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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Statistics
Beirut, 10-12 September 2002

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

18-09-2002

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Statistics

10-12 September 2002

Beirut

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Tuesday, 10 September 2002

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|--------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda |
| 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break |

SESSION ONE: REVIEW OF POVERTY MEASUREMENTS

Main Outcome: Sharing the theoretical and practical expertise of international organizations in measuring poverty

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| 10:30 – 12:00 a.m. | Experiences of United Nations organizations and agencies in the measurement of poverty.
<i>Paper by Mr. Jorge Mernies (FAO)</i> FAO estimates of food deprivation
<i>Paper by Mr. Sebastien Dessus (World Bank)</i> Holding the line: Poverty reduction in the Middle East and North Africa, 1970-2000 |
| 12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Discussion |
| 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. | Coffee Break |
| 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Introduction to the Rio Group on poverty statistics:
<i>Paper by Mr. Pedro Sainz (Paris21)</i> Methodological and operational challenges of poverty measurement |
| 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Discussion |

Wednesday, 11 September 2002

SESSION TWO: DATA NEEDS AND AVAILABILITY OF POVERTY STATISTICS IN THE ESCWA REGION

Main Outcome: Identifying poverty data available in ESCWA countries and existing deficiencies

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| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Methods of collecting poverty data in the ESCWA countries
<i>Paper by Ms. Heba Al-Laithy</i> |
| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Country profiles of poverty statistics: Case studies (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Country profiles of poverty statistics: Case studies (Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen) |
| 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. | Discussion |
| 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. | Coffee Break |

Wednesday, 11 September 2002 (cont.)

SESSION THREE: POVERTY STATISTICS AS A TOOL FOR POLICY FORMULATION

Main Outcome: *Determining the needs for capacity building on poverty measurement in ESCWA countries*

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| 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. | Poverty monitoring and reporting systems and MDG's: A suggested model
<i>Paper by Mr. Gaith Fariz (UNDP)</i> |
| 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Discussion |
| 2:00 – 2:30 a.m. | Promoting capacity building in ESCWA countries
<i>Paper by Mr. Shahid Khandker (World Bank Institute)</i> Analytical capacity building to promote better production and use of quality statistics |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Discussion |

Thursday, 12 September 2002

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| 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Recommendations |
| 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Closing of the meeting |