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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Training Workshop on the use of the Food Security Monitoring Framework in the Arab Region, Tunis, 29 July- 1 August 2019

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Food Security is one of the main developmental challenges facing the Arab region. Its concept has evolved over the past decades as its scope has widened. It is being conceptualized according to four main dimensions, namely: availability, access, utilization and stability over time.

Food security monitoring and assessment has become an important issue that governments are tackling in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, SDG2 addresses the issue of ending hunger with its direct links to food access and poverty reduction, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. Other targets and indicators under other SDGs are also strongly linked to food security issues. In the Arab region, however, emphasis in monitoring Food security status has been placed on the food availability dimension with efforts concentrated on increasing agricultural production with the aim of enhancing self-sufficiency.

Therefore, within the framework of implementing the Sida funded project on “Promoting Food and Water Security through Cooperation and Capacity Development in the Arab Region”, a regional food security monitoring system was developed in collaboration with AOAD and FAO and after a long consultative process. This framework was adopted by the Arab Ministers responsible for Agriculture during the 35th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD) on 28 March 2019.

In this respect, ESCWA, in cooperation with FAO, Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), is organizing the “Training Workshop on the use of the Food Security Monitoring Framework in the Arab Region” from 29 July till 1 August at the Penthouse Hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia. This workshop aims to train experts in the Arab Region on the use of the adopted framework, including its dashboard and indicators, in preparation for the First report on the status of Food security in the Arab region.

**II. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this Training Workshop is to review the concept of food security monitoring, and consultative process undertaken towards adopting a regional monitoring framework and introduce the related indicators for monitoring food security at the national levels as endorsed by Arab Countries.

During the workshop officials from the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and the National Statistics offices are expected to review those indicators, train on the use of the Food Security Monitoring Framework datasets and related dashboards, analyze and present the results.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will bring together the representatives from the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and the National Statistical Offices to coordinate with ESCWA, FAO, AOAD and AITRS experts on the implementation of the food monitoring Framework in each Arab Country.

### IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Penthouse Hotel, Tunis from 29 July till 1 August 2019. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at 9:00 am to register for the meeting, which will promptly start at 9:30 am.

### V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Designated officials interested participants and regional partners are kindly invited to submit their completed registration form to the ESCWA secretariat by **Friday, 12 July 2019**.

Sponsorship of officials and representatives from Arab States is available. Sponsorship includes roundtrip travel to Tunis, a daily subsistence allowance (125 USD/ Day) to cover hotel, meals and incidental expenses for up to five nights in Tunis, and a terminal allowance (188 USD) to facilitate ground transportation to and from the airport. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the least expensive route, in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations.

Requests for sponsorship must be received by ESCWA no later than **Friday, 12 July 2019** and should include a copy of the national passport.

Participants are required to secure their own visas for travel to Tunisia, as may be necessary. A personalized letter of invitation can be provided by ESCWA for nominated participants to facilitate the visa request process.

AOAD can assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour, scanned copy of their national passport to the ESCWA and AOAD secretariat as early as possible as visas may take some time to process.

The Penthouse Hotel is offering preferential room rates to meeting participants. The single room rate is **190 TND (US\$ 64/night)** and the double room rate is **230 TND (US\$ 77/night)**, inclusive of breakfast, and all taxes.

Kindly contact the hotel directly to arrange for Airport pick-up.

### VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

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