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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Workshop on Disability Statistics in the ESCWA Region
Beirut, 21-23 March 2005

INFORMATION NOTE

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Beirut, 21-23 March 2005

INFORMATION NOTE

The demand for statistics on persons with disability has increased greatly in recent years following the International Year of the Disabled Persons (1981), the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (1982), and the 22 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993).

In May 2003, the regional conference on Norms and Standards related to Development and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by ESCWA (Beirut, 27-29 May 2003), stressed the importance of publishing statistical reports and studies, based on international standardized concepts, definitions and classifications, in order to facilitate comparison between the countries. And this is in line with the item 6 of the draft convention entitled "Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disability". Currently, the convention which stresses on the importance of providing indicators on disability from possible sources such as population censuses, family surveys, administrative records and others, is being discussed internationally for adoption.

Disability information in ESCWA region is limited, and available data often lack reliability and accuracy due to conceptual and measurement issues. It is estimated that the number of disabled persons is high particularly when the political situation in some countries of the region remains unsteady.

With no estimates of the number of disabled and the types of disabilities, it would be unlikely to develop national disability plans aimed at mainstreaming disabled persons into the society.

In response to this, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Health Organization, is planning to organize a 3-day workshop on Disability Statistics, to be held at UN-House in Beirut from 21 to 23 March 2005. (Provisional agenda attached)

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will focus on the following:

- 1- To introduce participants to the international standards and guidelines used in disability measurement and to promote the use of the ICF as a conceptual framework for collecting and classifying disability data;
- 2- To introduce the participants on the methods to be used in collecting disability data through population censuses, family surveys and registration records;
- 3- To set a plan for the national work to improve disability collection mechanisms and to present the draft of a project proposal entitled "Development of disability statistics in the ESCWA Region" in collaboration with different international and regional organizations

B. PARTICIPANTS

Experts and statisticians users and producers from national statistical offices, ministries, and non governmental organizations involved in the collection of disability data, and in the implementation of disability programmes in the region will be invited to participate in the workshop. Participants from ESCWA member states will be asked to prepare a national report according to attached guidelines.

Resource persons from UNSD, WHO, UNICEF and Washington Group on Disability will also be invited to participate in the workshop in order to share their technical expertise.

Participants are kindly asked to submit their nomination by **31 January 2005**. The registration form is provided in **Annex 1** and will be made available on-line. Each participant is asked to fill it in and return it to Ms. Zeina Sinno, either by email at sinnoz@un.org, or by fax +961-1-981 510.

C. LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation from English to Arabic and vice-versa will be provided.

D. DOCUMENTATION

All documentations of the workshop will be made available on the Internet page of the workshop at <http://www.escwa.org.lb/information/meetings/main.htm>

E. TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

ESCWA will cover, according to UN rules and regulations, the participation of two experts from the ESCWA Member states (one will be a statistician from the national statistical office and the other will be a user involved in the collection of disability data, and in the implementation of disability programmes).

Participants, covered by ESCWA, are asked to send copies of their passport to Ms. Zeina Sinno at, either by email at sinnoz@un.org, or by fax +961-1-981 510 in order to finalize the administrative arrangements related to their participation.

Other participants are expected to attend at the expense of their respective organizations.

All participants are expected to make the necessary arrangements for the visa. Related information could be found on the following website: <http://www.ikamalebanon.com/info/visa.htm>

F. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Participants are expected to make their own hotel reservations; by contacting the selected hotel by fax or by e-mail and referring to the workshop. Copy of the letter should also be sent to Ms. Zeina Sinno at, either by email at sinnoz@un.org , or by fax +961-1-981510. A list of selected hotels which have offered special United Nations rates will be sent in the nearest future to the participants.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

For any technical information concerning the workshop, you can address:

- Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Team leader
Social Statistics and Indicators
Social Development Division
Tel: +961-1-978408
Fax: +961-1-981510
Email: hussain@un.org

For any administrative information concerning the workshop, you can address:

- Ms. Zeina Sinno, Statistics Assistant
Social Statistics and Indicators
Social Development Division
Tel: +961-1-978428
Mobile: +961-3-441987
Fax: +961-1-981510
Email: sinnoz@un.org

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Workshop.
2. Objectives of the workshop and importance of disability statistics for policy formulation and monitoring
3. Activities of Washington Group on Disability Statistics
4. Overview of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a framework for disability measurement.
5. Operationalization and applications of ICF.
6. Data collection methods and instruments.
7. Practical exercises/ working groups.
8. Presentation of the ESCWA project proposal on “Development of disability statistics in the ESCWA region”

**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A NATIONAL REPORT ON
THE STATUS OF DISABILITY STATISTICS**

Participants are asked to prepare a report on the situation of disability statistics in their respective country.

The report should cover the following points:

- 1- background information on the situation of the statistics of the disabled in the country (% in the population, distribution by age, sex, marital status, education, occupation, economic activity, if available...)
- 2- prior experience in collecting data on disability, if any
- 3- definition of disability used in the data collection
- 4- questions used to identify the population with disability (indicators used to measure the disability)
- 5- information on the sources of data (population census, family surveys, administrative records, medical records, ...)
- 6- problems faced in data collection
- 7- frequency of collecting data on disability
- 8- policies related to disability in order to mainstream the disabled persons in the society (mainly in the area of education, occupation, public life, ...)
- 9- parties conducting the data collection on disability (mention the ministries, the administrations, ...)

- The report should be written in Arabic, using Microsoft Word with maximum 10 pages in length. It should also be accompanied with a one-page summary.

- The report should be submitted not later than 15 February 2005, preferably in electronic form to Ms. Zeina Sinno at sinnoz@un.org or by fax +961-1-981 510 in order to allow the proper time for its reproduction and later distribution during the workshop.

NB: Participants should bring with them published statistical reports on disability as well as the questionnaires used for collecting data on disability.

ANNEX 1

**WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY
STATISTICS IN THE ESCWA REGION
BEIRUT, 21-23 MARCH 2005**

**ورشة عمل حول احصاءات الاعاقة
في منطقة الاسكوا
بيروت، ٢١-٢٣ آذار/ مارس ٢٠٠٥**

**REGISTRATION FORM
استمارة التسجيل**

To be filled in both English and Arabic where applicable and later sent to Ms. Zeina Sinno either by email at sinnoz@un.org or by fax +961-1-981 510.

ويرجى استيفاء استمارة التسجيل باللغتين العربية والإنكليزية وإرسالها إلى السيدة زينة سنو على البريد الإلكتروني sinnoz@un.org أو الفاكس +٩٦١-١-٩٨١٥١٠.

Last name: _____ First name: _____
الاسم (بالكامل): _____

Country/ Organization: _____
الدولة/ المنظمة: _____

Occupation (title): _____
الوظيفة: _____

Address: _____
العنوان: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
رقم الهاتف: _____ رقم الفاكس: _____

E-mail: _____
البريد الإلكتروني: _____