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**Priority issues in achieving social development  
in the Arab region**

Under this agenda item, the Committee on Social Development will discuss the following issues:

1. The population dimension in achieving sustainable development (E/ESCWA/SDD/2015/IG.1/4 (Part I)): This report identifies population issues and references to vulnerable groups and groups at higher risk of discrimination in the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs), namely youth, migrants, older persons and persons with disabilities. It stresses the importance of ensuring that the final version of SDGs includes a strong focus on population as a key enabler for the achievement of sustainable development.
2. Extending social protection to persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector (E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part II)): This report reviews possible means to extend social protection to specific vulnerable groups, namely persons with disabilities and informal workers in the agricultural sector. It presents recommendations aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms conducive to promoting equitable and inclusive social development.
3. Participation as a lever for social justice (round-table discussion) (E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4 (Part III)): This report highlights the different forms of social injustice experienced in the Arab region, with focus on structural obstacles that perpetuate exclusion and poverty. It emphasizes the central role of participation in furthering social justice and offers recommendations to member States on actions to be taken to foster participation. The secretariat will present this report in a round table that brings together heads of delegations, and high-level speakers and experts from the region.

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