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**MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

**Summary**

This document presents amendments to the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2014-2015, proposed by the ESCWA secretariat. The amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 at its twenty-seventh session in 2012.

The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

### Introduction

1. This document presents amendments proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015. The amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly and from the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 at its twenty-seventh session in 2012.
2. The proposed amendments are intended to make optimal use of the resources available to the secretariat, while further enhancing the quality and relevance of priority services provided by ESCWA in implementing the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.
3. In addition, the secretariat introduced these amendments with the aim of aligning, when possible, the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 with the strategic pillars of the Commission for the biennium 2016-2017 as set out in the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 (presented in document E/ESCWA/28/7), to ensure continuity and maximize the impact of services provided by ESCWA to member States.
4. The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015

5. The following matrix provides the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015, itemized by subprogramme.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
<b>Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Job creation through sustainable energy for all			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to be in harmony with the focus areas of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD). <u>New title</u> : Second Arab energy forum for renewable energy and energy efficiency: enhancing the role of small and medium enterprises.
Impacts of energy subsidies on economic growth and climate change mitigation measures			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to be in harmony with the focus areas of SDPD. <u>New title</u> : Road map for integrated sustainable energy policies in the Arab region.
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Pathways towards Sustainable Agricultural Production and Consumption in the Arab Region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to be in harmony with the focus areas of SDPD. <u>New title</u> : Pathways towards Food Security in the Arab Region.

Note: T = Terminated; A = Added; R = Reformulated; P = Postponed.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
Cooperation on Shared Water Resources in the Arab Region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. In the biennium 2012-2013 the output on climate change was replaced with the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia. <u>New title</u> : Assessment of Climate Change Impact and Vulnerability in the Arab Region.
<i>Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits</i>					
Profile of national and regional institutions for sustainable development			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to put emphasis on the electrical power as a main sector of sustainable development. <u>New title</u> : The electricity sector in the Arab region: status of institutional frameworks.
Renewable energy technologies for the ESCWA region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to allow for the publication of original research that will be undertaken on several sustainable development issues within the year. <u>New title</u> : Working paper series 2014.
The potential contribution of energy efficiency to energy security and climate change mitigation in the ESCWA region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to allow for the publication of original research that will be undertaken on several sustainable development issues within the year. <u>New title</u> : Working paper series 2015.
<i>Technical material</i>					
Access to water supply and sanitation in the Arab region: looking beyond 2015			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to put emphasis on indicators within the water supply and sanitation sector. <u>New title</u> : Water supply and sanitation indicators: a training manual.
<i>Contribution to joint outputs</i>					
Input into the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<i>Field projects</i>					
Promoting sustainable agricultural production and consumption in the Arab region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to reflect the focus shift towards food security rather than agriculture production and consumption. <u>New title</u> : Promoting food security in the Arab region.
Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development			1		<b>Reformulated to avoid the duplication</b> of outputs resulting from a mistake in listing the projects during the preparation of the programme budget. <u>New title</u> : Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
Strengthening national capacities in developing green production sectors		1			<b>Added</b> as a result of extending the duration of the project to 2014.
Enhancing energy security and improving access to energy services through the development of public-private renewable energy partnerships		1			<b>Added</b> as a result of extending the duration of the project to 2014.
Strengthening national capacities to manage water scarcity and drought in Western Asia and North Africa		1			<b>Added</b> as a result of extending the duration of the project to 2014.
<b>Total for subprogramme 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 2. Social development</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Forum for a new Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities and Plan of Action (2014-2023)			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align work with ESCWA priorities for 2016-2017. <u>New title:</u> Inclusive social development in the Arab region.
Labour market policies			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align work with ESCWA priorities for 2016-2017. <u>New title:</u> International migration and development in the Arab region.
Review of the outline of the publication entitled “Social Development Report No.1: Participatory Processes in Arab Countries Undergoing Democratic Transition”		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to replace the e-discussion on the Integrated Social Policy Report VI. Previous practices have shown the importance of conceptualizing and brainstorming on the outline of recurrent publications in order to ensure high-level buy-in and maximize outcomes.
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Integrated Social Policy Report VI: Integrated Policies for Inclusive Labour Markets			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes as a result of the restructuring of subprogramme 2, and in alignment with ESCWA strategic pillar ‘good governance and resilience’, specifically with the priority area ‘participation and citizenship’. <u>New title:</u> Social Development Report No.1: Participatory Processes in Arab Countries undergoing Democratic Transition.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
Participatory processes in Arab countries undergoing democratic transition			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align work with ESCWA 2016-2017 priority area 'policy coherence'. Participatory processes will be addressed in the report on Inclusive Social Development in the Arab Region. <u>New title:</u> International Migration and Development in the Arab Region.
<i>Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits</i>					
Information kit on participatory development programmes: conditions and mechanisms			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, as a result of the restructuring of subprogramme 2, and the thematic focus on social justice in alignment with ESCWA strategic pillar 'good governance and resilience'. <u>New title:</u> Information kit on participatory development and social justice.
<i>Special events</i>					
International Day of Persons with Disabilities			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, as a result of the restructuring of subprogramme 2, and the thematic focus on social justice in alignment with ESCWA strategic pillar 'good governance and resilience'. <u>New title:</u> World Day of Social Justice.
<i>Technical material</i>					
E-discussions on the outline of the Social Policy Report VI	1				<b>Terminated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> and reinstated as an ad hoc expert group meeting.
E-seminar on democratic transitions and civil society organizations			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, as a result of the restructuring of subprogramme 2, and the thematic focus on social justice in alignment with ESCWA strategic pillar 'Good governance and resilience'. <u>New title:</u> E-seminar on democratic transitions and social justice.
Labour market country profiles			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align work with ESCWA priorities for 2016-2017. <u>New title:</u> Zakat study on Palestine.
Paper on labour market trends in the Arab region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align work with ESCWA priorities for 2016-2017. <u>New title:</u> Zakat study on Lebanon.
Working paper on the role of specialized organizations in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes to avoid duplication with the planned technical paper on the role of specialized organizations in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. <u>New title:</u> Working paper on migration governance in the Arab region.
Working paper on key population and development issues		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
<i>Training courses, workshops, seminars</i>					
Expanding social protection to the informal sector			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Social development policy.
<i>Field projects</i>					
Regional initiative on youth employment – Phase II			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to better align with ESCWA priorities for 2016-2017. <u>New title</u> : International migration and development in the Arab region.
Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies		1			<b>Added</b> upon approval of Section 35 – Development Account (9 <sup>th</sup> Tranche).
Time for equality		1			<b>Added</b> upon approval of Section 35 - Development Account (8 <sup>th</sup> Tranche).
<b>Total for subprogramme 2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
High priority issues related to financing for development			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes under the new structure of the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) and in the light of the strategic pillars of the ESCWA programme of work. <u>New title</u> : Developing regional economic governance standards.
Investment policy in the Arab region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Integration in the Arab region.
Regional task force meeting on governance		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. ESCWA, as a member of the Task Force of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on Governance, is playing an active role by hosting regular regional meetings.
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Development Finance in the Arab Region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes under the new structure of EDGD and in the light of the strategic pillars of the programme of work. <u>New title</u> : Arab Economic Governance.
<i>Technical material</i>					
Working paper on development policy			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Rethinking development for the future: The new Sustainable Development Goals.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
Working paper on development policy			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Annual fiscal space survey.
Working paper on rethinking social and economic transformation		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
Working paper on social dynamics of middle class		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
Working paper on political participation and middle class		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
Working paper on labour market and middle class		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<b>Total for subprogramme 3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 4. Information and communication technology for regional integration</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Prospects of space and satellite technology development in the Arab region		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
<i>Technical material</i>					
Measurement of the information and communication technology contribution to economic development			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Legislative directives to enhance private sector engagement in research and development activities.
Implementation of the Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Capacity-building and institutional development for Arab Governments to enhance commercialization of science, technology and innovation outputs.
<i>Field projects</i>					
Promotion of the digital Arabic content through incubation		1			Project <b>continuing</b> from the biennium 2012-2013.
<b>Total for subprogramme 4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking</b>					
<i>Servicing intergovernmental meetings</i>					
Servicing the meetings of the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee		1			<b>Added at the request of member States</b> during the tenth session of the Statistical Committee (30-31 January 2013).
Report on the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee		1			<b>Added at the request of member States</b> during the tenth session of the Statistical Committee.

Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Working group on measuring the impact of statistical capacity-building		1			<b>Added at the request of member States</b> during the tenth session of the Statistical Committee. The Bureau of the Committee requested its activation in 2014.
Servicing the meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific		1			<b>Added in response to demand</b> formulated at the meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific in January 2014, and by the Bureau of the Statistical Committee in its meeting in December 2013.
Price statistics for regional integration			1		Reformulated at the recommendation of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee in its meeting in December 2013. <u>New title</u> : Price statistics and the use of technology for price statistics.
<i>Technical material</i>					
E-learning tool on gender statistics		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes.
Maintenance and update of the e-glossary on statistical terms			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. <u>New title</u> : Annual collection of statistical data on population and vital statistics, social statistics and indicators, gender in figures, national accounts, price statistics, external trade in goods and services, industrial statistics, environment statistics, energy statistics and balances, and societal progress.
<b>Total for subprogramme 5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women</b>					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Gender discussion series		8			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. These discussions provide a platform for dissemination of findings of ESCWA studies, sharing of experiences, raising awareness and sensitizing all relevant stakeholders to women's issues in the region. As such, the series contributes to the adoption and implementation of participatory governance and national development policies based on equal participation of men and women.
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Women and the Knowledge Society in the Arab Region			1		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> to respond to the call addressed by the Secretary-General to the regional commissions to prepare regional reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action after 20 years. Those reports will feed into the report of the Secretary-General on Beijing +20 in preparation for the 59 <sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in 2015. The reformulation also responds to the recommendations of the sixth session of the



Activity	Status				Justification
	T	A	R	P	
					Committee on Women which requested the secretariat to review progress achieved in the region in the 12 thematic areas of concern specified in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The original topic of the publication "Women and the Knowledge Society in the Arab Region" will be covered within the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017. <u>New title</u> : Regional Study on Beijing +20 Review.
<i>Technical material</i>					
ESCWA Centre for Women Gender Newsletter			2		<b>Reformulated at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes. The Centre for Women aims to communicate to policymakers and other stakeholders priority policy issues related to the empowerment of Arab women, as well as the main findings of the normative work conducted by ESCWA on gender-related issues, and to propose policy options to address identified gaps and needs. <u>New title</u> : Policy brief.
Report on regional gender mainstreaming for Sustainable Development Goals		1			<b>Added</b> as part of ESCWA commitments to deliver on the Rio+20 outcomes.
<b>Total for subprogramme 6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development</b>					
<i>Technical material</i>					
Working paper on clear and transparent mechanisms of governance during political transition		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> for programmatic purposes, to encourage innovative research on the topic.
<i>Contribution to joint outputs</i>					
Chapter on governance for sustainable development in light of the recent political changes in the region, as part of the Sustainable Development Report		1			<b>Added at the initiative of the secretariat</b> to strengthen multidisciplinary outputs.
<b>Total for subprogramme 7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Grand total for ESCWA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	

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