

**Expert Group Meeting on Multidimensional Inequality in Arab Countries
Committee Room I, UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon, 18-19 February 2019**

Day One – 18 February 2019

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:45 Opening Session

Introductory Remarks, *Mr. Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Director, Economic Development and Integration Division, ESCWA*

Introductory Remarks, *Mr. Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum*

Overview and Objective of the Expert Group Meeting

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

09:45–11:00 Session I- Inequality of Outcome in Health

Chair: Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Ms. Verena Gantner, Junior Researcher, German Development Institute

Discussant: Ms. Myra Yazbeck, Associate Professor, Department of Economics University of Ottawa

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break (B1 – Committee Room I Area)

11:15 – 12:30 Session II – Inequality of Outcome in Education

Chair: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Ms. Verena Gantner, Junior Researcher, German Development Institute

Ms. Manuella Nehme, Individual Contractor, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: Ms. Rana Hendy, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Economics, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break (Ground Floor – Cafeteria)

Agenda

جدول الأعمال

14:00 - 15:15 Session III- Inequality of Opportunity in Education

Chair: Ms. Racha Ramadan Mohamed, Associate Professor at Cairo University and Economist at ERF

Ms. Rana Hendy, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Economics, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Discussant: *Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa*

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break (B1 – Committee Room I Area)

15:30 - 16:45 Session IV- Inequality of Opportunity in Health

Chair: Mr. Bilal Al-Kiswani, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Mesbah Sharaf, Faculty Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Alberta, Canada

Discussant: *Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa*

Day Two – 19 February 2019

09:00–10:15 Session V – Gender Inequality

Chair: Ms. Zahra Langhi, Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA Center for Women, ESCWA

Ms. Racha Ramadan Mohamed, Associate Professor at Cairo University and Economist at ERF

Ms. Hanan Nazier, Research Associate/Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics & Political Science, Cairo University

Ms. Valentina Calderón-Mejía, Economic Affairs Officer, Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division, ESCWA

Discussant: *Ms. Sahar Taghdisi Rad, Lecturer in Economic, School of Oriental and African Studies*

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break (B1 – Committee Room I Area)

10:30 – 11:45 Session VI – Poverty Correlates and Social Policy

Chair: Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael. Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Bilal Al-Kiswani, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: *Mr. Rami Tabri, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University of Sydney*

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11:45 – 13:15 Lunch break (Ground Floor – Cafeteria)

13:15 – 14:30 Session VII – Inequality Drivers: The role of Economic Policies

Chair: Mr. Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum

Mr. Niranjan Sarangi, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Salim Araji, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: Mr. Ghassan Dibeh, Professor/Chair of the Department of Economics, Lebanese American University

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break (B1 – Committee Room I Area)

14:45 – 16:00 Session VIII – Political Economy Considerations

Chair: Mr. Samir Makdisi, Professor, American University of Beirut

Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: Ms. Sahar Taghdisi Rad, Lecturer in Economic, School of Oriental and African Studies

Mr. Rami Khouri, Senior Public Policy Fellow, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut

16:00 – 17:00 Closing Session

Chair: Mr. Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Director, Economic Development and Integration Division, ESCWA

Ms. Souraya Zein, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa