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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on tracking and monitoring food security in the Arab Region for Palestine
Amman, 19-21 July 2022

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture requested ESCWA to assist in enhancing capacities of senior staff at the Ministry and other related government institutions so they could better monitor and address progress towards the achievement of food security and nutrition and related SDGs. To this effect, ESCWA is organizing a workshop to allow participants to review and discuss innovative approaches to monitor the status and address related challenges to enable them to better report the prevailing food security situation and consequently chart an appropriate path forward. The workshop builds on ESCWA's developed Arab Food Security Monitoring Framework deployed in 2019, which has already been introduced to a number of experts and governmental institution within the Arab region.

This workshop will be specifically tailored to address the concerns of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and associated institutions. The workshop will introduce and go into the intricacies of the framework so participant could discuss and report on the prevailing situation with a view to facilitate policy-making and programme-planning. As the framework builds on several SDGs indicators, the workshop will also examine how to prepare comprehensive, effective and inclusive reports that could be easily integrated into the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) for reporting on SDGs achievements. Linking the reporting for the Food Security Monitoring Framework to that of the SDGs achievement would facilitate its use during the food security-related reporting cycles for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) as well as the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD). The focus during this workshop will be solely on indicators comprising the Food Security Monitoring Framework and aligned SDGs indicators including a few others among those indicators assigned to the FAO.

The Arab Food Security Monitoring Framework was developed by ESCWA, in collaboration with partners notably the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The framework was adopted by the Arab Ministers responsible for Agriculture during the 35th meeting of the Executive Committee of the AOAD on 28 March 2019. It consists of 24 indicators split into three core indicators (undernourishment, food insecurity experience and obesity) with the remaining 21 indicators distributed along the four dimensions of food security: availability, accessibility, utilization and stability. Several of these indicators are aligned with those from the SDGs. The monitoring framework facilitates the assessment, evaluation and interpretation of these indicators with the results easily translated into policy recommendations to guide evidence-based strategies and programmes. The workshop will be supported by the already published documents on "Tracking food security"

and its accompanying manual, as well as the HLPF Handbook on VNRs. These documents will be shared electronically with attending experts.

This workshop will take place in Amman, Jordan, 19-21 July 2022.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the workshop is to:

- Overview the conceptual framework of the Arab Food Security Monitoring framework;
- Exchange views on how to interpret and report on the results of the framework;
- Overview the guiding principle of the VNRs process;
- Review best practices and the first VNR of Palestine;

III. PARTICIPANTS

Senior staff from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and other national institutions.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop will be held 19-21 July 2022, in Amman, Jordan.

Discussions will be conducted in both English and Arabic with interpretation provided.

V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Participants will be required to register and provide required documents (photograph and copy of passport) well ahead of the workshop to allow for the processing of their travel and issuance of meeting IDs. Participants will be responsible for securing a visa for travel to Jordan while ESCWA will provide the nominated experts a Daily Subsistence Allowance and cover related travel costs based on prevailing UN rules and regulations.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

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