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**REVISED DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017****Summary**

This document presents the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017. The draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 was submitted to the Technical Committee at its eighth meeting (Amman, 10-12 December 2013). This revised version takes into account the comments provided by member States during that meeting and advice from the United Nations Secretariat.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is invited to review the overall programme orientation, focus areas and strategies pertained to the seven subprogrammes, taking into account the specific mandates issued by the Commission and the general mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; make concrete recommendations for further improvement, as necessary; and endorse the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017.



### Overall orientation

19.1 The overall orientation of programme 19, economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development through effective economic and social policies and enhanced cooperation among the member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and with other countries, paying special consideration to the least developed and conflict-stricken countries. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

19.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 establishing ESCWA, and 1985/69 amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006, the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and foster partnerships with them through the lead role of the Commission in the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

19.3 More recently, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled *The Future We Want*, emphasized that “regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions”.

19.4 Furthermore, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recognized “the contribution of the regional commissions as well as interregional, regional and subregional cooperation to addressing development challenges related to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals”. It also requested “the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives, at the request of the programme countries, and to support measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels”. It urged regional commissions “to prioritize sustainable development initiatives at the country level through, inter alia, more efficient and effective capacity-building, development and implementation of regional agreements and arrangements addressing the regional and subregional dimensions of national development goals and the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned”.

19.5 As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the results of the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, and to support regional sustainable development by addressing economic, social and environmental policy gaps in its member States.

19.6 Since late 2010, the political landscape of the Arab region has experienced dramatic transformations with the increasing demands by citizens for freedom and social justice. ESCWA will play a crucial and unique role in assisting member States in addressing current policy weaknesses and enhancing their capacities to achieve equitable growth and development. ESCWA will provide a forum for member States to discuss and share views on economic, social and sustainable development issues in the region.

19.7 The mandates resulting from the post-2015 development agenda will have a considerable impact on the work of ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017.

19.8 To address regional and global priorities shaping up in the post-2015 development agenda, ESCWA engaged in an extensive process of internal consultations for this proposed strategic framework to ensure that it will contribute to its four-year vision (2015-2019).

19.9 ESCWA will focus on equitable and sustainable development in the region. Its programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on three strategic pillars serving as mainstays for work on eight priority areas. The strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 thus reflects the activities to be undertaken by ESCWA in a fully integrated manner.

19.10 The three strategic pillars are: inclusive development; regional integration; and good governance and resilience.

19.11 Through its work on inclusive development, ESCWA will focus on three priority areas: social justice; knowledge economy and employment; and sustainable natural resources.

19.12 In the priority area of social justice, ESCWA will develop strategies for development and poverty eradication which are measured not only by growth in economic activity and income, but also by decent employment commensurate with the skills, capacity and aspirations of the population and equal access to, and benefit from, resources based on the principle of equity, including equity across generations. ESCWA will support member States in ensuring that social inclusion and integration guide policy and institutional development, making certain that there is equal access to decision-making processes; to social protection and services including social assistance to provide relief from poverty and deprivation, and social insurance to cushion vulnerable groups against risks; and to information and resources. Special consideration will be given to the needs of the least developed countries in the region and the impacts that changes in population dynamics may have on achieving these goals. In the priority area of knowledge economy and employment, ESCWA will pay special attention to promoting the transfer of technology to increase the competitiveness of economies in the region through value-added industrial development, while making effective and efficient use of human and natural resources. Concerning the priority area of sustainable natural resources, ESCWA will promote integrated management to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of resource consumption through the use of new technologies and innovation, thus maximizing the impact that the use of these resources has on income generation and job creation.

19.13 Under the strategic pillar of regional integration, ESCWA will focus on two priority areas: policy coherence; and agreements and strategies. Although regional integration has the potential to boost production and income and help Arab countries in addressing the twin problems of poverty and unemployment, economic integration among Arab countries lags behind that in other regions.

19.14 The ESCWA secretariat will continue to work closely with the League of Arab States, regional partners and member States to enhance the formulation of intraregional, interregional and international trade policies and agreements aimed at strengthening national capacity and increasing the competitiveness of domestic and regional markets. It will also support the implementation of resolutions of high-level regional forums, mainly the Arab Economic and Social Summits; the completion of the establishment of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA); and the establishment of an Arab customs union and an Arab common market.

19.15 The profound changes taking place in the Arab region and the expansion of global trade have increased the importance of integration as a means to address developmental challenges and contribute to sustainable and balanced regional development.

19.16 Under the priority area of policy coherence, ESCWA will work with member States to improve cross-border infrastructural linkages. It will also encourage member States to participate in efforts to harmonize regional policies in order to take advantage of the added value of regional integration in economic, social and environmental areas. Under the priority area of agreements and strategies, ESCWA will focus on integrated work programmes that help Arab countries to benefit from the synergies arising from regional cooperation. ESCWA will accentuate the role of integration as a driver towards a knowledge economy, while emphasizing the need to ensure equal opportunities for development and an equitable share of the benefits of integration.

19.17 Under the strategic pillar of good governance and resilience, ESCWA will focus on three priority areas: institutional development; participation and citizenship; and resilience to crises and occupation.

19.18 In the priority area of institutional development, ESCWA will focus on the link between development and resilience. Strong institutions are needed to quell ongoing political tensions and conflicts in some countries, and to support democratic transitions in others. ESCWA will endeavour to enhance the capacity of member States to perform government functions and adopt citizen-based practices. In the priority area of participation and citizenship, ESCWA aims to promote good governance, respect for human rights, rule of law, accountability, transparency, public participation, social cohesion and political reform. It will work to enhance civil society engagement and empowerment and support inclusive participation and gender equality.

19.19 In the priority area of resilience to crises and occupation, ESCWA will work with member States to reduce the negative impacts of crises and occupation, while identifying the root causes of crises. ESCWA will enhance peacebuilding initiatives, particularly in Arab least developed countries, and will support member States in developing disaster risk reduction strategies. Enhancing the resilience of member States through efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change will be an important aspect of the ESCWA programme of work.

19.20 The programme of work will be guided by three cross-cutting issues: partnerships, statistics and gender.

19.21 ESCWA will fulfill the objectives of its strategic pillars while operating in an increasingly complex development environment, marked by political and social instability, and economic and environmental vulnerability. ESCWA will continue to expand its network of national, regional and international partners and will collaborate with intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations, donors, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member States.

19.22 Building on its special relationship with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will support the articulation of regional positions on regional and global issues, and the formulation of a rights-based sustainable development agenda that has social justice at its heart. It will also continue to convene the Regional Coordination Mechanism as a platform for United Nations entities working in the region to discuss regional policy priorities.

19.23 Mobilizing additional financial and in-kind contributions will be important to ensure that ESCWA can disseminate and operationalize the findings and recommendations of its normative work and respond effectively to the requests of its member States. To do so, ESCWA will leverage the results and outputs of its regular programme of work, and the strategic partnerships it builds across the region.

19.24 In the cross-cutting area of statistics, ESCWA has taken the lead in establishing partnerships with regional and national statistical organizations, and has pursued coordinated efforts towards improved statistical information.

19.25 The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) asserted the need for comparable and reliable statistics on sustainable development. Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, have supported the regional commissions in collecting and compiling official statistics. Member States have also committed to mobilizing financial resources and building the capacity of developing countries to produce statistical data related to the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals.

19.26 As a leader of the Statistics Coordination Taskforce of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA will continue to promote the coordination of statistical activities among national statistical offices

and international organizations active in the region. ESCWA has put in place an internal coordination mechanism to harmonize the statistical information used in its publications and studies.

19.27 Promoting gender equality and the rights of women is a core element in meeting development objectives. It requires a systematic and comprehensive focus on the different needs of men and women, and their power relations and access to resources throughout all processes.

19.28 ESCWA will assist member States in eliminating gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislations and programmes. Through the provision of technical and advisory services, ESCWA will continue to support national and regional efforts to overcome all forms of discrimination against women, to achieve the advancement of women, and to secure their equal access to resources and participation in decision-making.

19.29 ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in its entire programme of work. It will continue to be at the forefront in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which was endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in October 2006.

19.30 In addition to its analytical and normative work, ESCWA will provide technical cooperation support in line with the articulated needs of its member States, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed ones, while promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. It will act as a facilitator for the exchange of knowledge and information by providing a forum for networking and multilateral dialogue on regional and global development issues. Lessons derived from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the commitment of the United Nations to encourage and support evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

19.31 The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement used below are intended to measure the direct impacts of the work of ESCWA on stakeholders.

### **Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development**

**Objective:** To achieve the integrated management of natural resources leading to improved food, water and energy security, enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream sustainable development goals into national and regional policy processes.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
<p>(a) Member States mainstream appropriate sustainable development goals into national multisectoral strategies and action plans for the integrated management of natural resources including tools for measuring, monitoring and reporting</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: sustainable natural resources</b></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of multisectoral institutional mechanisms established to follow up on sustainable development goals</p> <p>(ii) Number of harmonized methodologies for measuring sustainable development targets and indicators adopted at the sector level in member States</p> <p>(iii) Number of strategies, plans and policies adopted by line ministries to support the integrated management of natural resources</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(b) Member States adopt platforms and resolutions on regional cooperation on shared water resources, energy networks and environmental sustainability to improve food, water and energy security</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: agreements and strategies</b></p>	<p>(b) (i) Number of regional or subregional platforms developed to improve cooperation on food, water and energy</p> <p>(ii) Number of intergovernmental resolutions and recommendations adopted to enhance regional cooperation on environmental sustainability</p> <p>(iii) Number of harmonized tools, techniques and guidelines implemented by member States for food, water and energy security</p>
<p>(c) Member States develop coordinated policies, strategies and frameworks for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience and respond to the impact of natural and human-induced disasters</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: resilience to crises and occupation</b></p>	<p>(c) Number of recommendations, resolutions and decrees adopted by member States to coordinate responses to climate change and measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction</p>

#### *External factors*

19.32 Subprogramme 1 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to giving due priority to sustainable development issues and to adopting appropriate measures for enhancing food, energy and water security; (b) improved political stability leads to institutional building and enhanced governance and transparency; (c) line ministries in member States work together on key strategic issues and cooperate in an institutional process; and (d) member States are willing to establish mechanisms/platforms at intraregional and interministerial levels to cooperate on sustainable development issues and incorporate the sustainable development-related goals currently being negotiated in global, regional and national forums.

#### *Strategy*

19.33 The Sustainable Development and Productivity Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 1. The interrelated and complex challenges and current social and political tensions in the region have created a sense of urgency for concerted efforts to strengthen interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Regional challenges include rise in demand for food, water and energy leading to unsustainable use of resources and food insecurity; unsustainable production and consumption patterns; inefficient energy use in key productive and consuming sectors; as well as climate change and its impact on natural resources.

19.34 ESCWA will support member States to move towards a more sustainable development path by implementing and following up on the outcomes of major United Nations summits; strengthening capacities to formulate and implement policies, strategies and plans; advocating the integration of policies on water, energy and food; facilitating regional cooperation and coordination for greater food, water and energy security; and developing mechanisms for coordinated responses to climate change and other natural crises.

19.35 In implementing subprogramme 1, ESCWA will:

(a) Advocate for and raise awareness of regional and global commitments, particularly the sustainable development-related goals, the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, and the Arab strategies and action plans for the integrated management of resources, climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues and priorities towards forging regional positions and perspectives based on the exchange of information, lessons learned and good practice;

(c) Support member States in their efforts to improve the efficient use of natural resources by analyzing performance in these sectors, providing policy recommendations, promoting the application of appropriate green technologies and encouraging the integrated management of resources;

(d) Facilitate regional cooperation and coordination as a means to enhance food, water and energy security and alleviate poverty in rural areas;

(e) Support the development of national or regional mechanisms, networks or help desks for the integration of the different pillars of sustainable development;

(f) Foster regional approaches on climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to deal with climate change impacts, conduct impact and vulnerability assessments, and examine associated socioeconomic and environmental issues in order to inform policymaking processes and support member States in their negotiations.

19.36 This will be achieved through servicing intergovernmental bodies; conducting high quality policy-oriented research and analytical work on the science-policy interface; organizing high-level and expert group meetings; providing advisory services; implementing field projects; supporting dedicated knowledge platforms for professionals; and issuing technical materials to enhance the capacity to address sustainable development issues and challenges.

19.37 Work under the subprogramme will strive to maximize synergies through collaboration with different United Nations agencies, regional commissions and organizations, and participation in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water resources and energy, the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

## **Subprogramme 2. Social development**

**Objective:** To enhance the capacity of member States to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States develop rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social cohesion, social inclusion, social protection and the provision of adequate social services for all	(a) (i) Number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to improve social protection or expand the provision of social services
<b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: social justice</b>	(ii) Number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to ensure the social integration of vulnerable groups



Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(b) Member States engage in a regional consensus-building process on international migration towards the formulation and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration and foster intraregional coordination and cooperation	(b) (i) Number of instances where ESCWA facilitated or promoted policy dialogue on international migration between Governments of member States (ii) Number of policies reflecting awareness of the regional development opportunities and challenges of international migration
<b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: policy coherence</b>	
(c) Member States adopt a participatory approach to social policy formulation and implementation through consensus building, the empowerment of civil society and the engagement of civic groups and other stakeholders in advocating the values and tools necessary to achieving social justice	(c) (i) Increased number of instances in which representatives of Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders engage in substantive policy dialogue with the support of ESCWA (ii) Number of governmental and non-governmental institutions making use of the knowledge and tools generated by ESCWA on participatory development and civic engagement, in their development initiatives
<b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: participation and citizenship</b>	

#### *External factors*

19.38 Subprogramme 2 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States will remain committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals related to social development in the post-2015 world; (b) member States will remain committed to promoting social justice through equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development; (c) national stakeholders engage in dialogue and build consensus on key policy areas; and (d) national stakeholders provide the data and information necessary for ESCWA to conduct its analytical work.

#### *Strategy*

19.39 The Social Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 2. During the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA will build on the experience gained during the previous bienniums to advocate the principles of social justice as a guiding framework for public policymaking. Specific attention will be paid to promoting and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and social protection including social welfare and social security and address the social dimensions of poverty; mainstreaming key population and human development issues in policymaking, including youth development and international migration; upholding participatory development and civic engagement; and addressing the social dimension of the post-2015 development agenda.

19.40 The adoption of equitable, inclusive and consensus-based development policies is central to achieving social justice. In ESCWA member countries, however, social policies have been geared towards assistance rather than development, and most have failed to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, informal workers and the poor. At the same time, little attention has been devoted to the opportunities presented by the age-structural changes witnessed across the region. These policy deficits are exacerbated by the absence or weakness of participatory frameworks to fully engage civil society in the decision-making process.

19.41 As a result, despite regional progress on a number of human development indicators, inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion have increased; they have also played a considerable role in triggering the popular movements witnessed recently by some Arab countries.

19.42 To address those development deficits, ESCWA will undertake normative analysis to support social policy reform through regional consultations and technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, capacity-building workshops and field projects. ESCWA will continue to act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on key social development areas within and beyond the Arab region. Partnerships and cooperation will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations and civil society organizations.

### Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

**Objective:** To achieve a decent standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained, inclusive and integrated regional economic development.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Member States reform economic institutions and develop and implement policies based on the principles of good governance in order to enable economic planning and policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: institutional development</b></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of member States that commit to or pass regulatory reforms or legislation related to the improvement of governance in economic institutions</p> <p>(ii) Number of policies related to good economic governance adopted by member States with the assistance of ESCWA</p> <p>(iii) Number of member States that improve their rating on established national and/or international indicators for good economic governance, such as business environment scorecards, the Open Budget Index, or the World Bank ease of doing business index</p> <p>(iv) Number of member States that implement the models advocated by ESCWA to prepare national development strategies for evidence-based policy dialogue</p>
<p>(b) Member States design and implement pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies towards eradicating poverty and reducing income inequality</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: social justice</b></p>	<p>(b) (i) Number of member States that adopt plans and policies that promote new methods of monitoring poverty</p> <p>(ii) Number of pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based plans designed and implemented</p>
<p>(c) National policymaking institutions develop evidence-based tools to create decent and competitive jobs for men and women</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: knowledge economy and employment</b></p>	<p>(c) (i) Number of member States that design and incorporate an employment agenda into their national development planning mechanisms</p> <p>(ii) Number of member States requesting and receiving ESCWA support in developing knowledge-based economic strategies and policies to reduce unemployment</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(d) Member States and regional institutions develop policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence	(d) Number of member States taking steps towards coordinating their fiscal and monetary policies
<b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: policy coherence</b>	
(e) Member States and regional institutions develop plans and policies for cross-border infrastructure especially in transport and trade facilitation	(e) (i) Number of member States that improve their major logistic performance indicators
<b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: agreements and strategies</b>	
	(ii) Number of member States that adopt or develop plans or programmes containing new measures in conformity with the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization
	(iii) Number of member States that adopt the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) agreements and establish national committees for transport and trade facilitation

#### *External factors*

19.43 Subprogramme 3 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in budgetary funding; (c) the political and security situation in member States allows for the implementation of the work plan; and (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available.

#### *Strategy*

19.44 The Economic Development and Globalization Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 3. The legislative mandates for this subprogramme are: the 2013 Report of the Secretary-General on global economic governance and development, the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and ESCWA.

19.45 ESCWA will promote equitable growth and sustainability, regional integration and economic governance by supporting member States in reforming economic institutions and developing and implementing policies based on good governance; designing and implementing pro-poor rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies; working towards creating and improving access to decent, and competitive jobs for men and women; fostering policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence; and enhancing regional integration.

19.46 The main directives of the subprogramme in the biennium 2016-2017 are the needs and demands of the populations of the region. The primary concern of the Arab region is the promotion of decent employment opportunities in an equitable knowledge economy, based on good governance and poverty eradication.

19.47 Regional integration accompanied by evidence-based planning is highly needed to enhance regional economic development. Efforts will focus on the implementation of intraregional and international agreements on trade and transport, and the establishment of well-coordinated fiscal, investment and monetary policies.

19.48 To achieve the above, ESCWA will develop and use economic analysis and forecasting tools such as macroeconomic models that enable sound policy recommendations; conduct the research needed for the preparation of flagship publications; and provide technical assistance and capacity-building based on the individual needs of member States.

19.49 Work will be carried out in close coordination with relevant stakeholders in member States, particularly Governments, development partners, including international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Existing and new partnerships with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies, the League of Arab States, regional and international organizations and academic institutions will be strengthened.

#### **Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology for regional integration**

**Objective:** To promote inclusive and sustainable development in member States by building an information society and a knowledge economy that leverages technology and innovation, in accordance with regional development requirements and internationally agreed development objectives.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
<p>(a) Member States develop or update strategies and policies that leverage human resources, innovation and modern technology towards a knowledge-based economy and information society as the new paradigm for employment and sustainable economic growth</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: knowledge economy and employment</b></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of public institutions adopting strategies, road maps, and/or solutions to foster technological innovation that enhance economic growth</p> <p>(ii) Number of member States that develop or update strategies and policies that leverage information and communication technology (ICT) and innovation to enhance impact on social and economic development</p>
<p>(b) Member States coordinate the implementation of harmonized policies and legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology and innovation (STI) and ICT, to foster the development of regional platforms and services</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: policy coherence</b></p>	<p>(b) (i) Number of member States implementing harmonized policies and legal and regulatory frameworks in STI and ICT</p> <p>(ii) Number of regional STI and ICT initiatives that aim to build a knowledge society and encourage complementary partnerships for economic development in the Arab region</p>
<p>(c) Public institutions deploy ICT policies and e-government services based on good governance principles with a focus on open government in general and e-participation in particular</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: institutional development</b></p>	<p>(c) (i) Number of initiatives focusing on trends in e-government, such as open government and e-participation</p> <p>(ii) Number of public institutions deploying open government and e-government services</p>

### *External factors*

19.50 Subprogramme 4 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) the political situation in the region is conducive to socioeconomic development; (b) the security environment does not deteriorate; (c) member States have the capacity and commitment to reorient their economic and social structures and policies; (d) national institutions are willing to provide relevant and timely information; and (e) member States are committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration.

### *Strategy*

19.51 The Technology for Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 4. Technology and knowledge play a major role in the move towards a productive knowledge society. Recent technological advancements have modified the principles of economic growth and affected all economic sectors. The capacity of member States to adapt and contribute to ever-accelerating changes in technology and knowledge varies significantly. With the continued monitoring and implementation of activities pertaining to various sustainable development initiatives, such as the outcome document of Rio+20, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), WSIS+10, the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society and the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, work under the subprogramme will help and guide member States in their transitions towards an information society and a knowledge economy.

19.52 To meet the development needs of member States, ESCWA will conduct analytical studies and offer policy recommendations, convene meetings, provide advisory services and implement development projects in partnership with national and regional stakeholders. The implementation of the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and foster partnerships aimed at harnessing research and development in technology, with an emphasis on ICT for socioeconomic development. ESCWA will act as a catalyst for change in national and regional policymaking and will help member States devise results-driven strategies. It will promote the adoption of comprehensive sets of measurement and indicators that will facilitate strategic decision-making and identify priority areas for policy formulation. ESCWA will also rely on feedback from member States and on regional and global benchmarking exercises to assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress and evaluate the impact of technology on national and regional economies. To help the countries of the region take advantage of the opportunities presented by advancements in technology and knowledge, ESCWA will undertake field projects that incorporate a social dimension, seek the active involvement of local communities, pay special attention to the employment needs of young people and advocate the empowerment of women.

19.53 More specifically, ESCWA will leverage technology to smooth the transition of the countries of the region towards knowledge economies and information society. It will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of technological sectors, creating enabling environments, promoting the development of innovative e-services and advocating the adoption and implementation of new trends in e-government, with a special emphasis on open government initiatives. The ESCWA Technology Centre (Amman) will assist production sectors, universities and research centres in member States to acquire the tools and capabilities to adapt and develop suitable technologies that are critical to solving sustainability challenges. To make ICT widely accessible throughout the region, ESCWA will encourage member States to enhance ICT infrastructure, implement a regional telecommunications backbone and reduce the cost of access to broadband and mobile services.

### **Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

**Objective:** To strengthen regional and national statistical systems related to the production and dissemination of quality statistics for evidence-based policies aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable development, regional integration and improved governance.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) National statistical offices implement methodologies in line with good practices and international standards and recommendations</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: institutional development</b></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of member States that adopt, with the assistance of ESCWA, new or revised international statistical standards, including the System of National Accounts and foundational socioeconomic classifications</p> <p>(ii) Number of assistance/capacity-building activities related to implementing international standards and recommendations provided by ESCWA upon the request of member States</p>
<p>(b) Stakeholders make greater use of quality statistics and methodological studies produced and disseminated by ESCWA</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: all pillars</b></p>	<p>(b) (i) Number of queries to ESCWA online statistical databases</p> <p>(ii) Number of citations and references to ESCWA statistical databases and publications</p>
<p>(c) Regional and national statistical institutions adopt agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: agreements and strategies</b></p>	<p>(c) (i) Number of agreements for the harmonization of statistics in the region reached between ESCWA and national statistical offices</p> <p>(ii) Number of agreements and guidelines developed under the auspices of ESCWA and adopted by the Statistical Committee of ESCWA or another statistical authority in the region</p>

#### *External factors*

19.54 Subprogramme 5 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States empower their institutions to request and use the capacity-building and other resources put at their disposal by ESCWA; (b) there is political acceptance of specific international statistical standards; (c) data are made available from national sources for specific countries/indicators; (d) appropriate technological and publishing tools are available; (e) particular statistical subject matter areas are not affected by large gaps between more and less statistically advanced countries; and (f) regional and international partners remain committed to a coordinated approach to statistical capacity-building and to collecting and sharing statistical data.

#### *Strategy*

19.55 The Statistics Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 5. There is a continued need to improve the quality, relevance, availability and comparability of statistics in the region. Those improvements must be made primarily within the national statistical systems of member States.

19.56 Institutional development for official statistics will remain the first priority to enable member States to produce quality statistics that meet international standards and recommendations. This will include developing the technical capacity and skills needed for the conduct of statistical surveys and censuses, as well as promoting the exchange of knowledge and good practices between member States, by focusing primarily on national accounts; short-term economic statistics; the 2020 round of population and housing censuses; living conditions, income and poverty; civil registration and vital statistics; environment and

energy statistics; statistics on science and technology; as well as gender statistics and mainstreaming a gender perspective in all areas of statistics. ESCWA will also work with regional and global partners including the League of Arab States, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund.

19.57 ESCWA will support member States in improving their institutional setup and legal framework for official statistics in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. ESCWA will also assist member States in conducting assessments of national statistical systems aimed at defining strategies for the development of statistics.

19.58 The second priority is the provision of data and analytical services to stakeholders in member States, in partner organizations and within ESCWA. User-needs surveys and satisfaction surveys will be conducted periodically to assess the impact of data disseminated by ESCWA, and adjust the data collection and dissemination programme accordingly. Work under the subprogramme will focus on the collection of national statistical data released by member States.

19.59 The Statistics Division is primarily responsible for the quality of data collected and released by ESCWA, while other divisions at ESCWA continue to collect specific statistical data needed for analysis and studies. Annual data collection plans will be used to coordinate data requests by all divisions of ESCWA.

19.60 The third priority is the regional coordination and harmonization of subject-matter indicators. In cooperation with regional and national statistical institutions, ESCWA will work towards formulating consensus-based agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics. Under the auspices of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, this work will be delegated to advisory groups established under specific priority areas. ESCWA will then work with national statistical systems to implement the new methodologies and guidelines developed through these advisory groups.

19.61 To enhance coherence among regional and international statistical agencies, ESCWA will play an active role in the cooperation and coordination initiatives taken by the regional and global statistical systems.

19.62 In order to accomplish the strategy of the subprogramme, ESCWA will act as a centre of excellence and a forum for the exchange of views on statistical issues; provide training at the national, subregional and regional levels; work on data quality assurance, estimation techniques and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations in cooperation with national statistical offices; respond to requests for technical assistance; and assist in the exchange of expertise between member States.

### **Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women**

**Objective:** To reduce gender imbalances and contribute to increasing the respect of the rights of women in member States in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences, and encourage the exchange of lessons learned in this field.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Member States design and implement inclusive gender-sensitive strategies and plans towards the elimination of gender discrimination and violations of the economic and social rights of women	(a) (i) Number of inclusive gender-sensitive strategies designed by member States with the assistance of ESCWA (ii) Number of inclusive gender-sensitive action plans implemented by member States with the assistance of ESCWA
<b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: social justice</b>	

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(b) Member States collaborate on the development and implementation of regional frameworks that are in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences on the rights of women and gender equality	(b) (i) Number of subregional or regional frameworks that are in line with international conventions, conferences and agreements (ii) Number of regional networks established with the assistance of ESCWA for collaboration and cooperation on women's issues
<b>Strategic pillar: regional integration</b> <b>Priority area: policy coherence</b>	
(c) Member States establish institutional mechanisms that ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making processes	(c) (i) Number of established mechanisms, including yearly campaigns, to increase the access of women to decision-making processes (ii) Number of committees that include civil society organizations and national machineries for the advancement of women, established with the assistance of ESCWA, to collaborate on drafting national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: participation and citizenship</b>	

*External factors*

19.63 Subprogramme 6 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is a political will for enhancing the role of national machineries for the advancement of women and strengthening dialogue with civil society; (b) member States take measures to align existing laws, regulations and practices with their commitments to the outcomes of international conventions and conferences on gender equality and the advancement of women; (c) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; and (d) current political changes in the region do not reverse acquired gains in gender equality leading to a widened inequality gap.

*Strategy*

19.64 The ESCWA Centre for Women is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 6. ESCWA will continue to work closely with national machineries for the advancement of women, national stakeholders, relevant United Nations entities, regional organizations and all divisions within ESCWA to address ongoing challenges that undermine women's social rights, their effective economic participation and their meaningful role in decision-making at all levels. Recent political developments in various Arab countries have also indicated the fragile situation of women, prompting the necessity to protect acquired rights while enhancing women's involvement in post-conflict and transitional processes.

19.65 Drawing on established partnerships, previous achievements and the recommendations of the ESCWA Committee on Women, particularly the Kuwait Declaration on the Eradication of Violence against Women 2013, adopted by the Committee on Women at its sixth session, ESCWA will adopt an implementation strategy rooted in a three-pronged approach:

(a) Enhancing synergy and collaboration among member States to respond to the requirements of relevant international instruments and global agreements through regional and subregional frameworks, such as joint strategies, platforms, appeals, action plans and declarations. These frameworks will address gender-related regional priorities, including early and forced marriage, female labour migration, women and knowledge society, harmful practices, the needs of female refugees, and women in conflict settings. Efforts will be made to promote the sharing of information about these regional frameworks with countries in the region;



(b) Providing support to member States in the design, development and implementation of national strategies, policies and legislations to eliminate gender discrimination in all socioeconomic and political domains. This includes the enhancement of national capacities to address gender-related gaps in the private sphere (child marriage, domestic violence); in the economic sector (access to financial resources, employment opportunities and job discrimination); and in the social domain (gender-based violence, and stereotypical representation of women and gender roles in the media);

(c) Enhancing women's access to all levels of decision-making processes and their representation in governance structures, especially during times of conflict and occupation. This includes ensuring women's meaningful participation in executive, legislative, parliamentary and judicial bodies.

19.66 ESCWA will utilize available tools of evidence-based research, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, advocacy and networking, and monitoring and evaluation. ESCWA will complete high quality deliverables, including in-depth studies, needs and impact assessments, policy briefs, situation analysis reports, training modules and technical materials, in the context of its normative work, technical support, and advisory services. It will continue to foster collaboration between relevant governmental bodies and national and regional stakeholders through the organization of expert group meetings, workshops and thematic conferences, and the commemoration of events relevant to women's rights and gender equality. It will also maintain cooperation with other United Nations entities, regional organizations, national and regional academic institutions and civil society organizations.

### Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

**Objective:** To mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Public institutions develop nationally led and owned governance strategies and policies to enhance their performance and service provision abilities, including monitoring and analysis, particularly in the countries affected by crises and the least developed ones</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b> <b>Priority area: institutional development</b></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of member States seeking and receiving substantive and technical assistance for the development of governance strategies and policies that aim to enhance the performance and service provision abilities of the public sector, including monitoring and analysis</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of civil servants participating in forums organized by ESCWA on the development of nationally led and owned governance strategies and policies who report having benefited from these forums</p>
<p>(b) Member States respond to development challenges associated with transformations in the region through the formulation of nationally led and owned suitable development strategies and policies</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</b> <b>Priority area: social justice</b></p>	<p>(b) (i) Number of member States initiating activities to address development challenges associated with transformations in the region as a result of ESCWA outputs</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of civil servants participating in forums organized by ESCWA on responding to development challenges associated with transformations in the region who report having benefited from these forums</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(c) Public institutions develop or implement strategies for the mitigation of the negative direct impacts of crises and Israeli occupation, as well as their indirect repercussions on development in the region</p> <p><b>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</b>  <b>Priority area: resilience to crises and occupation</b></p>	<p>(c) (i) Number of public institutions seeking and receiving substantive and technical assistance from ESCWA to strengthen their development capabilities, so as to reduce the impact and repercussions of Israeli occupation on development in the region</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of civil servants and civil society representatives participating in ESCWA activities on the mitigation of the impact of crises and occupation who report having benefited from these activities in carrying out their mandates</p>

*External factors*

19.67 Subprogramme 7 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is no sudden shortfall in funding; (b) the political environment in some member States remains conducive to institutional capacity-building based on good governance practices; and (c) state institutions are not reluctant to introducing participatory approaches in planning processes.

*Strategy*

19.68 The Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 7. The development process in the Arab region has been characterized by limited, poor-quality indicators of governance and socioeconomic development, particularly in countries that are directly or indirectly affected by crises or suffering from foreign occupation.

19.69 The political transformations witnessed in some countries since 2010, however, have indicated a public demand for better governance practices, including transparency, accountability and participation. At the same time, local and regional crises and the continuation of the Israeli occupation have serious repercussions on social and economic development in the region, and pose development and institutional challenges for member States.

19.70 Under this subprogramme, ESCWA will strive to ensure that: (a) public institutions develop governance strategies and policies to enhance their performance and service provision abilities, particularly in the countries affected by crises and the least developed ones; (b) member States respond to development challenges associated with political transformations in the region through the formulation of nationally led and owned development strategies and policies; and (c) public institutions develop strategies for the mitigation of the negative direct impacts of crises and Israeli occupation, as well as their indirect repercussions on development in the region.

19.71 To achieve those goals, ESCWA will identify and promote good governance strategies and policies, monitor trends, identify gaps and adequate interventions, as well as global good practices that will enhance the performance of public institutions, placing them at the vanguard of development, particularly in countries afflicted by crises and the least developed ones. ESCWA will utilize the findings of this work to assist in identifying gaps and development priorities, as well as in enhancing implementation mechanisms across different tiers of government.

19.72 ESCWA will also foster policy dialogues with concerned public institutions and experts to define nationally led and owned strategies, and encourage participation and citizenship. Through meetings,

advisory services, staff missions and research, ESCWA will promote institutional development strategies that aim to strengthen consensus-building mechanisms, including national dialogues and citizenship-based practices.

19.73 In addition, ESCWA will monitor the socioeconomic consequences of crises and of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and enhance awareness of their negative direct impact on Palestine and their indirect repercussions on the rest of the Arab region. Furthermore, it will support the formulation of resilience strategies that aim to mitigate the impact of crises and Israeli occupation on human development in Palestine, and other countries that are affected directly or indirectly by occupation.

Annex

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

*General mandates*

*General Assembly resolutions*

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
64/1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
65/171	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
66/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
66/216	Women in development
66/223	Towards global partnerships
67/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
67/148	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
67/164	Human rights and extreme poverty
67/171	The right to development
67/220	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
67/224	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
67/227	South-South cooperation
67/264	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
67/292	Multilingualism

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

1818 (LV)	Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia
1985/69	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2005/50	The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
2008/8	Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- 2010/38 The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
- 2011/5 The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
- 2012/1 Admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 2012/30 Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
- 2013/5 Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- 2013/16 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2013/23 Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session
- 2013/28 Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond
- 2013/46 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 258 (XXIII) Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 263 (XXIII) Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
- 286 (XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
- 289 (XXV) Supporting the comprehensive development efforts of Yemen
- 300 (XXVI) Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 302 (XXVII) Requests from Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia to become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 308 (XXVII) The regional dimension of development
- 311 (XXVII) Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 312 (XXVII) Evaluation of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

**Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources  
for sustainable development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 64/292 The human right to water and sanitation
- 65/160 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- 67/11 Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

67/174	The right to food
67/203	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
67/209	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
67/215	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
67/228	Agriculture development and food security
67/231	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
67/263	Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
67/291	Sanitation for all
68/6	Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2013/22	Human settlements

*ESCWA resolutions*

281 (XXV)	Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region
305 (XXVII)	Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference

**Subprogramme 2. Social development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

64/12	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
64/154	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto
65/170	International migration and development
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
66/121	Policies and programmes involving youth

66/122	Promoting social integration through social inclusion
66/125	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
67/139	Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons
67/141	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
67/143	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
67/172	Protection of migrants
67/219	International migration and development
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
68/4	Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2010/12	Promoting Social Integration
2010/14	Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

*ESCWA resolutions*

295 (XXVI)	Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to youth policies: an opportunity for development
304 (XXVII)	The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development

**Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

64/191	External debt sustainability and development
64/193	Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)
64/255	Improving global road safety
65/10	Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
66/260	Improving global road safety
67/198	External debt sustainability and development
67/199	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
67/289	The United Nations in global economic governance

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

2013/44	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
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*ESCWA resolutions*

- 296 (XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals  
303 (XXVII) Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries  
313 (XXVII) Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

**Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology  
for regional integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 60/252 World Summit on the Information Society  
66/121 Policies and programmes involving youth  
66/211 Science and technology for development  
67/113 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space  
67/195 Information and communications technologies for development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2009/8 Science and technology for development  
2010/5 Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre  
2013/6 Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations  
2013/9 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the the Information Society

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 294 (XXVI) Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre  
306 (XXVII) Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

**Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2010/38 The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States  
2011/24 Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
2013/21 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 276 (XXIV) Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region



- 283 (XXV) ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
- 286 (XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
- 287 (XXV) Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking
- 297 (XXVI) Arab MDG monitor for societal progress

### **Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

- 66/128 Violence against women migrant workers
- 66/129 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
- 66/130 Women and political participation
- 66/131 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 66/285 Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
- 67/144 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
- 67/148 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2011/5 The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
- 2013/17 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

### **Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

- 67/86 Assistance to the Palestinian people
- 67/158 The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
- 67/229 Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2013/8 Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan
- 2013/23 Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session

#### *ESCWA resolutions*

- 271 (XXIV) Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development

- 282 (XXV) Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries
- 292 (XXVI) Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings
- 296 (XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals

*Security Council resolution*

- 1947 (2010) Post-conflict peacebuilding

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