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

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Item 3 of the agenda

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011****Summary**

This document presents the draft proposed programme of work for 2010-2011, pertaining to Programme 18: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia. This draft is fully congruent with the strategic framework for 2010-2011 (A/63/16), as modified by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its 48<sup>th</sup> session (9-16 June 2008). It was endorsed earlier by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at its twenty-fifth session in Sana'a in May 2008, and is currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

The draft proposed programme budget, which includes the draft proposed programme of work and the required financial resources, will be examined by the Programme Planning and Budget Division at United Nations headquarters and by the Secretary-General. Once the Secretary-General issues his proposal, the proposed programme budget is subject to the review of intergovernmental bodies, namely, the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the CPC, and the Fifth Committee, before it is reviewed and adopted by the General Assembly. The draft proposed programme of work, as submitted to this Committee, may undergo slight amendments during the above-mentioned review process. The amendments to the proposed programme budget, introduced by the intergovernmental review bodies, will be communicated to the ESCWA member countries through their respective national focal points.

The document does not provide information on resource requirements, as only the Secretary General in his proposed programme budget can issue such information.

To ensure that United Nations programmes are demand-driven and respond to the needs of member countries, ESCWA is presenting the draft proposed programme of work for the consideration of the Technical Committee. The Committee is invited to review the document with a view to endorsing it.

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## Introduction

1. This document presents the draft proposed programme of work for 2010-2011, pertaining to Programme 18: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia. The draft proposed programme of work is fully congruent with the strategic framework for 2010-2011 (A/63/16), as modified by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its 48<sup>th</sup> session (9-16 June 2008). It was endorsed earlier by the Commission in its twenty-fifth session in Sana'a in May 2008, and is currently under consideration by the General Assembly.
2. The document comprises the following parts: (a) programme overview; (b) logical framework comprising the objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures; (c) strategy; (d) external factors; and (e) outputs for each of the seven substantive subprogrammes. There is no change in the subprogramme structure in 2010-2011 relative to that of 2008-2009.
3. Section 21 (of Programme 18) is one of 35 United Nations budget sections. The draft proposed programme budget, which includes the draft proposed programme of work and the required financial resources for all the sections, will be reviewed by the Programme Planning and Budget Division at United Nations headquarters and by the Secretary-General. Once the Secretary-General issues his proposal, the proposed programme budget will be subject to the intergovernmental bodies, namely, the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), and the Fifth Committee, before it is reviewed and adopted by the General Assembly. During the review process, the proposed programme budget may undergo slight modifications. The secretariat will communicate any amendments introduced by the intergovernmental review bodies to ESCWA member countries through their respective national focal points.
4. The Statistical Committee reviewed at its eighth session in Beirut (14-16 October 2008) the proposed programme of work as it pertains to subprogramme 5: "Statistics for evidence-based policymaking". The proposal herein takes into consideration the changes requested by the Committee.
5. The draft programme of work pertaining to the related parts of subprogramme 1: "Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development", will be discussed in the eighth session of the Committee on Water Resources (Beirut, 17-19 December 2008) and the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (Beirut, 5-6 February 2009). Any amendments made by these intergovernmental bodies will be communicated to headquarters.
6. In proposing the outputs, the secretariat has given due consideration to the following:
  - (a) Emerging global and regional issues and mandates;
  - (b) The outcome of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission held in Sana'a in May 2008, including the recommendations emanating from the intergovernmental bodies and of the Commission;
  - (c) Regional monitoring and reporting requirements of the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
  - (d) Concluded agreements and strategic partnerships at the global and regional levels;
  - (e) Linkages between normative and analytical work with the operational work;
  - (f) Good practice and lessons learned, identified through the programme performance assessment for the biennium 2006-2007 and the programme budget exercise for the biennium 2008-2009.

7. The document does not provide information on resource requirements, as only the Secretary-General in his proposed programme budget can issue such information.

8. To ensure that United Nations programmes are demand-driven and respond to the needs of the member countries, ESCWA is presenting the draft proposed programme of work for the consideration of the Technical Committee. The Committee is invited to review the document with a view to endorsing it.

### **Overall orientation**

9. The overall orientation of the programme 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 ESCWA member countries and with other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

10. Policy direction for the programme is provided in 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. Further direction is provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50, in which ESCWA was requested to provide support to member countries in realizing the MDGs, including by building their capacity to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and, through the Commission's lead role in the Regional Coordination Group, foster partnerships and cooperation with those organizations.

11. 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 the MDGs, and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps in their respective member countries and subregions. In order to achieve these 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 among themselves and through collaboration with other subregional and regional organizations.

12. The region has made uneven progress in social development, especially in the education and health sectors. Some countries have developed mechanisms to invest surplus capital savings resulting from high energy prices, which have contributed to the acceleration of economic growth and social development. Political instability, foreign occupation 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 this backdrop, the region remains in the grip of a widening gap in income and wealth distribution within, as well as between countries.

13. Furthermore, it is envisaged that global climate change will have an adverse 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 unemployed youth, 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), a subsidiary body of the League of Arab States, adopted a ministerial declaration on climate change which constitutes

the basis for future actions and reflects their position in dealing with climate change issues. The Arab Declaration stated that, while emphasizing that developed countries should fulfil their commitment to supporting developing countries, including Arab countries, in meeting climate change challenges, the Declaration affirms the commitment of the Ministers, inter alia, to include policies to deal with climate change issues in all sectors within national and regional policies for sustainable development in a manner congruent with sustained economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty, and to adopt national and regional action plans dealing with climate change.

14. 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 sector within the framework of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, 2005). Integrated social policies that balance economic development and social needs should also be pursued with insight and vigour.

15. The need to enhance institutional capacity in statistics continues to be essential if countries in the region are to produce timely, reliable, comparable and more gender-sensitive statistics for policy and programme formulation, and for monitoring the progress made towards the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Monitoring of the effects of foreign occupation on economic and social development in the region is becoming increasingly important. As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to 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.

16. 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 by 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 Subregional 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 that 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 to 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.

17. 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, with due consideration to 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 of the United Nations global priority, gender mainstreaming will be promoted throughout the programme and within the Commission. Lessons learned from evaluation will serve as the basis for further improvement of the programme, in light of the United Nations commitment to promote evaluation for enhancing learning and accountability.

18. 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 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 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.

19. Consultations at the level of thematic clusters have taken place between concerned Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs 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.

## SUBPROGRAMME 1

### INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

20. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD). The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 1 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

21. The objective of this subprogramme is to achieve integrated sustainable management of natural resources in the ESCWA region, with particular emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors, with due consideration to the relevant climate change issues.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

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 the MDGs and addressing climate change challenges	(a) (i) Increased 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 the MDGs (goals 1 and 7)  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 20 policies/measures Estimate for 2008-2009: 26 policies/measures Target for 2010-2011: 30 policies/measures  (ii) Increased 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  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 12 policies and measures Estimate for 2008-2009: 15 policies and measures Target for 2010-2011: 21 policies and measures
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply best practice and methods for improving sustainable agriculture and rural development, and increasing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) using appropriate and affordable environmentally sound technology	(b) (i) Increased number of new and/or existing institutions applying best practice and methods, with ESCWA assistance, to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 4 institutions Estimate for 2008-2009: 6 institutions Target for 2010-2011: 8 institutions



Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(ii)	Increased number of measures taken by SMEs, with ESCWA assistance, to enhance their competitiveness using appropriate and affordable environmentally sound technology  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: No measures Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 measures Target for 2010-2011: 6 measures
(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) Increased 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  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: No responses and/or initiatives Estimate for 2008-2009: No responses and/or initiatives Target for 2010-2011: 8 responses and/or initiatives

### C. STRATEGY

22. The 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, in particular with respect to the use of fossil fuels and associated greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of scarce water resources, adversely affecting their quality. Furthermore, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of production and consumption patterns in the water, energy and the production sectors, especially agriculture, 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.

23. 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 and the attainment of the MDGs, in particular goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), as well as the outcome of the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia.

24. 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 related to sustainable development priority issues as a means of enhancing synergy between the countries of the region, 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, of potential natural disasters and of 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 applications, cleaner fossil fuels, sustainable agriculture and rural development;

(f) Facilitate regional coordination and preparation for the implementation of regional and global commitments on sustainable development, in particular on the thematic areas to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

25. 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. This will be achieved by undertaking quality research and analytical work; disseminating best practice; 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 (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia, the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the 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 in UN-Water and UN-Energy and by the UNEP Environmental Management Group.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

26. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to adopt and apply the 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 better cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as a more effective implementation of technical cooperation activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

27. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

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

a. Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission on the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources (2010, expected accomplishment (a));

- b. Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission on the eighth session of the Committee on Energy (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (ii) *Committee on Energy*
- a. Substantive servicing of the four meetings of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Parliamentary documentation: Report on energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA countries (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (iii) *Committee on Water Resources*
- a. Substantive servicing of the six meetings of the ninth session of the Committee on Water Resources (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Parliamentary documentation: Report on water sector vulnerability to climate change and adaptation measures to increase the resilience of ESCWA countries (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (iv) *Ad hoc expert groups*
- Five expert group meetings on:
- a. Climate change effects on water resources and adaptation measures in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- The outcome of this Expert Group Meeting will serve as the basis for the Secretariat to prepare a non-recurrent publication on “Adaptation measures for climate change effects on water resources in the ESCWA region” scheduled for 2011.
- b. **Approaches to promoting transport sector emission reductions** in the region (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
  - c. Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development in the ESCWA region through best practice in sustainable land management (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - d. Production and use of biotechnologies in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - e. Promoting SME participation in providing services for energy efficiency/renewable energy projects (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- (v) *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs under their established mandates*
- a. Substantive support to the Executive Secretariat of the ESCWA-UNEP-League of Arab States joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and follow-up on selected resolutions taken by CAMRE (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c));
  - b. Substantive support and follow-up on selected resolutions taken by the Executive Board of CAMRE (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c));

- c. Substantive support and follow-up on selected related resolutions of the newly-established Council of Arab Ministers of Water Resources (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c)).
- (b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*
- (i) *Two recurrent publications*
    - a. Review of productivity and sustainable development in the ESCWA region No. 3 (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - b. ESCWA Water development report No. 4: National capacities for the management of shared water resources in ESCWA member countries (2011, expected accomplishment (a)).
  - (ii) *Three non-recurrent publications*
    - a. Policies and measures for promoting sustainable energy use in the transport sector in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (a)), in cooperation with the Economic Development and Globalization Division, ESCWA;
    - b. Adapting to the effects of climate change on water resources in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - c. Biotechnology applications for enhanced productivity and competitiveness in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).
  - (iii) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*
    - a. Promotional material for World Environment Day (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - b. Promotional material for World Water Day (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - c. Promotional material on water resources issues in the region (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - d. Promotional material on environment issues in the region (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
    - e. Promotional material on energy issues in the region (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
    - f. Pamphlet on how SMEs can become energy service companies (ESCOs), (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
    - g. Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) pamphlet on regional climate change initiatives/policy recommendations (2011, expected accomplishment (c)).
  - (iv) *Technical material*
    - a. Fact sheet on sustainable production and consumption patterns in the energy and water sectors in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (a));

- b. Fact sheet on improving efficiency in the electric power sector in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Training modules on sustainable land management (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- d. Report on opportunities for SME production and consumption of environmental goods and services in selected ESCWA member countries (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- e. Working paper “Approaches to rural development in the ESCWA region: Enhancing SME competitiveness and infrastructure services” (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- f. Working paper on the joint management of shared water resources within an integrated water resources management context (2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- g. Development and maintenance of ESCWA homepage on water, environment, energy, agriculture and enterprise development issues (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c)).

(v) *Organization of interagency meetings and contribution to joint outputs*

- a. Substantive contribution to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) on the thematic issues (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Substantive contribution to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) on the thematic issues (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Preparation of substantive contribution to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20): on the thematic issues (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- d. Substantive support to the United Nations coordination bodies on water, energy, productive sector and environment issues (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- e. Substantive input to global and regional forums on water, energy, productive sector and environment issues (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- f. Substantive input to the High-Level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (2010, 2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

*Field projects*

- a. Support ESCWA member countries on water supply and sanitation (German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) component), (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Support ESCWA member countries on water resources management (Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) component), (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));

- c. Promoting the application of energy efficiency measures in selected ESCWA member countries (Yemen, 2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- d. Joint ESCWA-Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) project on “Capacity-building for poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation through the establishment of an interregional United Nations renewable energy park” (2010-2011, development account project pending approval, expected accomplishment (a));
- e. Joint ESCWA-Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)-ESCAP project on “Enhancing the capacity of developing countries to implement international commercial agricultural product standards to improve trade competitiveness” (2010-2011, development account project, expected accomplishment (b));
- f. AWARENET (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

## SUBPROGRAMME 2

### INTEGRATED SOCIAL POLICIES

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

28. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Social Development Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 2 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

29. The objective of this subprogramme is 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.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of national Governments to integrate social equity priorities and perspectives in public policies	(a) (i) Increased number of exploratory and follow-up measures pursued by Governments, with ESCWA assistance, indicating increased understanding of social policy options and implications  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 3 measures Estimate for 2008-2009: 6 measures Target for 2010-2011: 9 measures  (ii) Increased number of social policy mechanisms and instruments adopted by Governments, with ESCWA assistance  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: No mechanisms and instruments Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 mechanisms and instruments Target for 2010-2011: 4 mechanisms and instruments

Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
(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 to adopt relevant policies	<p>(b) (i) Increased 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</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 6 follow-up measures  Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 follow-up measures  Target for 2010-2011: 8 follow-up measures</p> <p>(ii) Increased 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</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 4 measures/policy provisions  Estimate for 2008-2009: 6 measures/policy provisions  Target for 2010-2011: 8 measures/policy provisions</p> <p>(iii) Increased number of urban governance initiatives undertaken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, in order to address secure housing for poor people</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 5 urban governance initiatives  Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 urban governance initiatives  Target for 2010-2011: 9 urban governance initiatives</p>
(c) Enhanced participation of civil society in social policy dialogue and in the formulation of Government social policy	<p>(c) (i) Increased number of consultative processes, networks and agreements on shared social policy agendas forged with ESCWA assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: No consultative processes, networks and agreements  Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 consultative processes, networks and agreements  Target for 2010-2011: 6 consultative processes, networks and agreements</p>

Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
(ii)	Increased number of instances in which civil society institutions, including the media, advocate social issues and participate in social policy processes, with ESCWA assistance
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2006-2007: 0 reported cases/instances
	Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 reported cases/instances
	Target for 2010-2011: 6 reported cases/instances

### C. STRATEGY

30. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. Experiences around the world have so far proved that a “growth-first philosophy” does 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.

31. The aforementioned three-tier structure can best be 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;

(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.

32. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained during the past 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.



33. 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 the MDGs.

34. In order to achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will conduct meetings and undertake 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.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

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

#### E. OUTPUTS

36. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *ESCWA*

Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission of the seventh session of the Committee on Social Development (2010, expected accomplishments (a) (b) and (c)).

(ii) *Committee on Social Development*

- a. Substantive servicing of six meetings of the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development (2011, expected accomplishments (a) (b) and (c));
- b. Parliamentary documentation: Reports on Recommended policy approaches favouring social inclusion in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (a)); Youth and unemployment in the GCC States (2010, expected accomplishment (b)); and Engagement of civil society in the public policy process (2010, expected accomplishment (c)).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert groups*

- a. Follow-up in the Arab region to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) to the year 2000 and beyond (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Equitable distribution of urban services: overcoming challenges (2010, expected accomplishment (b));

- c. Participation of Arab civil society in public policy formulation (2010, expected accomplishment (c));
- d. Review of Social Policy Report No. 4: Building consensus on social policy (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- e. Arab civil society forum on operationalizing recommendations for participation in public policy formulation (2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Mandated recurrent publications*

- a. Integrated Social Policy Report No. 4: Building consensus on social policy (2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (c));
- b. Population and Development Report No. 5: Policy analysis of gaps and impediments to the implementation of WPAY in the Arab region (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Mandated non-recurrent publication*

- a. New challenges to local authorities: Good governance and equitable urban services in selected cities (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Comparative analysis of civil society participation in public policy formulation in selected Arab countries (2010, expected accomplishment (c)).

(iii) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

- a. Social Development Bulletins (two each in 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c));
- b. Pamphlets on ESCWA's social development work (one each in 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c));
- c. Brochures on the special themes of the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission on Social Development (one each in 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c));
- d. Demographic profiles of the Arab countries (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- e. Information kit on enhancing civic engagement in public policy processes (2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Guide on selected social policy approaches (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Working paper: Review of regional and international experiences with institutional change favouring social inclusion (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Working paper: A conceptual framework for integrating international migration in the development planning process (2010, expected accomplishment (b));

- d. E-discussions on the outline of Social Policy Report No. 4 (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- e. Social Policy Briefs (one each in 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- f. Technical paper: Good practice in adopting the Social Policy Guide for Urban Observatories in selected ESCWA cities (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- g. Technical paper: Monitoring and evaluation of social policy by Arab civil society (2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- h. Maintenance and updating of the Social Development Division home page (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b), and (c));
- i. Maintenance and updating of the United Nations Population and Information Network website (2010, 2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

(i) *Advisory services*

Advisory services at the request of member countries to help implement capacity-building programmes on the participatory social development approach and methodologies (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

(ii) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

- a. Sub-regional training on the **social policy approach** and entry points (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Regional training on enhancing the capacities of Urban Observatories in the collection and analysis of urban services and urban poverty indicators (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- c. Regional training workshop on Enhancing civil participation in public policy processes (2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

(iii) *Field projects*

- a. Promoting national dialogue on **a social policy approach** (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Strengthening national capabilities in formulating youth policies: Responding to WPAY (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- c. Strengthening national capabilities in dealing with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact (2010-2011) expected accomplishment (b) [Development Account];
- d. Enhancing participatory human development in post-conflict countries in Western Asia (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c)) [Development Account].

### SUBPROGRAMME 3

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

##### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

37. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 3 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

38. The objective of this subprogramme is to attain sustainable economic development for reducing poverty through regional integration in a globalizing world

##### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(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 the MDGs</p>	<p>(a) (i) Increased percentage of stakeholders in the region acknowledging that they benefited from ESCWA analytical services and outputs in the area of macroeconomic policies and development strategies</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 43 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users            Estimate for 2008-2009: 50 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users            Target for 2010-2011: 55 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, to promote and implement macroeconomic policy and development strategies based on ESCWA analytical work</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 4 requests            Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 requests            Target for 2010-2011: 10 requests</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>(b) Increased 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</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 11 policies and/or measures            Estimate for 2008-2009: 15 policies and/or measures            Target for 2010-2011: 18 policies and/or measures</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(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 to environmental issues	<p>(c) (i) Increased 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</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 16 policy measures and/or action  Estimate for 2008-2009: 21 policy measures and/or action  Target for 2010-2011: 25 policy measures and/or action</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance, to promote road safety and environmentally friendly and sustainable transport systems</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 4 measures/policies  Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 measures/policies  Target for 2010-2011: 10 measures/policies</p>
(d) Enhanced capacity of member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase intraregional and international trade	<p>(d) (i) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, to participate in the Single Window Initiative based on ESCWA analytical work</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 2 requests  Estimate for 2008-2009: 3 requests  Target for 2010-2011: 5 requests</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of instances where member countries acceded to, negotiated and/or implemented trade agreements with ESCWA assistance upon the request of member countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: No instances  Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 instances  Target for 2010-2011: 4 instances</p>

### C. STRATEGY

39. The 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 for sustainable economic prosperity.

40. 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;

(b) Economic policy formulation and use of modelling forecasting and other quantitative approaches to formulate evidence-based policies and strategies for making progress towards the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

41. The subprogramme will also assist member countries in analysing and evaluating global and regional financial developments 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. In addition, the subprogramme will 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 flows into the region. Consequently, appropriate action to increase FDI flows in the region will be proposed.

42. Work will continue on the implementation of ITSAM, including the implementation and monitoring of international road, rail and maritime agreements and conventions, 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 (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law draft convention). Special attention will be paid to the continued establishment and activation of national transport and trade facilitation committees and related regional coordination. The subprogramme will also serve as a regional platform to raise awareness on road safety issues and provide environmentally friendly and sustainable transport systems in response to global concerns on those issues.

43. 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, in particular through the application of information and communications technologies and the Single Window Initiative that 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.

44. The analytical outputs 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 by 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.

## D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

45. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (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 and transport statistics are made available.

## E. OUTPUTS

46. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*(i) *ESCWA*

- a. Parliamentary documentation: Report of the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport (2010, expected accomplishment (c));
- b. Report of the seventh session of the **Technical Committee on Trade and Finance (2011, expected accomplishment.....)**
- c. Report on progress towards attainment of MDGs in the Arab region (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- d. Report on policy options on key macroeconomic issues (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Technical Committee on Trade and Finance*

- a. Substantive servicing of four meetings of the seventh session of the Technical Committee on Trade and Finance (2010, expected accomplishments (b) and (d));
- b. Parliamentary documentation: Two reports to the Technical Committee on Trade and Finance, of which one is a follow-up report on the Doha Conference on financing for development (2010, expected accomplishment (b)); and the other on regional and global trade developments (2011, expected accomplishment (d)).

(iii) *Committee on Transport*

- a. Substantive servicing of twelve meetings of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Committee on Transport (six each in 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- b. Parliamentary documentation: Five reports to the Committee on Transport (expected accomplishment (c)): Follow-up report on the implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq (2010); Report on the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq (2011); Follow-up report on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq (2011); Follow-up report on the implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan in the ESCWA region (2010); Report on National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committees in the ESCWA region (2010).

(iv) *Ad hoc expert groups*

- a. External peer review of the flagship publication “Survey of Economic and Social Development in the ESCWA Region” (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Preparation of the Regional MDG Report (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Progress made on implementing the Monterrey Consensus and Doha International Conference by ESCWA member countries: The role of workers’ remittances in development finance (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- d. Assessment of regional economic integration among ESCWA member countries (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- e. FDI databases and the improvement of FDI statistics in the region (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- f. Financing transport infrastructure (2010, expected accomplishments (b) and (c));
- g. Trade and transport facilitation in the ESCWA Region (2011, expected accomplishment (c));

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Mandated recurrent publications*

- a. Survey of Economic and Social Development in the ESCWA Region (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- b. Regional MDG Report (2011, expected accomplishment (a));

(ii) *Mandated non-recurrent publications*

- a. Impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to ESCWA member countries (based on actual surveys prepared and distributed to major FDI enterprises (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Financing the implementation of selected components of ITSAM (2010, expected accomplishment (c));
- c. Prospect of South-South trade for the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (d));
- d. Progress report on implementing the Doha International Conference by ESCWA member countries (2010, expected accomplishment (b)).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

Three brochures on key activities related to trade, finance and transport.

(iv) *Technical materials*

- a. Regional economic forecasts (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));



- b. ESCWA Economic Development working paper series (three papers in 2010 and three in 2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Development and maintenance of geographic information system transport maps (2011, expected accomplishment (c));
- d. Maintenance and updating of ESCWA's Economic Development and Globalization home page (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d)).

(v) *Special events*

- a. Launching of the Survey of Economic and Social Development in the ESCWA Region (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Launching of the Regional MDG Report (2011, expected accomplishment (a));

Forum on re-thinking the role of regional development funds (2010, expected accomplishment (b)).

(vi) *Organization of interagency meetings and contribution to joint outputs*

- a. Regional inputs to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' annual publication: World Economic Situation and Prospects (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Regional inputs to the World Investment Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

(i) *Training*

- a. Workshop on requirements for establishing Single Windows for handling export/import procedures and formalities in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (d));
- b. Training workshops (eight) on bilateral investment agreements, double taxation avoidance and FDI outflows (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Field projects*

Implementation of ITSAM (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (c)).

#### **SUBPROGRAMME 4**

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

#### **A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM**

47. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the Information and Communication Technology Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 4 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

48. The objective of this subprogramme is 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 World Summit on the Information Society and internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the MDGs.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Perceptible improvements in the region's information and communications technology (ICT) production and service sectors, substantiated by the implementation of ICT strategies and action plans, with special focus on the provision of e-services in Arabic	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of member countries formulating and/or implementing ICT strategies and action plans that are related to the development of the ICT production and service sectors, with ESCWA assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 6 member countries Estimate for 2008-2009: 8 member countries Target for 2010-2011: 10 member countries</p>
	<p>(ii) Increased number of regional partnerships, projects and initiatives aimed at creating ICT applications, improving ICT services and developing digital Arabic content, with ESCWA assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 5 regional partnerships, projects and initiatives Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 regional partnerships, projects and initiatives Target for 2010-2011: 9 regional partnerships, projects and initiatives</p>
(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	<p>(b) (i) Increased 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</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 4 member countries Estimate for 2008-2009: 8 member countries Target for 2010-2011: 12 member countries</p>
	<p>(ii) Increased number of member countries analysing data with a view to drafting new or reformulating existing ICT policies, strategies and action plans, with ESCWA assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 2 member countries Estimate for 2008-2009: 4 member countries Target for 2010-2011: 6 member countries</p>

### C. STRATEGY

49. The 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 intraregional 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; and at the extraregional level, between the region and other regions of the world. Currently, most ICT indicators for the region as a whole are lower than world averages. At the same time, the region has development potential, in particular 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 World Summit on the Information Society 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.

50. 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.

51. In order to enhance national capacity, with special focus on human resources development, 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. 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, in order to build a people-centred information society.

52. 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.

53. 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.

### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

54. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational

activities; and (b) the political stability is sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as effective implementation of technical cooperation.

#### E. OUTPUTS

55. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *ESCWA*

- a. Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission's twenty-sixth ministerial session on the ESCWA Technology Centre for Development (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission's twenty-sixth ministerial session: Follow-up to WSIS Tunis Agenda, implementation of the plans of action in respect of the progress achieved in member countries, and the efforts exerted by ESCWA in that regard (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Ad hoc expert groups*

four expert group meetings as follows:

- a. Fifth meeting of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Regional roadmap for Internet governance (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Enabling environment for the development of Arabic e-services (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- d. Standardizing information society measurements in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Review of information and communication technologies and development, issues numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16 (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- b. Regional profile of the information society in Western Asia – 2011 (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publication*

- a. Promoting the ICT sector to meet the challenges of the knowledge economy (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. E-inclusion measurement: Building a common benchmarking model (2010, expected accomplishment (b)).

(iii) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

Brochure on the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), brochures and posters on key areas of ICTD work and initiatives, a leaflet on the regional profile, and a leaflet on **information systems** in the ESCWA region (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Maintenance of ESCWA's Information and Communication Technology home page (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b))
- b. Development and refinement of Arabic ICT terminology (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- c. Information society portal update and maintenance (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- d. Roadmap on Internet governance in Western Asia (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- e. Mechanisms for community-driven interactive Arabic multimedia content (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- f. ESCWA Statistical Information System (ESIS)/ICT module update and development (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- g. National profiles of the information society in Western Asia (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

## (c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)

(i) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

Training workshop on the application of standardized information society measurement models (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Field projects*

- a. Regional harmonization of cyber legislation to promote the knowledge society in the Arab world (2010-2011, expected **accomplishments ????????) [Development Account];**
- b. Digital Arabic content for the socio-economic development of local communities (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Promotion of the digital Arabic content industry through incubation – Phase II (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- d. t to the **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** project (2010-2011, expected **accomplishments ???????????).**

## SUBPROGRAMME 5

### STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

56. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Statistics Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 5 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

57. The objective of this subprogramme is 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.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, in particular in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i) Increased 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, with ESCWA assistance  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 60 good practices Estimate for 2008-2009: 70 good practices Target for 2010-2011: 80 good practices  (ii) Increased number of national statistical offices following good dissemination practices in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, with ESCWA assistance  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 2 national statistical offices Estimate for 2008-2009: 4 national statistical offices Target for 2010-2011: 6 national statistical offices
(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) Increased percentage of core statistics and indicators disseminated by member countries  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2006-2007: 40 per cent of filled data cells to total data cells Estimate for 2008-2009: 60 per cent of filled data cells to total data cells Target for 2010-2011: 70 per cent of filled data cells to total data cells

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(ii)	Increased number of new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations implemented by national statistical offices with ESCWA assistance
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2006-2007: No new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations
	Estimate for 2008-2009: No new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations
	Target for 2010-2011: 13 new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations
(iii)	Increased percentage of statistical experts who applied the knowledge and skills gained through ESCWA training at the national level
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2006-2007:
	Estimate for 2008-2009:
	Target for 2010-2011:

### C. STRATEGY

58. The 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.

59. 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.

60. 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;

(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 that 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.

61. In 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.

62. 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.

63. 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 Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, other regional commissions, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation 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.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

64. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to produce and disseminate their statistical data; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (c) number of global statistical outputs to which ESCWA has substantially contributed to for the development of international recommendations and standards.

#### E. OUTPUTS

65. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *ESCWA*

Parliamentary documentation: Report of the ninth session of the Statistical Committee (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

(ii) *Statistical Committee*

a. Substantive servicing of six meetings of the ninth session of the Statistical Committee (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));



- b. Parliamentary documentation: Report on progress achieved towards strengthening national capabilities in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Report on the MDGs and gender indicators (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- d. Report of the Taskforce on Population and Housing Censuses (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

(iii) *Bureau of the Statistical Committee*

Substantive servicing of two meetings of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee (2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));

(iv) *Ad hoc expert groups*

Six expert group meetings as follows:

- a. Expert group meeting on data and metadata reporting and dissemination (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Working group of heads of national statistical offices in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- c. Expert group meeting on measuring employment and its social and economic implications in ESCWA member countries (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- d. Expert group meeting on national accounts and economic statistics (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- e. Expert group meeting on gender statistics (2010, expected accomplishment (b) **One EGM was deleted**).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Mandated recurrent publications*

- a. Bulletin on National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- c. Compendium of Environmental Statistics in the ESCWA Region (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- d. Bulletin on Industrial Statistics in the ESCWA Region (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- e. Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- f. Bulletin of Population and Vital Statistics (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- g. Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

- (ii) *Mandated non-recurrent publications*
  - a. Monitoring the MDGs: A statistical report (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - b. Study on economic statistics in the ESCWA region: sources and methods (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (iii) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*
  - a. Statistical newsletter (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Regional handbook on data and metadata reporting and dissemination (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
  - c. ESCWA statistical pocket book (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - d. Wall chart on MDGs in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - e. Gender in figures in the ESCWA region (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - f. Regional handbook on gender indicators in the MDGs (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (iv) *Technical material*
  - a. Maintenance and update of the e-glossary of statistical terms (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - b. Maintenance and update of ESCWA home page on statistics (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - c. Maintenance and update of ESIS and other United Nations databases (DevInfo) (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).
- (c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*
  - (i) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*
    - a. Workshop on industrial statistics and classifications (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
    - b. Workshop on short-term economic statistics and their use for policymaking (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
    - c. Workshop on mainstreaming gender statistics in sectoral statistics (2010, expected accomplishment (b));
    - d. Training workshop on DevInfo (2010, jointly by UNDG-ESCWA, expected accomplishment (b)) ;
    - e. Workshop on improving social indicators and metadata (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

- (ii) *Field projects*
- a. Capacity development in censuses and surveys (2010, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - b. Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional MDG monitoring capacity and reducing indicator discrepancies between national and international sources (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - c. Accelerated data programme in selected ESCWA countries (Yemen and Palestine) (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - d. International Comparison Programme (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - e. Development of regional approaches to measuring societal progress (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - f. Capacity-building programme on engendering national statistical systems in the Western Asia and Middle East and North African (MENA) region (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
  - g. Global implementation and outreach for the System of National Accounts (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

## SUBPROGRAMME 6

### ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

66. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 6 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

67. The objective of this subprogramme is to reduce gender imbalances and empower women in the ESCWA region in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, while paying due attention to regional specificities.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(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) Increased number of effective measures taken by national mechanisms, with ESCWA assistance, to promote the mainstreaming of gender into national policies, plans and programmes  <i>Performance measures:</i> 2006-2007: 12 strategies, policies and measures formulated/adopted Estimate for 2008-2009: 14 strategies, policies and measures formulated/adopted Target for 2010-2011: 16 strategies, policies and measures formulated/adopted

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to implement and monitor the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	<p>(ii) Increased number of incidents whereby national mechanisms applied ESCWA-developed guidelines on the protection of the rights of women living in conflict-stricken areas</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: No incidents Estimate for 2008-2009: 1 incident Target for 2010-2011: 3 incidents</p> <p>(b) (i) Increased 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 the Convention</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 8 concrete measures Estimate for 2008-2009: 10 concrete measures Target for 2010-2011: 12 concrete measures</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of national and local media interventions, with ESCWA assistance to promote the need to review and adjust laws in conformity with CEDAW</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 3 national/local media interventions Estimate for 2008-2009: 6 national/local media interventions Target for 2010-2011: 9 national/local media interventions</p>

### C. STRATEGY

68. The 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 of the world. The situation of women has deteriorated in some countries of the region 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) the 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.

69. 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.

70. In 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 the expressed needs of member countries, the subprogramme will aim to enhance the capacity of those stakeholders to address critical issues and take concrete measures in that regard.

71. 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. It 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 Subregional Resource Facility for Arab States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Labour Organization (ILO), 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.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

72. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries provide timely response to requests for relevant information by ESCWA; (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.

#### E. OUTPUTS

73. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *ESCWA*

Parliamentary documentation: Report to the Commission on the fourth session of the Committee on Women (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Committee on Women*

a. Substantive servicing of six meetings of the fifth session of the Committee on Women (2011, expected accomplishment (a));

- b. Parliamentary documentation: Review of progress achieved in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in ESCWA member countries; and Thematic key development issues concerning the advancement of women in the Arab region (both in 2011, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (iii) *Ad hoc expert groups*
- a. Mainstreaming gender in the plans and programmes of the ministries of labour and finance in selected ESCWA member countries (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Progress in achieving the MDGs in ESCWA member countries: A gender perspective (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
  - c. Peer review of the study “Status of Arab women: Towards equal participation of women in decision-making” (2011, expected accomplishment (b));
  - d. Media campaigns for gender equality and the empowerment of women in selected media institutions in ESCWA member countries (2010, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*
- (i) *Mandated recurrent publications*
- a. Status of Arab women: Towards equal participation of women in decision-making (2011, jointly by ESCWA/AWO/CAWTAR, expected accomplishment (b));
  - b. Women and Development Series: Good practice and success stories in implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in selected Arab countries (in coordination with ECA, 2011, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (ii) *Mandated non-recurrent publications*
- a. Progress in achievement of the MDGs in ESCWA member countries: A gender perspective (in coordination with UNIFEM, UNDP-SURF, UNFPA, UNHCR, 2010, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Guidelines to mainstreaming gender in the plans and programmes of the ministries of labour and finance in selected ESCWA member countries (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (iii) *Technical materials*
- Economic and social situation of Palestinian women (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (iv) *Electronic publications*
- a. Maintenance and updating of ESCWA’s Advancement of Women home page (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. ESCWA Centre for Women Gender Newsletter (three issues in each of 2010 and 2011, expected accomplishment (a));

- c. Web-portal for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on United Nations entities, and related international resolutions and conventions on gender equality and the empowerment of women (2010, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (v) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*
  - a. Information kit for the fifth session of the Committee on Women (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
  - b. Poster for the fifth session of the Committee on Women (2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

#### Special events:

Launching of the ESCWA Study on the Status of Arab Women: Equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making (2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

#### (c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

##### (i) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

- a. Training workshops on the role of parliamentarians in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (third regional workshop, 2010, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Training workshop for members of national women's bodies on the protection of women living in conflict-stricken areas (2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

##### (ii) *Field projects*

Development Account project: Enhancing the capacity to eradicate violence against women in the ESCWA region (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

## SUBPROGRAMME 7

### CONFLICT MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

74. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related issues. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 7 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

75. The objective of this subprogramme is to reduce the impact of conflict and instability on people and socio-economic development in the ESCWA region.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(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) Increased number of national Government officials and civil society representatives participating in and providing input to ESCWA normative activities

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
	<p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: No national Government officials and civil society representatives            Estimate for 2008-2009: 7 national Government officials and civil society representatives            Target for 2010-2011: 10 national Government officials and civil society representatives</p>
(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	<p>(ii) Increased number of member Governments and civic entities using information provided by ESCWA on sources and root causes of instability and their consequences</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: No member Government and civic entities in conflict afflicted countries in the ESCWA region acknowledging utilization and benefit of ECRI's work            Estimate for 2008-2009: ? member Government and civic entities in conflict afflicted countries in the ESCWA region acknowledging utilization and benefit of ECRI's work            Target for 2010-2011: ? member Government and civic entities in conflict afflicted countries in the ESCWA region acknowledging utilization and benefit of ECRI's work</p> <p>(b) (i) Increased 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 practice</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2006-2007: 1 ESCWA promoted policy/measure            Estimate for 2008-2009: 2 ESCWA promoted policies/measures            Target for 2010-2011: 4 ESCWA promoted policies/measures</p>



Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(ii)	Increased number of public and civic entities preparing and implementing development policies and measures with ESCWA assistance
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2006-2007: 2 public and civic entities
	Estimate for 2008-2009: 3 public and civic entities
	Target for 2010-2011: 5 public and civic entities

### C. STRATEGY

76. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related issues. Ongoing conflicts or political tensions in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen involving the competing interests of regional and international dynamics have profoundly affected stability as well as reversed 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 standard. That situation continues to create a host of social, economic and political challenges, including growing inter- and intra- community tensions, the continuous influx of displaced persons and the 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 the scarcity of water and global warming.

77. 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, it aims to mainstream conflict-related issues in the ESCWA programme.

78. 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 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.

79. In the second area, the subprogramme will explore the application of principles of good governance, based on the internationally agreed upon human rights principles, 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 contexts of peacebuilding and conflict mitigation.

80. 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.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

81. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is continuing access to direct beneficiaries; (b) the political will exists in ESCWA member countries to address collectively the root causes of conflicts and instability; and (c) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources.

#### E. OUTPUTS

82. During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Council*

Parliamentary documentation: Two reports on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation for the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));

(ii) *ESCWA*

Report on the impact of conflict or political crisis on socio-economic development in the ESCWA region (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert groups*

- a. Approaches to sustainable development under crisis conditions: Conflict and the MDGs (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Good governance and management of public services under conditions of conflict or instability: Follow-up (2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

(i) *Mandated non-recurrent publications*

- a. Trends and Impact in Conflict Settings (Issue 2, 2010, thematic and depends on (a) (iii) a, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Impact of the food security crisis on ESCWA member countries, (2010, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Technical materials*

- a. Working paper: Impact of conflict on socio-economic development in countries in the ESCWA region (2011, thematic and related to (a) (iii) b, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Working paper on emerging socio-economic issues under conditions of conflict or political instability (2011, thematic and related to extrabudgetary projects listed below, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- c. Situation analysis addressing socio-economic developments in the region's less developed countries, (expected accomplishment (a));
- d. Maintenance and updating of ESCWA's Conflict Mitigation and Development home page (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- e. Contribution to ESCWA's Public Administration Network (ESCWA-PAN) website on public administration and governance activities in the Arab region, ESCWA being the regional node of UNPAN for the Arab countries (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

(iii) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

- a. Booklet on socio-economic conditions in occupied Palestinian territory (2010, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Pamphlet on socio-economic conditions in occupied Palestinian territory (2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. Fact sheets on the socio-economic situation in the region's less developed countries (expected accomplishment (a));
- d. Information kits on selected ESCWA substantive activities related to areas in conflict or political instability (2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

(iv) *Special events*

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

(v) *Contribution to joint outputs*

- a. Substantive contribution to the United Nations Country Team strategy and priorities in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, the Sudan and Yemen (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Substantive contribution to League of Arab States activities relating to attaining the MDGs in conflict-stricken countries, the impact of the food crisis, and other emerging issues (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (a)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*(i) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

- a. Workshops on promoting decentralization in the ESCWA region: capacity-building in governance (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b));
- b. Improving the capabilities of Government officials in public sector management in the Sudan, in cooperation with stakeholders (2010-2011, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Field projects*

- a. Decentralization, in cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), (2010-2011, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- b. Supporting peaceful coexistence and communal harmony among adolescents in Iraq through non-formal education (in partnership with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAMI, HRO and UNIFEM, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- c. Carob agro-forestry in sustainable livelihoods and conservation in Lebanon (in partnership with AUB/IBSAR, ADR and UNIDO, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));
- d. Capacity-building the for good governance to enhance development in crisis-afflicted countries (expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

Annex**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*

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*

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

*ESCWA resolution*

255 (XXIII) The Establishment of a Regional Mechanism for Building Capacities to Manage Shared Water Resources

*Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies*

*General Assembly resolutions*

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



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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*

- 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*

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

*United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 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*

- 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 |
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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

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