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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Launch of Social Expenditure Monitor (SEM) in Tunisia and National Training Workshop on SEM

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Tunis, 12-13 September 2022

Jointly organised by ESCWA, Ministry of Finance of Tunisia, and Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT)
Draft Agenda

Day 1: 9:00 am – 14:30 pm (September 12, 2022)	
9:00 – 9:30	Welcoming Coffee Station
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Session I: Launch ceremony of the Social Expenditure Monitor of Tunisia Toward Optimizing Social Expenditure in Tunisia</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony:</i> Mrs. Rym Jartouh, Deputy Director, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT)</p> <p>Welcoming and opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Mr. Elborni Salhi</i>, Director General, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation ➤ <i>Dr. Rola Dashti</i>, Executive Secretary, and Under-Secretary-General, ESCWA ➤ <i>H.E. Mrs. Sihem Boughdiri Nemsia</i>, Minister of Finance, Tunisia <p>Presentation of SEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Mr. Habib Houij</i>, General Director, Ministry of Finance: General introduction of Social Expenditure Monitor (SEM) and key messages (5 min) ➤ <i>Dr. Niranjan Sarangi</i>, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA: Overview of the SEM tool and its usefulness for budgeting and fiscal policy (10 min) ➤ <i>Dr. Mohamed Bel Hadj Hamada</i>, Center for Research and Social Studies (CRES) in Tunisia: SEM as a tool for better budgeting of social programs (5 min) <p>Q&A Closing of the session</p>

11:00– 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session II: Social Expenditure in Tunisia: SEM (Macroeconomic side) <i>Chair/Moderator:</i> Mr. Habib Houij, MoF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA: Macroeconomic context and the utility of SEM tool for informing analysis and fiscal forecasting ➤ Dr. Marwen Hkiri, Economist, ESCWA: Results of SEM Tunisia Country paper ➤ Mrs. Raoudha Jaouani, Director in the Ministry of Economy and Planning: SEM as a tool to guide sectoral policies and national planning ➤ Dr. Mohamed Hamada, CRES: SEM and enhancing social protection - the tool of poverty reduction, equity and social justice: Key policy recommendations ➤ Mr. Habib Samaoui, Deputy Director in the Ministry of Economy and Planning: SEM as tool for better targeting social expenditure to children through national budgets
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Sustainability of SEM: Data Updates and Automation <i>Chair/Moderator:</i> Mr. Mohamed Bel Hadj Hamada , CRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Dana Hamdan, ESCWA: Preparing SEM from budgets, data update, its automation process and its usefulness for monitoring social programs and budgeting. ➤ Mr. Ahmed Al-Awah, ESCWA: IT platform and architecture for the SEM and its sustainability. ➤ Mr Nasreddine Abdennassir, Ministry of Social Affairs: SEM general framework of mapping and update (<i>Example of social protection, subsidies and support to farms</i>) ➤ Mr. Issam Boukthir, Ministry of Education: SEM general framework of mapping and update (<i>Example of Education</i>) ➤ Mr. Mohamed Mokdad, Ministry of Health: SEM general framework of mapping and update (<i>Example of Health and nutrition</i>) ➤ Mr. Habib Houij, Ministry of Finance: Integrate the SEM tool in budgeting exercise and its sustainability.

15:30-15:40	Wrap up of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ESCWA/ATCT
Day 2: 9:00 am – 16:00 pm (September 13, 2022)	
9:30 – 11:00	Session I: SEM and its different aspects: SEM definition, concept, components , objectives, and general framework (dimensions and indicators): Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Mr Habib Houij</i>, MoF ➤ <i>Ms. Dana Hamdan</i>, ESCWA ➤ <i>Dr. Marwen Hkiri</i>, ESCWA
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	Session II: SEM and its different aspects (cont’): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Mrs. Raoudha Jaouani</i>, Ministry of Economy and Planning; and <i>Mrs. Olfa Meddeb</i>, Ministry of Equipment: Link of SEM to SDGs ➤ <i>Mr. Nasreddine Abdennassir</i>, Ministry of Social Affairs: SEM general framework of mapping indicators: ➤ <i>Dr. Mohamed Hamada, CRES</i>, and <i>Mr. Habib Houij, Ministry of Finance</i>: Analysis of SEM results with respect to social services and main beneficiary groups
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Session III: Analysis of SEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Dr. Niranjan Sarangi</i>, ESCWA : Policy simulation: Efficiency Analysis and SEM economic modelling for growth and fiscal forecasting Discussion
15:00 – 16:00	Wrap up of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation ➤ Training certificate distribution