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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Expert Group Meeting on Economic
Diversification in the Arab World
Beirut, 25-27 September 2001

Agenda

<i>Day One: Tuesday 25/9/2001</i>	
08:30 – 9:00	Registration
09:00 – 9:30	<i>Opening Ceremony:</i> Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and The Arab Planning Institute
09:30 – 10:00	Reception
10:00 – 13:15	Session 1: Economic Diversification in GCC Countries Session Chair: <i>Dr. Zeki Fattah</i>
10:00 – 10:20	▪ Paper: “Economic Diversification in the Oil Producing Countries: The Case of the GCC Economies” Speaker: <i>Dr. Elias Baroudi</i>
10:20 – 10:30	Discussant: <i>Dr. Randa Azar</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Open Discussion
10:45 – 11:05	▪ Paper: “Economic Diversification and Gender in the GCC Countries” Speaker: <i>Dr. Simon Neaime</i>
11:05 – 11:15	Open Discussion
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 11:50	▪ Paper: “Economic Diversification in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” Speaker: <i>Dr. Abdel-Rahman Abdel Mahmoud</i>
11:50 – 12:00	Discussant: <i>Dr. Ahmed Bin Abid</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Open Discussion
12:15 – 12:35	▪ Paper: “An Assessment of Economic Diversification in Kuwait” Speaker: <i>Dr. Nagy Eltony</i>

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Day One: Tuesday 25/9/2001 (continued)

- 12:35 – 12:45 Discussant: *Dr. Tholvadur Gylfason*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Open Discussion
- 13:00 – 13:15 Coffee Break
- 13:15 – 14:45 Session 2: Economic Diversification in Arab Countries
Session Chair: *Dr. Imed Limam*
- 13:15 – 13:35 ▪ Paper: “Diversification in the Syrian Economy”
Speaker: *Dr. Fouad Al-Sayed*
- 13:35 – 13:45 Discussant: *Dr. Nazem Abdalla*
- 13:45 – 14:45 Open Discussion
- 14:45 – 16:00: Lunch Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Day Two: Wednesday 26/9/2001

- 09:00 – 11:15 Session 3: Economic Diversification in Selected Arab Countries
Session Chair: *Dr. Zeki Fattah*
- 09:00 – 09:20 Paper: “Diversification, Employment and Development: Towards a Long-Term Strategy for an Oil-Exporting Country; The Case of Iran”
Speaker: *Dr. Mehdi Shafaeddin*
- 09:20 – 09:45 Open Discussion
- 09:45 – 10:05 Paper: “Economic Diversification: the Case of Egypt” by Dr. Hanaa Kheir-El-Din
Speaker: *Dr. Saad Hafez*
- 10:05 – 10:15 Discussant: *Dr. Abdel-Rahman Abdel Mahmoud*
- 10:15 – 10:30 Open Discussion
- 10:30 – 10:50 ▪ Paper: “Technology, Institutions, Organizations, Connectivity and Diversification of the Real Economy”
Speaker: *Dr. Antoine Zehlan*
- 10:50 – 11:00 Discussant: *Dr. Mehdi Shafaeddin*
- 11:00 – 11:15 Open Discussion
- 11:15 – 11:25 Coffee Break
- 11:25 – 12:55 Session 4: Economic Diversification in Jordan and Sudan
Session Chair: *Dr. Abdel-Rahman Abdel Mahmoud*
- 11:25 – 11:45 ▪ Paper: “Economic Diversification in the Arab World: The Case of Jordan”
Speaker: *Dr. Yusuf Mansur*
- 11:45 – 11:55 Discussant: *Dr. Mouna Cherkaoui*
- 11:55 – 12:10 Open Discussion

Day Two: Wednesday 26/9/2001 (continued)

- 12:10 – 12:30 ■ Paper: “Diversification and Structural Transformation of an Agrarian Economy: The Case of Sudan”
Speaker: *Dr. Ali Abdel Gadir*
- 12:30 – 12:55 Open Discussion
- 12:55 – 13:10 Coffee Break
- 13:10 – 14:40 Session 5: Economic Diversification in Maghreb Countries
Session Chair: *Dr. Ali Abdel Gadir*
- 13:10 – 13:30 ■ Paper: “Real Exchange Rate, Trade Liberalization and Export Diversification in Selected North African Economies”
Speaker: *Dr. Mouna Cherkaoui*
- 13:30 – 13:40 Discussant: *Dr. Imed Limam*
- 13:40 – 13:55 Open Discussion
- 20:00 – 22:00 Dinner Arab Planning Institute

Day Three: Thursday 27/9/2001

- 09:00 – 09:45 Session 6: Methodology and Indicators for Measuring Diversification
Session Chair: *Dr. Mouna Cherkaoui*
- 09:00 – 09:20 ■ Paper: “Natural Resources and Economic Growth: From Dependence to Diversification” by *Dr. Tholvadur Gylfason*
Speaker: *Dr. Zeki Fattah*
- 09:20 – 09:45 Open Discussion
- 09:45 – 10:05 ■ Paper: “Impact of the World Oil Markets on the Economies of the GCC Countries: Quantitative Assessment and Forecast”
Speaker: *Dr. Saad Hafez*
- 10:05 – 10:15 Discussant: *Dr. Yusuf Mansur*
- 10:15 – 10:30 Open Discussion
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45 – 12:45 Session 7: Conclusions and Recommendations
Session Chair: *Dr. Zeki Fattah*
Speaker: *Dr. Michael Davenport (Rapporteur)*