



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



**ESCWA STATEMENT AT SIDE EVENT ON “INFORMED  
DECISION MAKING ON ARAB FOOD SECURITY  
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”  
15 OCTOBER 2019**

Excellencies and Colleagues,  
Good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you today to ESCWA side event organized in partnership with FAO, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), and the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Food security for the growing and increasingly affluent Arab population is a continuous challenge. Arab policy makers strive to ensure that enough food is available, accessible and utilized by all and that the food system is stable enough to overcome physical, financial, socio-political and natural shocks. This is indeed a difficult task given the complexity and multi sectoral nature of food security.

**How is ESCWA making a difference?**

With our partners present here, we were able to develop the **Arab Regional Food Security Monitoring Framework**, a tool that builds on global knowledge and practices while accounting for regional specificities. It allows identifying gaps and hotspot areas to inform decision making. The tool will be introduced to you today.

In tandem, ESCWA and partners developed the capacity of ministries of agriculture to enhance **resilience to climate change**, based on climate modeling projections that allows to forecast agricultural productivity and build evidence for policy directions at national levels. It will also be presented today.

Please make sure to visit the display area outside the room where you will find some of our knowledge products to inform and support decision making processes.

In conclusion, I would like to re-iterate my sincere appreciation to our partners in this initiative, to Sida for their support and I thank you all speakers, and participants, for attending this event and look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration.