically developed to learn from good practices identified at the international level and in other member countries in the region through South-South cooperation.

47. In respect of the second area, the subprogramme will continue upgrading the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices in increasing the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic

statistics, and in adopting new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The subprogramme will contribute to the production of accurate, relevant and timely trade in goods and services statistics and sectoral statistics, and the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and its revision, with a special focus on the informal sector and the system of quarterly national accounts. The subprogramme will also pursue the development of gender-disaggregated data in follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and provide technical support to ensure the effective participation of member countries in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. Furthermore, it will initiate the development of climate change indicators for the region and the identification of regional approaches to measure societal progress that complement the traditional MDG monitoring framework.

48. In order to achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will carry out analytical work, provide regional forums to facilitate knowledge-sharing and implement technical cooperation activities, including field projects, training workshops and advisory services on priority issues.

49. The subprogramme will pursue its objectives in accordance with the United Nations Principles Governing International Statistical Activities and will implement its work in partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other regional commissions, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and such regional organizations as the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, GCC and the League of Arab States, with a view to harmonizing and coordinating statistics in the region in accordance with international standards and recommendations.

Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women

Logical framework

Objective: To reduce gender imbalances and empower women in the ESCWA region in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs, while paying due attention to regional specificities

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Enhanced capacity of national mechanisms, especially those in conflict-stricken countries, to be effective agents for mainstreaming gender into national policies, plans and programmes	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of effective measures taken by national mechanisms, with ESCWA assistance, to promote the mainstreaming of gender into national policies, plans and programmes
		(ii)	Increase in the number of incidents where national mechanisms applied ESCWA-developed guidelines on the protection of the rights of women living in conflict-stricken areas
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to implement and monitor the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	(b) (i)	Increase in the number of voluntary measures taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance provided in response to their request, to review and adjust laws in conformity with CEDAW
		(ii)	Increase, with ESCWA assistance, in the number of national and local media interventions to promote the need to review and adjust laws in conformity with CEDAW

External factors

50. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) member countries provide timely responses to requests from ESCWA for relevant information; (b) the political will exists in ESCWA member countries to promote gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women; (c) member countries take measures to align their commitments to the outcomes of international conventions and conferences with existing laws, regulations and practices; and (d) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate.

Strategy

51. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. Notwithstanding the progress accomplished by ESCWA member countries towards the advancement of women, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, the economic participation of women and their representation at the economic and political decision-making levels continue to be lower than in other regions in the world. The situation of women has further deteriorated because of armed conflict, civil strife and lack of stability. Building on the experience gained in past bienniums, the subprogramme will concentrate on two main areas, namely, (a) the capacity-building of national mechanisms, especially those in conflict-stricken countries, to be effective agents for change and act as coordinators with policymakers and civil society for promoting gender mainstreaming in national policies, plans and programmes; and (b) capacity-building of member countries to make further progress in the implementation and monitoring of CEDAW. They will be pursued in accordance with the outcomes of a 2009 regional meeting for the ESCWA region in preparation for the 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

52. In respect of the first area, the subprogramme aims to intensify its effort to enhance the institutional capacity of national mechanisms through regular dissemination of new knowledge on gender issues, the provision of advocacy tools and research methodology and the development of in-house training, knowledge and skills. The subprogramme will also provide forums in which national mechanisms in the ESCWA and other regions can actively share knowledge and experiences. In line with that endeavour, due attention will be paid to the national mechanisms in conflict-stricken countries, in order to address the special needs of women living in those areas and promote their active participation in decision-making, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

53. In respect of the second area, the subprogramme will target the capacity-building of national mechanisms, members of parliament, the judiciary and civil society institutions, notably the media, to monitor the progress achieved in the implementation of CEDAW. While almost all ESCWA member countries ratified the Convention, reservations on some substantive articles hinder full implementation. In response to requests made by member countries, the subprogramme will aim to enhance the capacity of those stakeholders to address critical issues and take concrete measures in that regard.

54. The subprogramme has been active in fostering relationships between Government bodies dealing with the empowerment and advancement of women and civil society organizations, through meetings to analyse and discuss the situation of women at the regional level. The subprogramme will continue to work closely with other United Nations entities and regional organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the UNDP Sub-Regional Resource Facility for Arab States, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ILO, the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research, in order to consolidate and enhance the impact of development support in the area of the advancement of women in the region.

*Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development***Logical framework**

Objective: To reduce the impact of conflict and instability on people and socio-economic development in the ESCWA region

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Increased understanding by member countries of the political and socio-economic dynamics, sources and root causes of instability and their long-term consequences	(a) (i)	Increase in the number of national Government officials and civil society representatives participating in and providing input to ESCWA normative activities
		(ii)	Increase in the number of member Governments and civic entities using information provided by ESCWA on sources and root causes of instability and their consequences
(b)	Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and/or implement development policies and measures, including good governance practices, that aim to mitigate conflict and address sources of instability	(b) (i)	Increase in the number of ESCWA-promoted policies and/or measures considered by public and civic entities that mitigate the impact of conflict through development, including good governance practices
		(ii)	Increase in the number of public and civic entities preparing and implementing development policies and measures with ESCWA assistance

External factors

55. It is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided (a) there is continuing access to direct beneficiaries; (b) the political will exists in ESCWA member countries to address collectively the root causes of conflict and instability; and (c) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources.

Strategy

56. Responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Conflict Mitigation and Development. Ongoing conflicts or political tensions in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen involving competing interests of regional and international dynamics have profoundly affected stability and development in a number of member countries. Those challenges are coupled with the slow development of democratic public institutions and application of human rights and civic standards. That situation continues to create a host of social, economic and political challenges, including growing ethnic-sectarian tensions, the continuous influx of displaced people and rise of non-State actors in a number of member countries. The combination of those factors is likely to negatively affect the future of the region's youth and to pose serious impediments to civic and public actors in addressing challenges in the spheres of good governance and the environment, including the dangers posed by scarcity of water and global warming.

57. The subprogramme plans to address the aforementioned problems by focusing on two key areas, namely, (a) identifying and monitoring emerging trends and addressing root causes of conflict and political instability; and (b) promoting good governance and values of citizenship. In addition, the subprogramme aims to mainstream conflict-related issues in the ESCWA programme.

58. In respect of the first area, the subprogramme will appraise the regional situation and predict emerging trends through regular monitoring of political dynamics and their impact on socio-economic development and political reform. Assessment of the dynamics unleashed by conflict, occupation and political tensions remains essential in forecasting emerging trends at the local and regional levels. Specific case studies on the relevant emerging political, social and economic issues will be carried out alongside expert group meetings, workshops and consultations with stakeholders, including public and civic entities. Ample research needs to be dedicated to modalities rendering development interventions sustainable over the long term, enabling the realization of development goals in spite of conflict and political tensions. The subprogramme will also examine the repercussions of instability, conflict and occupation on neighbouring countries and on the region as a whole. The normative activities will be carried out in cooperation with, and be disseminated to, the relevant public and civic decision makers.

59. In respect of the second area, the subprogramme will explore the application of principles of good governance, based on the universal human rights, including values of citizenship, while taking due consideration of the region's historical and cultural specificities. Capacity-building on good governance and values of citizenship for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation will be based on the results of the normative work of the subprogramme, which is geared towards addressing the root causes of governance degradation in the ESCWA region, as well as on measures identified to promote good governance practices in the peacebuilding and conflict mitigation contexts.

60. As part of the objective of mainstreaming conflict-related issues in the ESCWA programme, and in cooperation with other entities, the subprogramme will also tackle, as cross-cutting issues, the challenges of meeting local development goals and needs despite conflict and political tension. The pillar of that strategy will be the development of local and regional capacities in the most crucial sectors, in order to ensure local ownership and sustainability of initiatives undertaken by the subprogramme and link humanitarian, developmental and reconstruction needs in crisis areas. The subprogramme will also strive to build strong work relationships within the United Nations system and with international, regional and civic institutions.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

General mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/270	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/2	Policies and programmes involving youth (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5)
60/265	Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals
61/1	Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
61/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/49	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
61/157	Human rights and extreme poverty
61/169	The right to development
61/207	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
61/211	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
61/213	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
61/266	Multilingualism
62/161	The right to development
62/199	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
62/203	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

- 62/208 Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- 62/209 South-South cooperation
- 62/211 Towards global partnerships

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 1818(LV) Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia
- 1985/69 Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission
- 1998/46 Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
- 2005/50 The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
- 2006/14 Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- 2007/29 Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
- 2007/31 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
- 2007/33 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations

ESCWA resolutions

- 258 (XXIII) Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 260 (XXIII) Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions
- 261 (XXIII) Strengthening the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the field of economic and social development
- 263 (XXIII) Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
- 268 (XXIII) Adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 269 (XXIV) The role of ESCWA in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and the subsequent change process
- 272 (XXIV) Youth employment in ESCWA member countries

Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

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| 57/253 | World Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 59/228 | Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources |
| 59/235 | Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Droughts and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa |
| 60/200 | International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006 |
| 61/215 | Industrial development cooperation |
| 62/189 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 62/190 | Agricultural technology for development |
| 62/193 | Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa |
| 62/197 | Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy |

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution

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| 2004/48 | Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development |
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ESCWA resolution

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| 255 (XXIII) | The Establishment of a Regional Mechanism for Building Capacities to Manage Shared Water Resources |
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Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies

General Assembly resolutions

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| 61/208 | International migration and development |
| 62/126 | Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy – promoting youth participation in social and economic development |
| 62/127 | Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities |

- 62/129 Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond
- 62/130 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
- 62/131 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
- 62/156 Protection of migrants
- 62/170 Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto
- 62/198 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2005/9 Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights
- 2006/4 Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger
- 2006/15 Promoting youth employment
- 2006/16 Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
- 2006/18 Further organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
- 2007/2 The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all

ESCWA resolution

- 277 (XXIV) Social development policies

Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

General Assembly resolutions

- 60/5 Improving global road safety
- 62/184 International trade and development
- 62/186 External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries
- 62/187 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

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| 2006/4 | Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger |
| 2007/2 | The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all |
| 2007/30 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development |

ESCWA resolutions

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| 256 (XXIII) | Adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq |
| 257 (XXIII) | Selection of the Routes to be given priority in Implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq |
| 265 (XXIII) | Regional Cooperation in the Field of Road Traffic Safety |
| 270 (XXIV) | Macroeconomic policy for financial stability |
| 279 (XXIV) | Follow-up to implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq |

Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology for regional integration

General Assembly resolution

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| 60/252 | World Summit on the Information Society |
| 62/201 | Science and technology for development |

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

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| 2004/68 | Science and technology for development |
| 2006/46 | Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development |
| 2007/8 | Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society |

ESCWA resolutions

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| 245 (XXII) | The ESCWA Initiative for Activating the Role of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation in Achieving the Millennium Goals |
| 273 (XXIV) | Follow-up to the development of the Information Society in Western Asia |
| 274 (XXIV) | The establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre |

Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

General Assembly resolutions

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| 61/143 | Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women |
| 62/127 | Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities |
| 62/130 | Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing |
| 62/132 | Violence against women migrant workers |
| 62/206 | Women in development |

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

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| 2004/11 | Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality |
| 2005/13 | 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme |
| 2006/6 | Strengthening statistical capacity |

ESCWA resolutions

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| 262 (XXIII) | Support for the Capacities of Member Countries in the Field of Statistics and the International Comparison Programme |
| 276 (XXIV) | Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region |

Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

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| 62/133 | Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women |
| 62/137 | 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 |
| 62/206 | Women in development |
| 62/218 | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

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| 2003/44 | Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women |
| 2004/12 | Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building |

2006/9 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

2007/7 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

ESCWA resolution

278 (XXIV) Increasing the role of women in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peace building

Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

General Assembly resolutions

62/93 Assistance to the Palestinian people

62/146 The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

62/181 Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/3 Public administration and development

2007/26 Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Security Council resolution

1645 (2005) Post-conflict peacebuilding

ESCWA resolutions

260 (XXIII) Development and Regional Cooperation under Unstable Conditions

271 (XXIV) Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development
