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

**Expert Group Meeting**

**Social Expenditure Monitor Report: Toward Making Budgets More Efficient and Effective to Achieve the SDGs**

Amman, 1-2 December 2021

**Draft Agenda**

<b>Expert Group Meeting</b>	
<b>Day 1 - 1 December 2021</b>	
9:00 – 9:15	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mohamed EL Moctar Mohamed EL Hacene, Cluster Leader, Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA</li> <li>Vito Intini, Lead Economist, UNDP Regional Hub Amman</li> <li>Samman Thapa, Regional Adviser, Social Policy, UNICEF MENA Regional Office</li> </ul>
9:15 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA <i>Setting the Stage: Introducing the Social Expenditure Monitor Report (5 minutes)</i></li> <li>Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief of Economic Development and Poverty, ESCWA <i>Development Challenges in the Arab Region (15 minutes)</i></li> </ul> <p>Open discussion (10 minutes)</p>
09:45 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation by Lead of Chapter 2 (ESCWA): Public Social Expenditure Landscape in Arab States: Concept, Measure and Challenges (30 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Nathaniel Martin, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Dana Hamdan, Research Assistant, ESCWA</p> <p>Open discussion (30 minutes)</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation by Chapter Lead of Chapter 3 (UNICEF MENARO): Equity in Social Expenditure: Addressing Vulnerabilities and Social Injustice (30 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Juan Bester, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF MENARO (20 mins) Racha Ramadan, Associate Professor, Cairo University, Cairo / Rouba Arja, Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA (Social Expenditure and Gender Equality in the Arab Region -10 mins)</p> <p>Open discussion (45 minutes)</p>
12:45 – 1:45	Lunch Break
1:45 – 3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation by Chapter Lead of Chapter 4 (ESCWA): Efficiency and Effectiveness of Public Social Expenditure (30 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Jan Gaska, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Nathaniel Martin, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA</p>

	Vladimir Hlasny, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA (Social Assistance Measures and Effectiveness) Open discussion (45 minutes)
3:00 – 3:15	Coffee Break
3:15 – 4:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Chapter Lead of Chapter 5 (ESCWA): Enhancing Social Expenditure and Fiscal Sustainability (30 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Clive Altshuler, Expert on Modelling, ESCWA Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Nagwa Shennawy, Cairo University, Cairo (Social expenditure and digitization)</p> <p>Open discussion (30 minutes) Wrap up Day 1 (15 minutes)</p>
<b>Day 2 - 2 December 2021</b>	
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of the previous day
9:15 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Chapter Lead of Chapter 6 (UNDP): Improving Fiscal Management and Budgeting Through Good Public Financial Management (30 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Rania Uwaydah, UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion by peer reviewer on chapter (15 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion (45 minutes)</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report Leads (ESCWA-UNDP-UNICEF) -- Agree on Data, Methodology and Key Messages</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Vito Intini, Lead Economist, UNDP Regional Hub Amman Samman Thapa, Regional Adviser, Social Policy, UNICEF MENA Regional Office Juan Bester, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF MENARO</p> <p>Open discussion Wrap up</p>
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch break
1:30 – 3:00	Internal discussion among partners of the Report on next steps of the report (production, launch events, dissemination)