



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA
(UN-ESCWA)

5th Meeting of the Working Group of the Statistical Committee Beirut, 14-15 February 2012

Beirut, Lebanon

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. MEETING, LANGUAGE AND WORKSHOP VENUE

- The above meeting, taking place from 14-15 February 2012, and will be held at the UN House in Beirut - Lebanon, Committee Room I, at the B1 Level. The morning sessions will start @8:00 a.m.. to 4:00 p.m.
- There will be simultaneous interpretation in both English and Arabic languages.
- The address of the UN House is:

UN House ESCWA
Riad El Solh st. - Downtown
PO Box: 11-8575
Beirut - Lebanon
Tel. : (+9611) 981-301
Fax : (+9611) 981-510
<http://www.escwa.un.org>

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The Bureau of the Statistical Committee held its meeting in Beirut on 9 December 2011. The Bureau recommended the organization of a meeting for the Working Group of the ESCWA Statistical Committee in order to prepare for the 43rd session of the UN Statistical Commission. Members of the Bureau considered that the meeting of the Working Group that also in the past discussed the common position of countries in the region is of a high importance.

Following to this recommendation, I am proposing to held the meeting of the Working Group on 14 and 15 February 2012 in Beirut. The meeting will discuss common position of member countries on items for discussion and decision at the 43 session of the UN Statistical commission, namely the following:

- (a) Population and housing censuses
- (b) Crime statistics
- (c) National accounts

- (d) Agricultural statistics
- (e) Environmental-economic accounting
- (f) Environment statistics
- (g) Energy statistics
- (h) Statistics for natural resource-based economies
- (i) ICT statistics
- (j) National quality assurance frameworks
- (k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- (l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations
- (m) Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development
- (n) Statistics of human development
- (o) Regional statistical development in Europe

The meeting will also be invited to provide views of member countries on the evaluation of the ESCWA Statistics programme that took part in 2011. Please find attached the evaluation report and its executive summary and the full evaluation report.

II. ACCESS TO THE UN HOUSE

- Before entering the Committee Room I, delegates must collect their security badge from the **reception desk**, located at the entrance of the UN House. It is advisable to arrive at the UN House at least 30 minutes before the meeting is due to start in order to allow time to collect your badge and sign in.
- The following documents should be presented to the reception:
 - Original of the registration form
 - Photo ID (e.g. passport)
- Only delegates who previously sent their registration forms will be able to obtain their entry passes.
- For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the UN House.

III. TRANSPORTATION IN BEIRUT

- Delegates are kindly requested to book their transportation from Rafic Hariri Airport to respective Hotels. Participants can either book their transportation through the hotel they are staying at or by contacting one of the below Taxi services.

	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Rate from airport</u>	<u>Rate to airport</u>
- Allo Taxi	+9611517070/ +9613753430	16.6\$	16.6\$
- Lebanon Taxi	+9611353153	20.0\$	20.0\$
- Charlie Taxi	+9611285710	18.0\$	14.6\$

- The Rafic Hariri Airport is approximately 7 kilometres from the city centre, Downtown, the journey takes 10-15 minutes.

IV. ACCOMMODATION

- It is the responsibility of delegates to make their own accommodation arrangements. Given the wide variety of hotels around the city, no reservations or recommendations have been made. A list of hotels is attached with preferential rate for participants in United Nations meetings.
- It is imperative that hotel reservations are made as early as possible as Beirut is a busy tourist venue and hotels can get booked out.

- You can provide the hotel the invitation letter to confirm your participation in a UN workshop in order to get a UN rate.

V. SMOKING

- The United Nations buildings are smoke-free areas. Participants are allowed to smoke only in the designated areas.

VI. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

- The exchange rate is LBP 1,500.00= 1.00US\$

VII. VISA

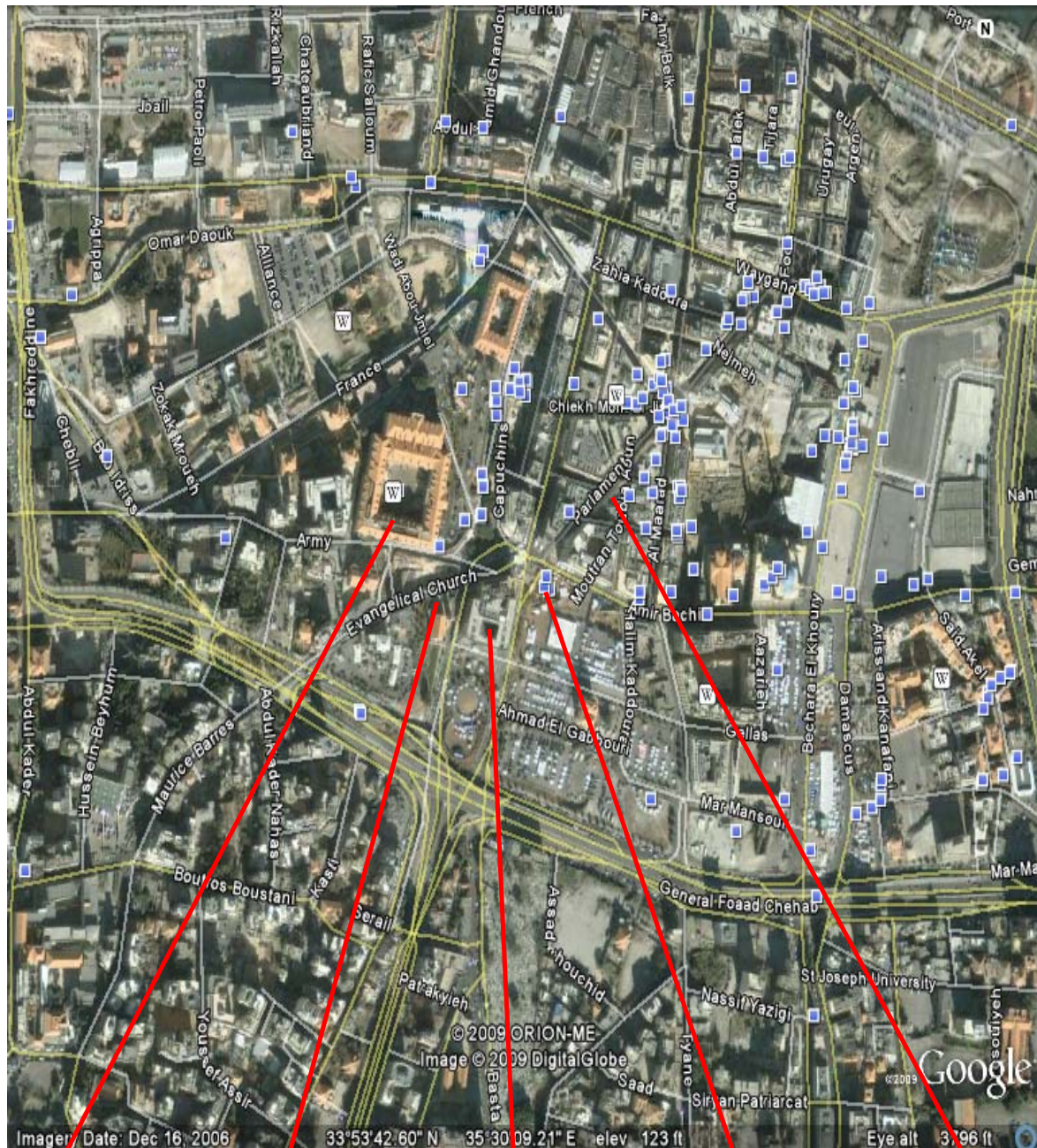
- All delegates attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas must be made as soon as possible to the Lebanese Embassy in the country in which the delegates reside, with a reference to the Workshop.
- UNESCWA can facilitate issuance of visa by sending a personalized letter of invitation upon request.

VIII. Information Guides and Maps

Kindly find below some links to Lebanese information guides.

- <http://www.travel-to-lebanon.com/>
- <http://www.beirut-lebanon.com/>
- <http://www.beirutmap.com/>
- <http://www.lebanon-tourism.gov.lb/>
- <http://www.discoverlebanon.com/>

Map



SARAY **Evangelical Church** **UN House, ESCWA** **Riad El Solh Monument** **Parliament**



The UN House Building in Riad El Solh, Downtown Beirut

IX. GENERAL INFORMATION

- For more information please contact the UNESCWA Statistics Division:

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