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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF STATISTICAL WORK CARRIED OUT SINCE THE SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

**PROGRESS MADE IN CARRYING OUT STATISTICS-RELATED
ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH
SESSIONS OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

Summary

ESCWA carried out a set of activities between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee in order to achieve the aim of subprogramme 6 concerned with statistics for evidence-based policymaking, namely, enhancing the production and dissemination of accurate social and economic statistics and indicators. These include indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and on gender-based data that decision makers can use to formulate evidence-based policies.

This document contains a presentation of the main activities carried out by ESCWA during the period in question, which have focused on capacity-building, the dissemination of statistics, the follow-up on MDGs, and the strengthening of coordination with United Nations organizations and with relevant international and regional organizations.

The Committee has been asked to review the results achieved through these activities and to provide the secretariat with advice for the future development of statistical work.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. ESCWA strives to develop statistical work in accordance with the achievements anticipated in subprogramme 6 which the ESCWA Statistics Division is undertaking to implement, with a view to producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics in the member countries in order to support evidence-based policies and plans.
2. ESCWA is a regional forum for the exchange of expertise and for endeavours to forge a common position among the countries of the region at international conferences and fora on social and economic issues, including the United Nations Statistical Commission, the highest international authority on the setting of statistical standards.
3. ESCWA is working with member countries on the adoption and application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics issued by the United Nations in 1994. These principles cover ten topics which can be summarized as: the importance of collecting official statistics and making them available to users; specifying methods and procedures for the collection, compilation, storage and presentation of statistics; presenting information on statistical sources and methods according to scientific standards; the sound use of statistics; official sources of statistics; confidentiality; transparency; coordination; the consistency of statistical systems; and international cooperation.
4. During the period between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee, ESCWA has endeavoured to implement a set of activities covering different areas of statistical work. This report lays out the main results and achievements arising from these activities as well as a four-part summary of their objectives and goals. These deal with the building of statistical capacities; a follow-up on the monitoring of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the dissemination of statistics; and the continuation of cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Commission and with relevant international and regional organizations.

II. BUILDING MEMBER COUNTRY CAPACITY IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF ACCURATE STATISTICS

5. In the context of the achievements anticipated in subprogramme 6, ESCWA has continued to work, between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee, on building member country capacity in the field of statistics. To this purpose, it has organized several expert meetings and workshops as well as carried out many advisory assignments dealing with various statistical issues. These activities contributed to enhancing statistical knowledge in a number of different areas. Some 720 participants from member countries, distributed among various areas of statistical work as shown in table 1, have benefited from these activities.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF EXPERT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS BY TOPIC

| Activity topic | Number of beneficiaries |
|---|-------------------------|
| International Economic Classifications and Methodological Concepts | 170 |
| International Comparison Program | 142 |
| Vital Statistics and Housing and Population Censuses, Round 2010 | 82 |
| Capacity-Building in the Area of Environmental Indicators and Sustainable Development | 62 |
| Sampling Design and Population Projections | 58 |
| Building National Capabilities in Monitoring MDG Indicators | 46 |
| Using the Development Database (DevInfo, Ver 5.0) | 41 |
| System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) | 36 |
| Gender Statistics | 34 |
| National Accounts | 33 |
| Formulating National Strategies | 10 |
| Informal Sector and Informal Employment Statistics | 6 |

6. Annex I of this document includes details of the topics covered at the expert meetings and workshops held in the period under study as well as the dates, venues and objectives of these meetings.
7. In addition to organizing conferences and workshops, ESCWA has carried out many advisory assignments for member countries in the areas of national accounts, the conduct of surveys, and the development of questionnaires. These included: a household income and expenditure survey; developing concepts and definitions for conducting surveys; improving and developing questionnaires used for data collection; and compiling output tables in various statistical areas, such as information and communications technology indicators.
8. Technical assistance and advisory services have covered many other topics such as trade statistics, environmental statistics and indicators, and application of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting of Water (SEEAW). Table 2 shows the main topics covered by these services and the number of countries that have benefited from them. The details of the areas covered by these services, the dates of their provision, and their objectives are shown in annex II of this document.

TABLE 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES

| Topic | Number of assignments | Beneficiary countries |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| National Statistics | 6 | 4 |
| Surveys and Development of Questionnaires | 7 | 5 |

III. FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING OF MDGS AND THEIR INDICATORS, AND OF GENDER STATISTICS

9. ESCWA has continued its work with member countries on following up and monitoring the MDGs and their indicators and has undertaken a variety of activities in the period under consideration. In addition to organizing the training workshops covered in Part I of this document (see table 1), ESCWA has endeavoured to translate into Arabic the Public Policy Administration's Guide to Indicators, monitored the progress made towards achievement of Health and the MDGs generally. The preparation and dissemination of the publication "Gender and the Millennium Development Goals: Information Guide for Arab MDG Reports" helped to provide an integrated three-dimensional statistical framework covering goals, issues and indicators. The purpose of this framework is to monitor and follow up on international agreements concerning women, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, in the context of MDG monitoring.

10. ESCWA likewise participated in the 12th and 13th meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism where it contributed to a review of the MDG and set out the regional perspective on data disparities between national and international sources.

11. Also in the context of MDG monitoring, ESCWA issued a set of printed materials and publications of which the most important are:

(a) The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: a Youth Lens (E/ESCWA/EAD/2007/3). This report is the fruit of efforts, coordinated by ESCWA, in which United Nations agencies in the region participated. The report considers the progress achieved in the realization of MDGs in the Arab countries. Focusing on the magnitude of the problems facing young people of both sexes, this report aims to put into context youth-related policies from a gender perspective;

(b) A study on the measurement and strengthening of progress in Arab societies towards integrating the Arab region in the international initiative on measuring the progress of societies. ESCWA contributed to presenting this study within the framework of the Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, of which Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development assumed coordination in Istanbul in 2007.

12. ESCWA is implementing, in cooperation with United Nations agencies operating in the region, a project entitled "Towards more gender-responsive MDG monitoring in the Arab region". This project, endorsed by the Regional Coordination Group for the Arab Region at its 11th meeting, held in Beirut on 20-21 June 2006, was based on lessons learned from previous monitoring and follow-up reports. Its aim was to arrive at shared concepts among all those parties involved in incorporating the gender perspective in the quantitative and qualitative MDG monitoring and reporting. This is especially true as relates to developing a unified measuring framework taking into account gender in the Arab region.

IV. DISSEMINATING TRANSPARENT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SECTORAL STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

13. ESCWA's work has contributed to disseminating the statistics required for the formulation of evidence-based policies in the region and in its constituent countries, and to making these figures and indicators available to all users. ESCWA has issued a number of printed materials and publications as well as developed several databases, with the aim of disseminating statistics in the economic and social areas.

A. PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

14. The principal publications are as follows:

(a) The Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, Issues 26 and 27: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/statabs26/index.asp>;

(b) Bulletin on Population and Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region, Issues 9 and 10: <http://escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-07-7.pdf>;

(c) Health and Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA Region: <http://escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-07-tp2-e.pdf>;

(d) Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators: Social Indicators of the Commission of Sustainable Development, Issue Number 8: <http://escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-07-9-e.pdf>;

(e) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Issues (E/ESCWA/SCU/2006/3 and E/ESCWA/SCU/2007/6);

(f) National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, Bulletins No. 26 and 27: http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other&field_name=ID&FileID=836;

(g) Compendium of Environment Statistics in the ESCWA Region: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-2007-2.pdf>;

(h) Report on Strengthening the role of national statistical systems in applying the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics issued by the United Nations, Sana'a, 26-29 May 2008 (E/ESCWA/25/5 (Part II)/Supp.2).

B. DATABASES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

15. The Statistics Division has continued during the period between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee to set up Internet sites which have contributed to providing information, statistics and indicators and to making meeting documents and reports, and training materials available to all users. This page contains links to regional and international sites which can be useful for increasing statistical knowledge, and for accessing international reports and announcements relating to statistics as well as

international classifications and standards. These sites provide an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and experience.

16. The Statistics Division has continued to develop its website: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sd>. It presents on this site the latest information on statistical work in the ESCWA region; printed materials ESCWA issues in the area of statistics; meeting documents; methodologies and classifications adopted by ESCWA; and its own activities in this sphere.

17. In addition, the Statistics Division has worked towards developing a number of information systems and databases specifically for statistics. Its principal accomplishments in this regard are as follows:

(a) Developing the ESCWA Statistical Information System (ESIS) which is focused on three dimensions: geographical, temporal, and selected indicators, with the aim of finding for the divisions a centralized, unified platform for data storage and retrieval and for tracking and checking the consistency of indicators. ESCWA has expanded the scope of data and indicators so as to include such sectors as energy, water resources, the environment, and agriculture, in addition to information and communications technology, national accounts, gender and others. These data have been published on the ESIS page of the ESCWA website: <http://esis.escwa.un.org>;

(b) Developing and updating a database on international merchandise trade by use of the SQL MS programmes and providing access to these data through the Statistics Division's website. Work is currently underway to meet the requirements of users of international merchandise trade statistics both inside and outside ESCWA: <http://lect.escwa.un.org/ReportQuery.aspx>;

(c) Updating the International Comparison Program (ICP) page on the ESCWA site by adding information and reports on all workshops and meetings and by shedding light on the Program's initial global results by disseminating the initial results issued by the World Bank and a summary report issued by ESCWA dealing with the main analytical results in the countries of Western Asia: <http://www.escwa.un.org/icp/index.htm>;

(d) Launching a web page on Strengthening the Development of International Merchandise Trade Statistics and the Compilation of e-Commerce in Member Countries of UN-ESCWA: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/tradestat/index.asp>. The page devoted to this project includes information on project aims and activities. Work continues on updating the page to encompass all project-related documents;

(e) Launching a health database, HealthInfo, at <http://health-info.escwa.un.org>. This page includes detailed national health indicators to make it easier to monitor the progress member countries are making on Health Indicators 2006;

(f) Launching a portal site for the ESCWA Project on Environment Statistics in the Middle East and North Africa Region. The site includes a database of documents, with links, and a regional network of relevant experts and users, in order to increase the exchange of expertise and experience and enrich knowledge of best practices and methodologies: <http://esiap.escwa.un.org>;

(g) Setting up an e-library providing users with materials and information covering five specialized subjects: national statistics systems, MDGs, population and housing censuses, health statistics, and gender. The library also contains valuable resources on national, regional, and international developments in statistics, with links, covering international resolutions and declarations and including downloadable sets of reliable standards and approaches free of charge. The library also contains reports and training materials issued at meetings and workshops, and information on projects. The library further offers links and information on how to contact the main users, producers and coordinating bodies in the statistics field, thus helping to foster increased networking: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sd>.

V. STRENGTHENING LINKS AND COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION, SPECIALIZED UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

18. ESCWA is carrying out the subprogramme on statistics in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and other United Nations regional commissions and specialized agencies, as well as with international and regional bodies. Its aim is to develop statistical work in ESCWA countries and strengthen cooperation with partners. In this regard, ESCWA took part in a number of meetings, most importantly: the 38th and 39th sessions of the United Nations Statistics Commission (27 February – 2 March 2007 and 26-29 February 2008); the meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities; the meetings of the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs; and the meetings of the Team of Experts on MDG Indicators, as well as other regional and global fora.

19. ESCWA worked, in cooperation and coordination with the League of Arab States, to organize a series of meetings on environmental indicators and sustainable development. It also held, in tandem with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, a number of seminars organized specifically for the heads of statistical bodies, intended to foster the exchange of regional expertise and to build capacity in the management and implementation of statistical work.

20. Among the most important matters covered by the coordinating mechanisms between ESCWA and a number of United Nations organizations is the implementation of many field projects aimed at upgrading national capacities in the production and dissemination of timely and accurate statistics which could form the nucleus of evidence-based development policies. These projects have included:

(a) *Strengthening the Development of International Merchandise Trade Statistics and the Compilation of e-Commerce in ESCWA Member Countries (2006-2009)*

21. ESCWA is carrying out this project in partnership with UNSD and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The project was intended to: assist the countries in the ESCWA region to develop and improve their capabilities in collecting, compiling and disseminating international merchandise trade statistics; to formulate, monitor, and evaluate national plans and policies; and to support regional and international trade negotiations. In the first phase of the project, now completed, professionals from both the ESCWA Executive Secretariat and UNSD made visits to member countries with the purpose of: introducing the project, its aims, and the results expected from its implementation; discussing international recommendations on the collection, analysis and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics; and identifying the difficulties facing countries in the application of these recommendations. Reports were prepared on the current situation with regard to the collection and dissemination of international merchandise trade and e-commerce statistics, including technology use, coordination among national offices involved in collecting these statistics, and the application of international recommendations. These visits culminated in a number of recommendations to be incorporated in subsequent project activities: <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/tradestats/index.asp>.

(b) *Project to Measure the Informal Sector and Informal Employment (2007-2009)*

22. ESCWA is carrying out this project in cooperation with United Nations regional commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the International Labour Organization. The project is intended to raise awareness among national statistical bodies and other government agencies in participant countries and to foster capabilities in the collection, classification, analysis, and dissemination of data on the informal sector and informal employment according to international standards and methodologies. The project will also contribute to establishing a unified data collection strategy in this area and the issuance of internationally comparable data.

(c) *Project on Strengthening National Capacities in Environment Statistics, Indicators and Accounts in Support of Progress Towards Realising Internationally Agreed Development Goals (2007-2009)*

23. ESCWA is carrying out this project in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNSD with the aim of fostering progress towards the achievement in the ESCWA region of internationally agreed MDGs. Accordingly, ESCWA has carried out a number of activities, including running SEEAW training courses for the Mashreq countries and undertaking advisory missions to certain countries, in addition to creating the following web page: http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other&field_name=ID&FileID=163.

(d) *International Comparison Program (2005 Session)*

24. ESCWA is implementing this programme in cooperation with the World Bank and with support from both the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Islamic Development Bank. The programme aims to estimate the purchasing power parity used to convert gross domestic product and its constituents from the local currency to a unified international currency. One hundred and forty-six countries are participating in the project, including 11 ESCWA members. The results of the 2005 session of the International Comparison Program provide important information to policymakers and decision makers. The programme has contributed to statistical capacity-building and to improving the consistency of regional and global data. With the end of the current session of the programme in 2008, work will shift to preparations for the next session, in 2011: <http://www.escwa.un.org/icp/index.htm>.

(e) *Project on Statistical Knowledge and Capacity-Building in Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals*

25. ESCWA is carrying out this project with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the countries of the region in order to facilitate data production. This is to be achieved by improving the capabilities of national statistical bodies in building databases for monitoring and reporting on MDGs, strengthening statistical capabilities and improving skills in statistical analysis. This is being done through training in the optimal use of the MDG data and indicators in order to improve evidence- and fact-based management. The work of preparing all the training documents and translating them into Arabic has now been completed. As part of the project activities, ESCWA issued in 2006 training materials in Arabic including a practical guide to public policymaking indicators addressed to policymakers: http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other&field_name=ID&FileID=573.

(f) *The Development of Gender Statistics in Iraq (2006-2008)*

26. ESCWA is carrying out this project in cooperation with the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) at the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and with financing from the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Iraq Trust Fund. This project includes national and international partners in the development of gender-specific statistics and indicators in order to formulate evidence-based policy and to promote in particular gender-mainstreaming and women's empowerment in the development process. This project is intended to raise awareness among both producers and users of the importance of gender statistics in Iraq and to enable them to produce and use reliable figures in order to monitor progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women in Iraq. By the same token, the project is meant to increase awareness of the importance of gender statistics for evidence-based public policymaking; monitor its progress; gender mainstream in the statistical system as a whole; and upgrade national capacities in the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics and in the construction of national databases of gender indicators: <http://www.escwa.un.org/gsp/index.html>.

(g) *Needs Assessment for Capacity-Building for National Statistical Offices in the ESCWA Region*

27. In 2006, the Statistics Division undertook an assessment of the technical and management needs for capacity-building among the national statistical offices (NSOs) of the ESCWA countries. The assessment addressed the institutional and operational environment of the NSOs, the data they produced, the international standards they applied and the capabilities they needed in order to produce development, and the MDGs indicators. The assessment identified several gaps and weak points. The results were presented to the Statistical Committee at its seventh session in 2006. The Committee endorsed these results and adopted the proposed work plan to be implemented in 2007-2009. Following up on this assessment, another assessment was carried out in August 2008 to identify achievements in relation to the 2006 criteria and to define good practice in order to devise a new work plan for capacity-building among NSOs.

Annex I

LIST OF EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

| Name of Meeting | Venue and Date |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Training course on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) for the Arab Gulf Countries | Beirut, 25-28 August 2008 |
| Seminar: Arab Country Statistical Offices: Current Status of Offices and Statistical Legislation, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics | Damascus, 21 August 2008 |
| Regional Workshop on DevInfo, in cooperation with UNDG, the United Nations country offices, and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) | Beirut, 7-10 July 2008 |
| Workshop on Data Quality and External Trade Indices | Cairo, 12-15 June 2008 |
| National workshop for Agency for Sustainable Development (ASD) staff at the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Agency in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to define sustainable development indicators in the Kingdom in partnership with ASD, UNEP and the League of Arab States | Jeddah, 9-11 June 2008 |
| UNSD-ESCWA Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing in the ESCWA Region: Contemporary Technologies for Data Capture, Methodology and Practice of Data Editing | Doha, 18-22 May 2008 |
| Workshop on Employment Sector and Informal Sector Data Collection: Strategy, Tools and Advocacy | Amman, 13-15 April 2008 |
| Joint workshop with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on the main statistical indicators for information and communications technology | Amman, 7-10 April 2008 |
| Regional Workshop on the Design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics: Mainstreaming Gender in Sectoral Statistics | Istanbul, 24-26 March 2008 |
| MEDSTAT II Environment Sector/UNESCWA/UNSD Joint Sub-regional Training Course on SEEAW | Amman, 10-13 March 2008 |
| 11 th Regional Workshop on the International Comparison Program (ICP) in Western Asia, which brought together national coordinators from the ICP member countries with the World Bank, the regional ICP office from ESCWA, the Islamic Development Bank, and other agencies. | Manama, 20-21 February 2008 |
| Workshop on International Economic Classifications and the classification of commodities according to the fourth revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), and the second revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC), in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) in Egypt and the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) | Cairo, 10-13 December 2007 |
| Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics for the ESCWA Region, in cooperation with UNSD and CAPMAS | Cairo, 3-6 December 2007 |
| Workshop on Gender Statistics and Time Use Survey in cooperation with the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) in the Republic of Iraq and other United Nations agencies | Amman, 4-6 November 2007 |
| Workshop on Merchandize Trade Statistics Compilation and Application of Methodological Concepts | Amman, 28 October – 2 November 2007 |

| Name of Meeting | Venue and Date |
|--|---|
| The 7 th , 8 th , 9 th and 10 th Regional Workshops on ICP in Western Asia, in cooperation with the World Bank | 7 th in Amman, 8-11 January 2007; 8 th , 9 th , and 10 th in Cairo, 26-28 May, 4-6 August, and 27-28 October 2007, respectively |
| National Training Workshop for COSIT, Iraq, on "Compilation of Constant-price Estimates of National Accounts" | Cairo, 22-25 October 2007 |
| Symposium on Quality of Statistics, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics | Amman, 22 October 2007 |
| Fourth Meeting of the Taskforce on Population and Housing Censuses | Cairo, 5-6 September 2007 |
| Working Group of ESCWA Statistical Committee | Cairo, 3 September 2007 |
| Second Training of Trainers for the Project Statistical Literacy and Capacity Building for MDG Monitoring at the Country Level, in cooperation with UNDP in Tunisia and under the auspices of UNDG | Hammamat, Tunisia, 23-31 July 2007 |
| Joint meeting with environment ministries and NSOs in the Arab countries on environmental and sustainable development indicators, in cooperation with the technical secretariat of both the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and the Directorate of Statistics and Databases at the League of Arab States | Kuwait, 29 June-1 July, 2007 |
| EGM on the Production of Statistics on Natural Resources and Environment in cooperation with UNDP, UNSD, MEDSTAT II, and the World Bank | Cairo, 5-7 June 2007 |
| Regional Workshop on Demographic Projections, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Division (UNPD) and the Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) | Doha, 20-24 May 2007 |
| Regional Workshop on Sampling Design, in cooperation with QSA | Doha, 15-17 May 2007 |
| Course on using commercial software, in cooperation with AITRS and CAPMAS | Cairo, 14-30 April 2007 |
| International Conference on Statistics and Development, in cooperation with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics | Ramallah-Albira, 27-28 March 2007 |
| Workshop on Building Country Capacity to Maintain a Central Repository of Data, in cooperation with UNICEF its Middle East and North Africa regional office, and the UNDG | Amman, 13-15 March 2007 |
| Workshop on Compilation of Statistics on Trade in Services, in cooperation with UNSD and the IMF's Middle East Technical Assistance Center (METAC) | Cairo, 6-9 February 2007 |
| Workshop on National Accounts | Cairo, 19-21 December 2006 |
| First National Workshop on Gender Statistics, part of the project for the Development of National Gender Statistics in Iraq | Amman, 11-13 December 2006 |
| First Training of Trainers for the "Statistical Literacy and Capacity-Building for MDG Monitoring at the Country Level" Project, in cooperation with UNDP in Jordan and under the auspices of the UNDG | Amman, 27 November - 3 December 2006 |
| Workshop on Labour Statistics Surveys and Data Analysis, in cooperation with ILO's International Training Centre (ITCILO) | Turin, Italy, 13-17 November 2006 |
| Third Meeting of the Taskforce on Population and Housing Censuses | Beirut, 10 November 2006 |

Annex II

LIST OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY MISSIONS

| Survey and Questionnaire Statistics | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Aim of Advisory Mission | Date of Mission | Place of Mission |
| To evaluate the pilot study to be run by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the framework of implementing the consolidated strategy for data compilation | 7-9 September 2008 | Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in Palestine |
| To help construct the consumer price index using a new basket, with special reference to the range and classification of goods and services used and product weightings. The mission was also intended to offer guidance on seasonal adjustments to product quality and variety; to provide technical assistance in constructing a cost-of-living index in Bahrain; to review the method of calculating the rented housing price index; and to provide guidelines on the amount of data to be collected in the household income and expenditure survey | 29 April – 15 May, 2008 | Central Information Organization (CIO), Bahrain |
| To analyse existing questionnaires in order to collect the data and sort it into five basic information and telecommunications technology categories; identify gaps in order to improve and develop current questionnaires; agree on procedures and guidelines for the collection of data and statistics relevant to telecommunications indicators; provide needed staff training; and offer suggestions for improving the infrastructure to ensure the continuing collection and production of accurate, reliable and comparable statistics and indicators in a timely fashion | 1-6 April 2008 | QSA, Qatar |
| To offer technical assistance in the identification of data needed for the construction of relevant indicators. The service included a review of the previously prepared questionnaire on information and telecommunications technology indicators covering certain other subjects; assistance in formulating strategies for the relevant data collection; help in putting together a framework for questionnaire templates, and guidance on data collection and the compilation of output tables | 8-15 March 2008 | Ministry of National Economy (MONE) and Information Technology Authority (ITA) in Oman |
| To identify the estimates that need to be made by investigating the remote and rural regions; devise an appropriate methodology for carrying out surveys in these regions; prepare and formulate questionnaires; and develop concepts and definitions for conducting surveys | 2-6 March 2008 | Ministry of the Economy, United Arab Emirates |
| To assist in devising the final steps in a sample of households, for the collection of residential rental data; also a review and redesign of a new survey sample on “entering and departing” travellers. In addition, some questions were resolved concerning estimation procedures currently used with surveys which have been conducted in Oman | 24-28 November 2007 | MONE, Oman |

| Survey and Questionnaire Statistics | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Aim of Advisory Mission | Date of Mission | Place of Mission |
| To review the effectiveness and suitability of survey data on household income and expenditure and their use in constructing the consumer price index | 5-10 May and 10-23 June 2007 | CIO, Bahrain |
| National Accounts Statistics | | |
| To review the sources and methods used in the aggregation of national accounts with the aim of finding a basis for the current national accounts time series and to provide technical assistance in linking the revised series with the old series; and review economic studies carried out using the results of the 1998 and 2005 household consumer spending surveys | 20 June – 3 July 2008 | Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Yemen |
| To conduct a training workshop for State Planning Commission staff on the basic concepts and theoretical framework for national accounts and the national accounts system of 1993 | 8-21 June 2008 | State Planning Commission, Prime Ministry, Syrian Arab Republic |
| To review the progress achieved in the implementation of the 1993 national accounts system; discuss the possibilities for adopting the concepts recommended in the updated 1993 national accounts system; determine priorities for technical assistance with national accounts | 2-5 December 2007 | Central Bureau of Statistics, Syrian Arab Republic |
| To review current information sources for the aggregation of national statistics in the Yemeni Republic, especially the extent of implementation of the national accounts system of 1993; and provide technical assistance in evaluating the national account aggregates with fixed prices | 10-14 November 2007 | CSO, Yemen |
| To review current sources and methodologies used in preparing national accounts in the Sultanate; review the methodology proposed for the construction of the consumer price index; offer technical advice in drawing an appropriate sample of rented housing | 2-5 June 2007 | MONE, Oman |
| To draw up a road map for the development of national accounts collection for the Emirate of Dubai through the Statistics Centre | 16-22 March 2007 | Dubai Municipality, United Arab Emirates |
| Sectoral Statistics | | |
| Three consulting missions to help the countries concerned apply the SEEAW | 9 March 2008 | Jordan |
| | 29 August 2008 | Lebanon |
| | 30-31 August 2008 | Oman |
| To offer assistance and technical advice with a view to providing recommendations and technical guidance on environmental statistics and indicators to the General Authority for Environment Protection, and to help devise a mechanism for coordinating among the relevant parties | 18-20 June 2007 | Yemen |

| Survey and Questionnaire Statistics | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aim of Advisory Mission | Date of Mission | Place of Mission |
| External Trade Statistics | | |
| To review Bahrain's trade statistics with one of its trade partners (the United States), determine the reasons for discrepancies, and organize a workshop to discuss a statistical reconciliation study which had been prepared in this regard | 9-14 December 2007 | CIO, Bahrain |
| Other services | | |
| To provide technical assistance in determining the functions and responsibilities of the QSA's Economic Statistics Directorate, to devise a management structure for its various divisions, sections, and units, and to provide technical assistance in drawing up an overall scheme of the statistical activities that each division/section/unit should undertake | 16-20 September 2007 | QSA, Qatar |