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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT**SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
5-7 MARCH 2007, AMMAN****Summary**

The sixth session of the Committee on Social Development was held in Amman from 5 to 7 March 2007.

Included on the agenda of the session was the review of a set of reports on social development policies and programmes in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region, focusing principally on the framework for designing social policy and means of implementation and follow-up, participating in social policy for human development and social policy issues at the demographic, social and economic levels, and achieving urban social policy.

The agenda also included items relating to follow-up to the implementation of recommendations made by the fifth session of the Committee; progress achieved in implementing activities related to social development in the period between the fifth and the sixth sessions of the Committee; and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of social development.

This report contains a brief account of the discussions held and the measures recommended by the Committee in respect of each agenda item.

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Introduction

1. The sixth session of the Committee on Social Development was held pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994, which was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994, concerning the establishment of a committee on social development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and pursuant to the recommendations of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development, held in Beirut from 29 to 31 March 2005, which were adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-fourth session, held in Beirut from 8 to 11 May 2006.

2. This report outlines the most important issues that were discussed and the measures that were recommended by the Committee in respect of each agenda item. The Committee unanimously adopted the report at its final session, which was held on 7 March 2007.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

3. The ESCWA Committee on Social Development recommended that member countries and the ESCWA secretariat should take the following measures:

(a) Stress the need to increase the attention given by member countries to integrated social development policies in the Arab region, which entails providing the political, financial and human resources support necessary for their implementation;

(b) Call upon the ESCWA secretariat to take the administrative and financial action necessary to convene an annual rather than a biennial meeting of the Committee on Social Development, in order to enhance the interchange of experience and follow-up of programme implementation;

(c) Call upon the ESCWA secretariat to develop programmes for capacity-building and raising awareness in order to promote partnerships between civil society and Governments in designing and pursuing integrated social policy;

(d) Request the ESCWA secretariat to enhance mechanisms for maintaining continuous contacts with member countries between sessions;

(e) Call upon the ESCWA secretariat to provide the assistance needed for cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies;

(f) Call upon the ESCWA secretariat to provide consultative services in the areas of integrated social policy, comprehensive social development and poverty eradication strategies, promote the concepts and provide means and training programmes; and invite member countries to submit to ESCWA requests for such services according to their needs;

(g) Call upon member countries to designate focal points to follow up, with the Social Development Division at ESCWA, on social development issues in general and social policies in particular; and call upon focal points in member countries to coordinate with relevant partners in their country and monitor the implementation by member countries of their commitments;

(h) Call upon member countries to enhance their interest in social development policy programmes by: (a) building institutional capacities; (b) enabling and training workers in that field; (c) supporting specialized research; and (d) intensifying visits between member countries in order to learn about successful experiences;

(i) Call upon member countries to devote attention to migration issues, in particular with regard to their correlation with development, including forced migration, labour mobility and rights of migrant workers; to participate at the official and expert levels in a regional dialogue organized by ESCWA with a

view to instituting coordination and consultation on the various aspects of migration; and to put in place policies for addressing the phenomenon in an integrated manner;

(j) Call upon member countries to implement a regional media campaign aimed at mobilizing efforts to ensure political and strategic support for the demographic window of opportunity for development in population policies;

(k) Call upon member countries to sign, ratify and commit to implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and urge member countries to continue to work towards the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013, by developing and implementing national policies and plans for integrating persons with disabilities into comprehensive development schemes and finding the appropriate mechanisms for follow-up and monitoring;

(l) Urge member countries to support ESCWA in pursuing implementation of programmes and activities related to the Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance and to the national and local urban observatories, in coordination and cooperation with United Nations programmes and the relevant regional organizations, in order to ensure the achievement of integrated social policy.

II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A. PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 6)

4. The Committee included this item on the agenda of its sixth session in order to inform the representatives of member countries of the programmes and activities undertaken by ESCWA in the field of social development and give them the opportunity to discuss those activities, express their opinions on those and other issues related to social development and detail the latest developments in their countries in that regard.

1. Follow-up to the recommendations made by the fifth session of the Committee

5. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/4(Part I), which contains an explanation of all the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifth session, and the efforts exerted by ESCWA to implement those recommendations and translate them into realities that meet the needs of member countries. Ten recommendations were made, covering all activities of the Social Development Division and a variety of policies, programmes and projects, in addition to consultancy services.

2. Review of achievements in the field of social development between the fifth and sixth sessions of the Committee

6. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/4(Part II). Activities were divided up as set forth below:

(a) Formulation and implementation of social policy

7. The formulation and implementation of social policy programme aims to reach out to policy-makers and stakeholders in social policy in ESCWA member countries with a view to promoting the concept of integrated social policy. The programme consists of ensuring the necessary ways of providing opportunities for dialogue and urging relevant States to adopt the integrated social policy approach. The work of ESCWA between the fifth and sixth sessions of the Committee focused on the following activities: (a) in the context of urging policy-makers in ESCWA countries to adopt the integrated social policy approach based on social justice and equality for all citizens, and in the process of pursuing the third phase of the Integrated Social Policies Programme, national conventions were held in Bahrain and Egypt in order to support Arab Governments in developing and formulating integrated social policy; (b) in the process of enhancing the

capacities of member countries to formulate integrated social policies and determine the related conceptual and practical frameworks, ESCWA continued issuing national reports on social policies in member countries, and in that regard published the *Regional Report on Integrated Social Policies*, Issue No. 1, entitled “Towards integrated social policies in the Arab states: comparative and analytical framework”; and (c) pursuant to its strategy to clarify and standardize the concept of integrated social policy, ESCWA published a brochure on the concept of social policy based on ensuring equal opportunities, and a newsletter on social justice and comprehensive development programmes in which it underlines the need to include social justice in the development process and sets out a framework for the planning of social policy based on justice and human rights.

(b) *Participation of civil society in social policy*

8. In order to build the capacities of Governments and civil society organizations concerned with local development and enable them to contribute to development policy and the management of change and modernization processes and related concepts, trends and achievements, ESCWA activities focused on the following areas: (a) elaborating an integrated approach to local development through participation and by issuing practical guidelines for intervention initiatives and the organization of related activities once they have been revised in the light of remarks made by users; (b) mainstreaming those guidelines through programmes and training models that meet the needs of such participants as Government institutions, civil organizations and local leaders and comply with technical consultancy requirements; (c) organizing workshops at the national and regional levels aimed at promoting knowledge frameworks or supporting coordination mechanisms/work networks, in order to activate all dynamic levels and aspects of participation and launch serious interactive dialogue; (d) publishing studies, reports and publications that promote the interchange of experience in order to support the integration of various levels of development, follow up capacities and potential for participation in policies and programmes, and assess achievements; and (e) providing technical consultancy services to support local development programmes, promote participation in related operations and extend their contribution to integrated social development policies.

(c) *Demographic, social and economic dimensions of social policy*

9. The work of ESCWA in that context focused on the following: (a) extending awareness of the correlation between population and development at the local and regional levels; (b) raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities dictated by demographic changes and their impact on the process of economic and social development; (c) monitoring progress made by Arab States in implementing the plan of action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration in 2000; (d) improving national capacities in the area of formulating national policies and approaches to integrating such policies with economic and social development; (e) calling upon Arab States to address the challenges and benefit from the opportunities arising from international migration; and (f) disseminating knowledge and sharing information related to population and development.

(d) *Urban social policy*

10. As part of the regional follow-up to United Nations world conferences and implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the United Nations Millennium Declaration with respect to cities and human settlements, ESCWA adopted at the regional level the priority issues for Western Asia countries, under the umbrella of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with a view to promoting good urban governance, achieving urban and housing development, and delivering on issues relating to secure tenure, sustainable urban environment and the social inclusion of all groups of society. Since the fifth session of the Committee, the work of ESCWA in that context has centred on disseminating the concepts of the Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance and launching the campaign project in Western Asia countries, in addition to organizing the necessary expert meetings and conferences, publishing studies and State national profiles, and preparing media material for the campaign launch. Action has also been taken with a view to linking the concept of urban observatories to the tasks of Arab municipalities, including enhancing technical cooperation with the Organization for Arab Cities, and publishing studies and research papers on urban management.

3. Member country reports

11. As part of this agenda sub-item devoted to member country reports on their plans and activities related to social development, a number of issues and achievements were reviewed. The focus was on women's issues, human rights, rights of disabled persons, participation, obstacles to social development, the role of civil society in the development process, planning at the local and regional levels, ways of achieving social development in a situation of political instability, ways of strengthening social care, social safety nets and curbing population growth, as well as gains and difficulties in regard to the development of human resources and improvement of population characteristics and, in particular, those relating to education, health care and housing, local and rural development, eradicating poverty, reducing unemployment and strengthening the position and role of the family in the local community. The delegations of Kuwait, Morocco, Oman and Saudi Arabia made national presentations in areas covered by the session and some of those presentations were distributed to participants.

12. Representatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the discussions, which focused on the following: (a) social care and social safety nets; (b) rights of disabled persons; and (c) human development issues and gender equality.

B. SOCIAL POLICIES AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (Agenda item 5)

13. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/3, which stresses the importance devoted by ESCWA to matters of social policies and to providing the required conditions to ensure integration of social and economic policies. This document shows that well formulated and implemented social policy is an effective tool in national development strategies aimed at building justice-oriented societies, providing employment opportunities, promoting economic growth, fighting social exclusion and preventing conflicts. It explains the concept of social policy and ways of addressing it in the ESCWA region, and defines strategies and tools used for conducting scientific social analyses and social policies, including: (a) strengthening the social component of national development strategies; (b) integrating the concept of gender equality in national development; (c) adopting targeted and comprehensive policies; and (d) providing some examples of tools used in accelerating the achievement of gender equality and social development.

14. Discussions covered the following:

(a) The need to produce, on a regular basis, statistics and studies on social policies and mechanisms for implementing them, in order to provide the knowledge needed to formulate social policies and programmes;

(b) The specificities of such areas suffering instability at the political and security levels as Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon, and the complex social problems they improve, including, inter alia, increased poverty rates and forced migration;

(c) The fact that social policy establishes conditions and environments that make it possible to establish connections between various sectors, and that it is important to be guided by other countries' experiences;

(d) The need to address problems of inequity in income distribution among the population, by activating the role of the State as the party concerned with the management of public resources, especially given that patterns of income distribution reflect negatively on the social and economic status quo and on security and stability.

C. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARAB DECADE FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES 2004-2013 IN THE ESCWA REGION
(Agenda item 7)

15. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/5, which contains a review of areas of concern related to the issue of disability in Western Asia after the adoption of the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 at the Arab Summit in Tunisia in 2004. In order to assess the level of official and popular attention given to the issue of disability in the ESCWA region, and the extent of commitment to implementation of the provisions of the Arab Decade, this study answered a series of questions on clear statistical standards for defining disability, the comprehensive legislation governing the issue based on the principle of social inclusion and human rights, the parties in charge of implementing policies related to disability, and the role of stakeholders in decision-making. It also highlighted the problems affecting the process of gathering statistics on the number of disabled persons in the region in comparison with the developed countries, and the changes that have been made to legislation by countries in the region after the adoption of the Arab Decade in 2004. The paper offered some practical suggestions with regard to implementing the Arab Decade at the regional level.

16. The following points were raised in the discussions:

(a) The need to approach disability as a human rights issue rather than a cause for pity and charity and to apply the concept of equal opportunity in dealing with disabled person related issues;

(b) Disability statistics face problems caused by disagreements on the definition of disability and the refusal of families to admit that a member is disabled.

D. LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES
(Agenda item 8)

17. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/6, which underlines the importance devoted by ESCWA to international migration issues, which are highly significant at the regional and international levels and have become a global priority. The United Nations has played an instrumental role in raising awareness of the issue. This document focused on labour migration in Arab countries and addressed the correlation between labour migration and the economic, social and demographic situation in the various Arab countries. It stressed the need for Arab Governments to develop a strategic vision for reference in consultations and dialogue on issues related to Arab labour migration. In view of the economic, social, political and demographic changes that are expected to take place in the region, and changes in Government policies and positions in sending and receiving countries, it is recommended that Governments should work on coordinating their positions and enhance their cooperation, in order to address the challenges posed by those changes and benefit from the opportunities they offer.

18. The following points were raised in the discussions:

(a) The strong correlation between the migration issue and population policies, the development process, investment policies, outcomes of education and the labour market;

(b) The need to provide accurate data on migrants, covering reasons for migration, and length of stay in sending and receiving countries;

(c) The forced migration caused by political considerations in some Arab countries including Iraq and Palestine which could drain those countries of their populations and, in particular, the educated elite;

(d) Some member country representatives questioned the accuracy of data and figures contained in the document and, in particular, those related to youth unemployment. The ESCWA consultant who had produced the report indicated that all the figures cited in the report were taken after thorough research from published and documented sources and that more than 50 sources had been examined.

E. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Agenda item 9)

19. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/7, which contains a review of the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of social development, including the achievements expected from the secretariat and indicators of achievements, in the context of the goal of enhancing the capacity of member countries to formulate and adopt integrated social development policies aimed at achieving social equality, poverty eradication and sustainable population growth. The document also covered the outcomes expected during the biennium 2008-2009, which were defined as follows: the provision of services to inter-governmental bodies and expert groups, other activities, including publications and technical materials, and such technical cooperation activities as consultancy services and training programmes.

20. The following points were raised in the discussions:

(a) Increased attention should be paid by member countries to the consultancy services proposed by ESCWA and the importance of increasing the budgets allocated to those services;

(b) Many member country representatives pointed out that indicators of achievement are quantitative and do not measure the impact of achieving goals. The ESCWA secretariat underlined the difficulty of providing non-quantitative indicators of achievement caused by the fact that social work is a long-term project and that indicators are applied to many countries, in which the situation and prospects vary considerably;

(c) The issue of decentralization in achieving development and the role that can be played by such local authorities as municipalities;

(d) The issue of financing social policies and ways of strengthening partnership, for development. Reference was made to the 20/20 initiative included in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Copenhagen in 1995, which called upon developed and developing countries to commit to the allocation to essential social programmes of an average of 20 per cent of official development aid and 20 per cent of national budgets.

F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE
(Agenda item 10)

21. The Committee decided, under this agenda item, to convene its seventh session at ESCWA headquarters in Beirut, in February 2009.

G. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 11)

22. Under this item, the representative of Morocco made a presentation on the National Initiative for Human Development in Morocco.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT ON ITS SIXTH SESSION**
(Agenda item 12)

23. At its final meeting, held on 7 March 2007, the Committee adopted the report on its sixth session that is contained in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/8.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

24. The sixth session of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development was held in Amman from 5 to 7 March 2007. The Committee held five meetings during the session, in which it discussed the items set forth in the agenda in paragraph 31 of this report.

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

25. The session was opened by Mr. Mohammad Ghadieh, representative of Palestine, in his capacity as Chairman of the fifth session. In his statement, he stressed the importance of the issues that would be considered by the sixth session of the Committee because they highlight human development-related social policies in the Arab countries and the correlation between social and economic issues, bearing in mind that economic growth is no longer sufficient to achieve development and does not have a positive impact on the improved welfare of the population but, on the contrary, often leads to increased unemployment and poverty. He also stressed the importance of placing the human right to health, education, nutrition and housing at the heart of every development policy and changing the philosophy behind social policies from the concept of relief to the concept of development.

26. Ms. Hessa Bint Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Thani, Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, made a statement in which she noted the extent of challenges and ambitions in the Arab world with respect to disability, the big challenges inhibiting the production of statistics in the region, and the military confrontations which increase the number of disabled persons and deprive them of their full rights.

27. Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, stressed in her statement the importance of the role of the Committee on Social Development in discussing the ESCWA programme of work in the field of social development and making suggestions for developing that programme and coordinating its activities. The Executive Secretary focused on the Commission's interest in promoting cooperation and integration in order to strengthen integrated social and economic development at the national and regional levels. She noted that social policy is central and essential because it determines the criteria that guide the general policies of the State and strengthens social stability by including marginalized groups in the productive sectors, thereby increasing national income and making the economy more productive and sustainable. She affirmed the commitment of ESCWA to the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session, and the Commission's resolve to fulfill its commitments with respect to the recommendations made at the current session.

28. Ms. Suheir Al-Aali, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan and sponsor of the session, made a statement in which she welcomed the participants as guests to Jordan. She stressed the importance of the issues that were to be discussed in the sixth session of the Committee, which were vital because they dealt with social policy, labour migration and persons with disabilities. She underlined the importance of social policies, especially in facing the major challenges resulting from changing economic and social realities in the region. She thanked the organizers of and participants in the session for their efforts to establish a general framework for social policy in light of the correlation between social policy and the issues of equality and social justice, including the equitable distribution of resources and benefits of development.

C. PARTICIPANTS

29. Representatives of the following 12 ESCWA member countries participated in the session: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives of three countries with the status of permanent observers, namely, Algeria, Morocco and the Sudan, also participated in the session, as well as representatives of various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and their

associated agencies, other international and regional NGOs, and civil society organizations. The list of participants is included in annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA provides that “Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. Pursuant to that rule, Ms. Sana’a Hikmat Mehiar, representative of Jordan, took the chair of the session. The Committee elected Mr. Naji Elhay Mubarak of the United Arab Emirates, and Mr. Ameen Maaroo Aljond of Yemen, as Vice-Chairmen and Ms. Sawsan El-Masri of Lebanon as Rapporteur.

E. AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

31. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of its sixth session presented in document E/ESCWA/SSD/2007/IG.1/L.1 with some amendments. Set forth below is the agenda in the form in which it was adopted:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Proposed organization of work.
5. Social policy and strategies for national development.
6. Programmes and activities implemented in the field of social development:
 - (a) Follow-up to the recommendations made by the fifth session of the Committee;
 - (b) Review of accomplishments in the field of social development between the fifth and sixth sessions of the Committee;
 - (c) Member country reports.
7. Monitoring the implementation of the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 in the ESCWA region.
8. Labour migration in the Arab countries.
9. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of social development.
10. Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

32. At that meeting the Committee also adopted the proposed organization of work in the form in which it appears in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/L.2.

F. DOCUMENTS

33. Annex II of this report lists the documents submitted to the Committee at its sixth session.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Mr. Ibrahim Mohammad Obeid
Director of Social Care Department and Officer in
Charge of Social Policies Unit
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Ahmad Abdel Razzaq Rabiaa
Senior specialist in quality control
Social Policies Unit
Ministry of Social Development

Iraq

Ms. Bassima Mohammad Sadeq El-Sheebi
Head of United Nations Employment and Labour
Policies Unit
Ministry of Planning and Development
Cooperation

Ms. Amal Mohammad Ahmad Al-Mohanna
Director of Research and Social Training
National Center for Research and Studies
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Jordan

Her Excellency Ms. Suheir Al-Ali
Minister of Planning and International
Cooperation

Mr. Abdallah Al-Smeirat
Director of Social Development (Mafrak)
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Adnan Thani Al-Khazaala
Director of Social Development (Zarqa'a)
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Shahada Abu Hudeib
Director General
Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Mr. Ahmad Saleem Al-Ghazwi
Director of Irbid Municipality

Mr. Lutf Ahmad Abdallah Al-Alaya
Assistant Secretary for Social Development
Sector
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Mr. Soliman Salem Hassnat
Director of Housing Policies
Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Ms. Sana'a Hikmat Mehیار
Director of Properties and Beneficiaries Affairs
Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Ms. May Khalil Asfour
Director of Information
Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Ms. Ruba Saleh Atallah
Poverty and unemployment expert
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

Kuwait

Mr. Hamad Munwar Habib Munwar
Deputy Secretary for the Planning Sector
Ministry of Planning

Ms. Inaam Abdallah Al-Motawaa
Director of Human Development Department
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Ibrahim Hossein Mohammad
Assistant Director
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Mr. Moshaal Munwar Al-Aardi
International Organizations Monitor
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Wissal Abdel Aziz Ahmad Medwah
Education and Training Monitor
Ministry of Planning

Ms. Eiman Ibrahim Al-Haddad
Economic researcher
Ministry of Finance

Lebanon

Ms. Sawsan El-Masri
Deputy Director for Social Development Experts
Ministry of Social Affairs

Oman

Mr. Ali Bin Mahboub Bin Hassan
Director of Technical Bureau of National
Committee for Population
General Directorate for Social Statistics
Ministry of National Economy

Mr. Salem Bin Mohsen Bin Nasser Al-Bimani
Director of Planning
Ministry of Social Development

Mr. Ali Bin Soliman Bin Said Al-Darmaki
Counselor
Embassy of Oman in Jordan

Palestine

Mr. Mohammad Ghadie
Director General of Human Development
Ministry of Planning

Qatar

Mr. Mohammad Bin Sayf Al-Aaseeri
Director of Social Affairs
Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing

Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Al-Mohannadi
Director of Social Planning
Planning Council

Ms. Najat Daham Al-Abdallah
Chief of Social Development
Social Affairs Department
Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing

Ms. Ameena Ahmad Ali Freyduni
Senior social expert
Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing

Ms. Salama Ghanem Mohammad Al-Kawari
Researcher in finance
Social Affairs Division
Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing

Ms. Fatima Ali Al-Suweidi
Administrative researcher
Ministry of Education

Ms. Muneera Abdallah Obeid Al-Duheimi
Social researcher
Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdallah bin Omar Al-Amudi
Director General of Social Development
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Mutlaq bin Mutlaq Al-Hantush
Undersecretary for Social Welfare
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Abdallah Ibrahim Al-Khaleefi
Economic consultant
Ministry of Finance

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Issa Maldaoun
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Mr. Ahmad Nizar Al-Wadi
Director of Planning and Statistics and Research
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Malek Melhem
Director of Human Development
State Planning Commission
Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Wa'el Zakkar
Deputy Director
Syrian Commission for Family Affairs

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Naji Elhay Mubarak Ahmad
Assistant Secretary for Social Development
Ministry of Social Affairs
Dubai

Mr. Taha Hussein Hassan
Editorial secretary
Al-Sharqa

Yemen

Mr. Ameen Maaroo Aljond
Secretary General
National Population Council

Mr. Lotf Ahmad Al-Aalaya
Assistant Under-Secretary for Development
Sector

B. ARAB COUNTRIES NON MEMBERS OF ESCWA

Algeria

Mr. Mokhtar Drani
First Counselor
Embassy of Algeria in Jordan

Mr. Abdel Raheem Mohammad Omar
Minister Plenipotentiary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Morocco

Sudan

Mr. Said Abdallah Said
Under Secretary for Woman and Child Affairs
Ministry of Welfare and Social Development

Mr. Lhassan Al-Omrani
Advisor to the Minister
Ministry of Social Development, Family and
Solidarity

Mr. Othman Mohammad Al-Hussein Abu Ahmad
Ministry of Finance and National Economy

Mr. Assanousi Sayfeddin
Director of Health and Social Development
Ministry of Finance and Privatization

C. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND BODIES

Office of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development

Sheikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Thani
Special Rapporteur
Doha, Qatar

D. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Isabel Ortiz
Senior Interregional Advisor
New York, United States of America

Ms. Kholood Mohammad Homs
Social Development Specialist
Relief and Social Services Programme for Jordan
Amman

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Mr. Ali Shibbo
Office Director
Amman

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. Ahmad Al-Minyawi
Representative of the Organization
Amman

Ms. Shireen Krikorian
Assistant Office Director
Amman

United Nations Population Fund

Ms. Henrietta Asswad
Regional Advisor for Communications and Media
Amman

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Mr. Ibrahim Al-Hjouj
Senior Advisor for Poverty Affairs
Office of Relief and Social Affairs
Amman

Mr. Abdallah Al-Zoabi
Regional Advisor for Population Data and
Analysis
Amman

Ms. Samia Majed Bssisso
Social Development Specialist
Relief and Social Services Programme for Jordan
Amman

E. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

League of Arab States

Mr. Ibrahim Jaafar Al-Souri
Director
Development and Social Policies Department and
Technical Secretariat to the Council of Arab
Ministers of Social Affairs
Cairo

Mr. Tareq Nabil Al-Nabulssi
Officer
Development and Social Policies Department
Social Committee of the Economic and Social
Council
Cairo

Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council States- Executive Office

Mr. Mahmood Ali Hafez
Social Affairs Manager
Manama

F. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Regional Center on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East

Ms. Ghaleb Mustafa Tuffaha
Assistant Director General
Director of Research and Development Studies
Damascus

Institute of National Planning

Mr. Saad Hafez Mahmood Sidqi
Strategic Planning Consultant
Cairo

Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Wadha Ali Al-Suweidi
Member of Committee for Women Affairs
Doha

The Higher Council for Population

Mr. Zuhair Abdel Kareem Abdallah
Secretary General
Amman

Ms. Sameera Hassan Abdallah
Statistics Researcher
Amman

National Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Mona Yaaqoob Hindiya
Director
Policies and Planning Unit
Amman

Ms. Hanan Rishdan
Researcher
Policies and Planning Unit
Amman

G. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Jordanian Women's Union

Ms. Amina Al-Zoabi
Chairwoman

General Federation of Jordanian Women

Ms. Anas Mussa Al-Saket
Chairwoman

Dar al-Tanmia

George Kossayfi
Director
Beirut

Association for Women's Role Development

Ms. Zobayda Adnan Shammoot
Expert
Damascus

Jordanian Democratic Left Party

Mr. Mussa Al-Maayta
Secretary
Amman

Vision for Economic and Administrative
Consultations

Mr. Yussef Mansoor
Director
Amman

Arab Organization for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Nawwaf Kabbara
Chairman of National Association for the Rights
of Disabled People in Lebanon
Beirut

Ms. Jahda Abu Khalil
Director
Beirut

Arab Towns Organization

Mr. Ghassan Samman
Head of Foreign Relations Sector
Kuwait

Landmine Survivors Network

Mr. Adnan Wajih Al-Aboudi
Director of Jordan Office
Amman

Arab Planning Institute

Mr. Issa Mohammad Al-Ghazali
Director
Kuwait

National Centre for Human Rights

Mr. Mohammad Mahmood Al-Sqour
Treasurer
Amman

South-North Center for Dialogue and
Development

Mr. Sabri Aryihat
President
Amman

Takamul: A Barrier-Free Society

Ms. Sandra Willis
Project Director
Dubai

Ms. Asma Maladwala
Technical Manager
Dubai

King Khaled Foundation

Mr. Ashraf Abdel Hakeem Mujahed
Director of Programmes and Activities
Riyadh

Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace

Mr. Antoine Messarra
Director
Beirut

Forum for Women Development

Ms. Jihan Mohammad Al-Sayed Abu Zeid
Development Expert

Help Age International-United Kingdom

Ms. Sharifa Al-Rawi
Coordinator for Jordan Office
Amman

Mr. Abdallah Al-Haurani
Assistant Under-Secretary (Retired)
President of the Association for Displaced
Refugees in Northern Governorates
Ramallah

H. RESEARCH CENTRES AND UNIVERSITIES

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

Mr. Nasri Haddad
Faculty of Agriculture/University of Jordan
Amman

Kuwait University

Mr. Fahd Abdel Rahman Al-Nasser
Sociology Professor
Director of Sociology and Social Services Section

I. EXPERTS

Ms. Maytha Al-Shamsi
Assistant Provost for Research Affairs
General Manager of the Center for Externally
Funded Research Activities
United Arab Emirates University

Mr. Antoine Haddad
Social Development Consultant
Beirut

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/L.1	Provisional Agenda جدول الأعمال المؤقت
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/L.1/Add.1	جدول الأعمال المؤقت المشروع
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/L.2	Proposed Organization of Work تنظيم الأعمال المقترح
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/3	Social Policy And National Development Strategies السياسة الاجتماعية واستراتيجيات التنمية الوطنية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/4	البرامج والأنشطة المنفذة في مجال التنمية الاجتماعية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/4(Part I)	متابعة توصيات الدورة الخامسة للجنة التنمية الاجتماعية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/4(Part II)	ما تم تنفيذه في مجالات التنمية الاجتماعية بين الدورتين الخامسة والسادسة للجنة التنمية الاجتماعية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/5	رصد تنفيذ العقد العربي للمعوقين ٢٠٠٤-٢٠١٣ في منطقة الإسكوا
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/6	هجرة الأيدي العاملة في البلدان العربية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/7	برنامج العمل المقترح لفترة السنتين ٢٠٠٨-٢٠٠٩ في مجال التنمية الاجتماعية
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/8	تقرير لجنة التنمية الاجتماعية عن دورتها السادسة
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/INF.1	Information for participants معلومات للمشاركين
E/ESCWA/SDD/2007/IG.1/INF.2	Information Note مذكرة توضيحية