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**REPORT OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS  
AND THEIR LINK TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA)**

A Training Workshop on Industrial Statistics and Their Link to the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) in cooperation with the Ministry of the Industry of Lebanon. The Workshop was held at the Industrial Research Institute in Beirut from 12 to 18 November 1997.

The Training Workshop, at which a number of topics relating to industrial statistics and national accounts were discussed, was attended by 40 participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

At the end of the Workshop, a round table of participating experts was held to discuss various questions that had been raised during the training session. The following views and recommendations emerged at the round table:

- (a) The Arab States should be called upon to conduct advanced industrial surveys that meet, to the greatest extent possible, both the needs of the 1993 System of National Accounts and the planning and development needs of the countries themselves, and to make available adequate funds for that purpose;
- (b) Communication and mutual visits between Arab countries are essential during the conduct of industrial surveys so as to enable those countries to benefit from each other's experience and exchange expertise;
- (c) It is important to document the various stages of industrial surveys and make them generally available to the Arab countries;
- (d) It is important to hold a workshop on building and construction statistics to ensure familiarity with the changes made in that area by the United Nations and their link to the 1993 System of National Accounts, and also to hold similar workshops for other economic sectors;
- (e) It is important to hold a symposium on industrial activities in the household sector (informal enterprises) in keeping with the concepts and classifications of the 1993 System of National Accounts;
- (f) It is important to tie commercial (financial) accounting to the 1993 System of National Accounts, and to prepare a handbook containing guidelines for that purpose;

(g) The existing cooperation between ESCWA and AIDMO and the efforts expended by them in publishing the biennial *Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries* and in organizing the Training Workshop on Industrial Statistics and Their Link to the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) deserve to be commended, and the organizers should be encouraged to continue and increase that cooperation with a view to developing industrial statistics and other areas of statistics as well;

(h) All those who shared in the organization of this Workshop and contributed to its success are to be lauded and thanked, in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization and the Lebanese Ministry of Industry.

