



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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

Inter-agency taskforce to develop climate/SDGs debt swap programme of Tunisia

24-25 July 2024 (in-person meeting)

Beirut, Lebanon

### **INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) developed the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap – Donor Nexus Initiative to address the challenges of reducing debt service burdens, improving climate finance and accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Initiative helps Governments to design climate/SDGs debt swap programmes, which ensure addressing national priorities while contributing to achieving global climate objectives. The programme establishes a key performance indicators framework for monitoring and evaluation to assess impacts at the project level and programme level with transformational impact on climate and the SDGs. The Initiative has been supported by the Open Society Foundations since 2023.

ESCWA is working closely with the Tunisian Government on operationalizing the Initiative in Tunisia. An Inter-Agency Taskforce, composed of relevant ministries, has been established to develop the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Programme of Tunisia. Following the progress of work of the Inter-Agency Taskforce of Tunisia, and as discussed in the online meeting organized between ESCWA and the Taskforce on 30 May 2024, ESCWA is organizing an in-person meeting of the Taskforce in Beirut, Lebanon on 24-25 July 2024, as a working meeting to develop the climate/SDGs debt swap programme.

#### **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The main objectives of this meeting are to:

- Discuss the debt service of Tunisia and role of climate/SDGs debt swaps;
- Discuss and agree on project selection criteria and indicators which inform the development of the programme, taking into account national priorities;
- Leverage the lessons learned from previous engagements with creditors;
- Develop the outline and components of the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Programme Proposal of Tunisia;
- Discuss climate vulnerability and socio-economic vulnerability assessment methods.

#### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

The participants in the meeting are expected to include representatives from the ministries constituting the Inter-Agency Taskforce of Tunisia.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

This meeting will be held on 24-25 July 2024 in the in UN House in Beirut, Lebanon.