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**FOLLOW-UP ON PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ESCWA REGION****YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES****Summary**

This report has been prepared in the light of questions raised at the local and international levels about the causes of persistent deterioration of youth conditions, despite the efforts exerted by Governments in the field of social and economic development, and many years after the adoption in 1995 of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. A sizeable section of the population aged 15-24 years is still subject to neglect, exclusion, unemployment and poverty. There is a growing concern that the neglect by Arab countries of youth issues might slow down the development process and cause the transformation of this group into a source of instability, chaos, violence and even terrorism. Events in the history of some European and Asian countries confirm the correlation between the youth bulge and the probability of emerging local and sometimes regional conflicts.

The report addresses the following topics: (a) youth demography in a changing population age structure; (b) conventional approaches to addressing youth issues; (c) contemporary approaches to addressing youth issues; (d) experiences of member countries in relation to youth inclusion in development: ESCWA regional survey; (e) challenges faced by countries of the region; (f) ESCWA general framework for youth policies.

The report ends with a number of conclusions and recommendations on the necessity to adopt new development approaches that respond to the current demographic changes and constitute a framework for economic and social policies targeting youth.

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## Introduction

1. This report underlines the importance of reconsidering conventional development policies that offer holistic solutions to youth issues, and adopting a new approach targeting youth as a socio-demographic group to ensure its social, economic and political inclusion. It is based on the outcomes of discussions that took place at the meetings organized by ESCWA to follow up on the World Programme of Action for Youth, and the studies presented in those meetings.
2. In parallel with the World Economic Forum on the Middle East (Dead Sea, 18-20 May 2007), a seminar on youth was held to diagnose factors leading to youth exclusion from societal participation and pushing them in many instances to despair, isolation, violence or emigration. Participants stressed that the social and cultural factors are closely interwoven with the political and economic factors. They noted the weakness of educational and cultural institutions in many countries of the region. Though participants were able to diagnose the youth situation with precision, they were neither able to present an appropriate framework for the formulation of policies aimed at halting deterioration in the youth situation, nor to perform a critical evaluation of development approaches adopted by countries of the region and their role in worsening the conditions of the youth group.
3. Among the studies presented at the “Workshop on reinforcing national capacities in responding to the World Programme of Action for Youth: National reports and systematic documentation of accomplishments” (Beirut, 17-18 December 2008),<sup>1</sup> was an analytical report on the results of ESCWA questionnaire on the response of Arab countries to the World Programme of Action for Youth, conducted in 2008. The studies highlighted the factors which contributed to worsening youth conditions and neglecting their issues, and drew questions on the validity of development approaches adopted by the countries of the region, their concordance with the sizable changes in the population age structure, and the extent to which they meet the needs of the current demographic stage and the concurrent manifestations of globalization.
4. Participants at the expert group meeting on “Reinforcing Social Equity: Integrating Youth into the Development Process” (Abu-Dhabi, 29-31 March 2009), organized by ESCWA in collaboration with the Family Development Foundation in the United Arab Emirates, emphasized that existing economic and social development plans and programmes in the countries of the region are insufficient for building youth capacities and integrating them in development policies and programmes. They called for a reconsideration of those development approaches which incurred high costs and yet led to widening the gap between small wealthy and large poor social groups where the poor, especially youth, still suffer from marginalization and exclusion.

## I. YOUTH DEMOGRAPHY WITHIN POPULATION AGE-STRUCTURAL CHANGES

5. Youth demography cannot be addressed apart from the demographic transition in general and the change taking place in the population age-structure in particular. After the decline in fertility rates, which started manifesting its consequences in the 1980s, a population growth deceleration is expected to take place in the Arab region leading to a growth rate of about 2 per cent in the period up to 2015. A more important development than the population growth is the population age-structural change and its implications at the macroeconomic level. In the past, population age structure was dominated by children (0-14 years). It started tilting gradually towards the domination of the economically active age group (15-64 years) which is expected to increase significantly. Youth population in the Arab countries increased from 38.8 million in 1985 to 59.1 million in 2000 and 65.7 million in 2005, a growth that is known as the “youth bulge” and which may hinder development in both economic and social tracks. Youth represented 34 per cent of the working age group in the ESCWA region in 2005. Youth population is projected to reach 71.7 million in

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA, *Report on the workshop on reinforcing national capacities in responding to the World Programme of Action for Youth: National reports and systematic documentation of accomplishments*, E/ESCWA/SDD/2009/2.

2015 and 79.5 million in 2025. Therefore, invigorating economic growth will require labour markets to adapt to increasing numbers of first-time job seekers and unemployed and provide employment that guarantees sustained real wage increases.

TRENDS IN THE SIZE, PERCENTAGE AND GROWTH RATE OF THE YOUTH  
POPULATION IN THE ARAB REGION, 1985-2045

Year	Youth population (15-24 years)		
	Size (in thousands)	Percentage	Annual growth rate
1985	3882	19.4	
1995	5112	19.9	2.8
2005	6568	20.7	2.5
2015	7171	18.6	1.6
2025	7945	17.6	1.0
2035	8596	16.8	0.8
2045	6801	15.3	-0.2

Source: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*.

6. The youth bulge in the Arab countries reached its peak at 2.8 per cent in the period 1985-1995. It remained high with a slight decrease to 2.5 per cent in the period 1995-2005 and is expected to decline further and reach 1.6 per cent in the period 2005-2015. The youth bulge had emerged as a result of decreasing fertility rates. However, the proportion of youth to total population started decreasing after it had reached its peak at 20.7 per cent in 2005 and the size of youth population is projected to decrease in the period 2035-2045 to reach a negative growth rate of -0.2 per cent.

## II. CONVENTIONAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING YOUTH ISSUES

### A. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

7. This approach consists of designing policies aimed at improving the well-being of people in a framework encompassing the following essential elements:

(a) *Empowerment*: enhancing physical and intellectual capacities of women and men and expanding the range of options available to them in a manner that enables them to make and implement informed decisions while free of financial needs and deprivation;

(b) *Continuous economic growth in the context of sustainable development*: ensuring long-term production and consumption sustainability through meeting the needs of current generations and improving their well-being without jeopardizing the capability of future generations to meet their needs;

(c) *Equity*: equitable distribution of wealth among various social groups, and equal access to education, health, employment and other services;

(d) *Security*: economic, social, political and human stability.

8. This approach revolves around finding solutions to problems often caused by a development process that is based on economic growth and favours economic priorities at the expense of human priorities. It focuses on the pivotal role of people in development in terms of creating the environment and mechanisms leading to the improvement of their well-being. Along with the change in the basic concept of development came the concept of investing in people as an effective tool to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

9. This approach consists of providing equal opportunities to build individual capacities of people and enable them to engage in the development process, overcome poverty and express beliefs and political opinions in a framework of rights and obligations. However, it tackles human resources as a homogenous group in terms of issues, needs and social implications, and is based on the principle that investing in people should be sector-oriented and not divided according to different population groups. The youth group undoubtedly benefits from improvements achieved in the society as a whole in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>2</sup> However, monitoring the MDGs implementation indicates that the comprehensive policy approach does not respond to the specific needs of the youth. Youth are the most forward looking generation for self proof, adventure and renovation in all development areas, the most users of information and communications technology, the most open to the world cultures and the most willing to achieve justice, democracy, cultural dialogue and peace. Therefore, youth represent a specific social and demographic group that has its distinct challenges.

10. The obstacles encountered by developing countries are not related to the principles of the human development approach, but rather to the failure of those countries to convert that approach into a practical, feasible and measurable one, because they are still relying on the economic entry point hoping that it will trigger changes in the institutional structures and mechanisms which will lead to such substantive social changes as social justice and equitable distribution of wealth at the medium and long terms.

## B. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

11. The relation between population and development had been determined according to the following three different concepts: (a) population growth has a positive effect on the development process because the knowledge stock increases as a result of technological advances generated by increased demands on goods and services; (b) population growth has a negative effect on that process because it hinders national income growth and exhausts financial, natural and economic resources; (c) population growth is a neutral factor outside the development process, and strengthening economic growth is sufficient to adapt to population increase and meet growing needs. The concept of neutral effect of population growth on economic growth had dangerous implications<sup>3</sup> after it was used by many countries in the last decades to justify the exclusion of population growth and the omission of giving population issues their due priority in an integrated development process. Studies conducted in the context of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994)<sup>4</sup> concluded that minimizing the relevance of population to development has caused decision makers to adopt unintegrated policies neglecting quantitative and qualitative population issues, often leading to the failure of those policies to adapt to demographic changes occurring in the population pyramid.

12. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is a leading guide to make a substantive change in the way the population factor is perceived. It stressed that taking population into consideration and confronting assumptions that neutralize the demographic factor are determinant elements for the future of developing countries. It also presented a new approach in interpreting the correlation between population and development, namely the "life cycle" approach, in which population is considered as a non homogenous entity made of demographic cohorts of different age groups with different issues having different economic, social, political and cultural implications. However, although stressing the life cycle approach, the Programme of Action did not present a general framework for policies aimed at responding to the needs and issues of various age groups.

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<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

<sup>3</sup> David Bloom and others, *Population Change and Economic Development: The Great Debate Revisited*, CAER II Discussion Paper No. 46, November 1999. Available at: <http://www.hiid.harvard.edu/projects/caer/pubs.html>

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development*, A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

13. The five-year reviews following the International Conference on Population and Development revealed that equity and equal opportunities for all socio-demographic groups were not achieved, because the socio-demographic issues, in particular youth issues, newly emerging at the time of the Conference have not been included in the Programme of Action, therefore they were not reflected in the national plans of action designed to convert the goals of the Conference into national goals. The Programme of Action was conceived according to population age structures in developed countries. It has therefore focused on the policies related to the elderly, and has overlooked the dynamics of population in the developing countries and the resulting new age structures. In the Arab region, the youth group was addressed in the context of such sectoral issues as reproductive health, in the absence of policies leading to youth integration.

### **III. CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING YOUTH ISSUES**

#### **A. DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACH**

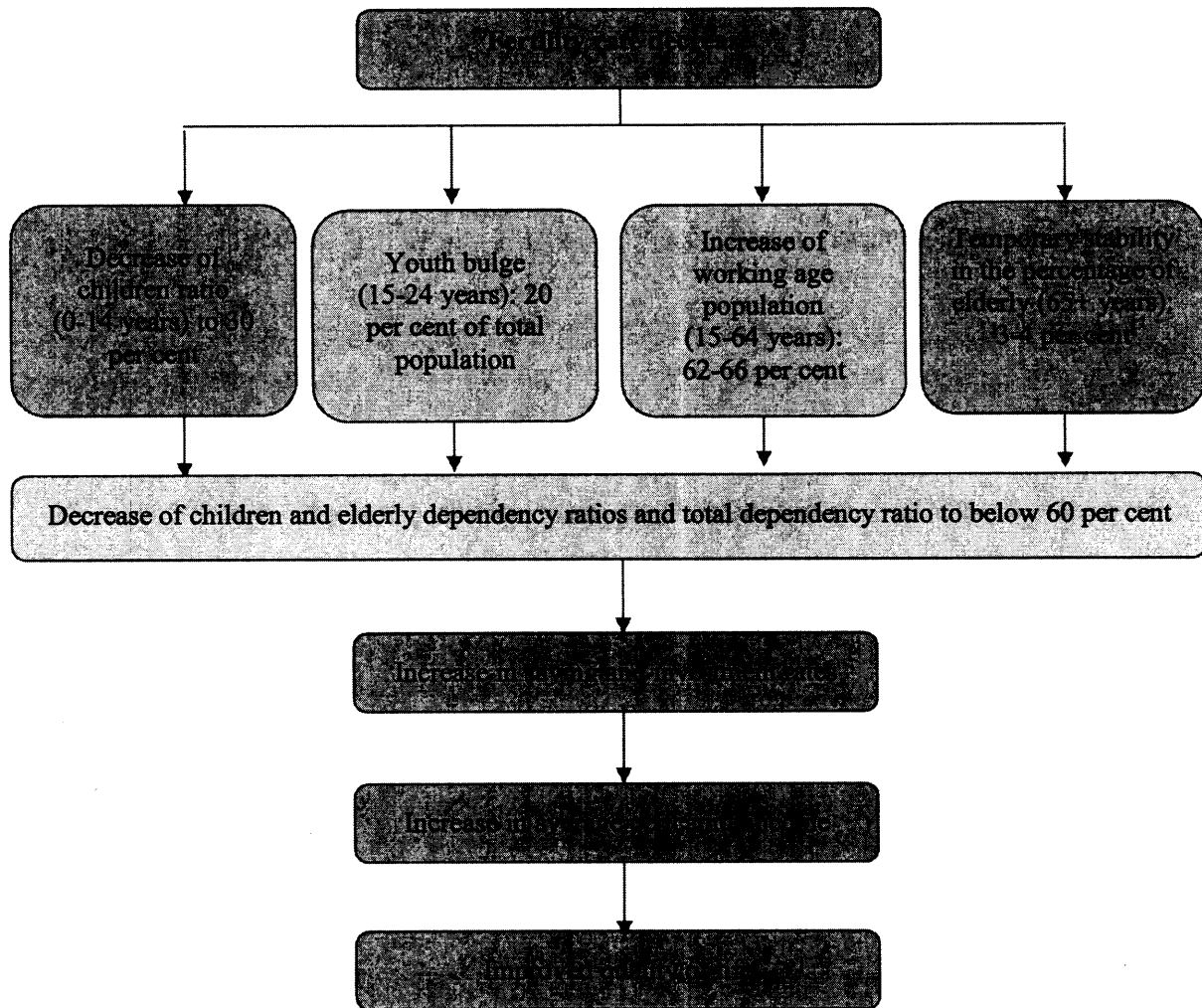
14. The demographic approach is no longer a measuring tool for fertility and mortality. It rather acquired a wider concept and became more closely linked to the various phases of human life cycle and to the economic, social and political changes in the development process. The demographic approach requires, in the context of development planning and policy formulation, intensive efforts to determine the nature and timeliness of investment in the various age groups.

15. The Arab countries, which are characterized by their broad-base population pyramid, are undergoing considerable changes in the population age structure, where the age group 0-14 which was dominating the age structure is decreasing while another age group, namely youth in working age, is increasing. Those changes started manifesting in the early 1980s when the regional average fertility rate declined from 6.2 in the period 1980-1985 to 4.1 live births per woman in the period 2000-2005, leading to gradual changes in the population age structure occurring in the following decades. As a result of those changes, a historical demographic window shall open to Arab countries as an increase in the ratio of population in working age and a decrease in dependency rate are expected, thus widening the difference between the growth rate of population in working age and the growth rate of dependant population in the period 2000-2020. In fact, estimates indicate that the growth rate of population in working age will reach 2.7 per cent while growth rate of dependant population will be 1.4 per cent, indicating that the difference between the two will increase to reach 1.3 per cent, giving way to increase savings and investment on one hand, and bridge the gap between per capita income and output per worker on the other hand.

16. The average number of youth in the region varies from 33 to 40 per cent of population in working age. Since this group has a fundamental role in achieving economic and social returns from investing in human capital and reducing poverty, failing to integrate it in current development strategies in countries categorized as demographic window countries may prevent those countries from benefiting from that window. Given the high proportion of youth among poor population, the youth group could become subject to, or a source of, political and economic turmoil. Therefore, it is imperative to make the youth group a policy component and beneficiary. The following chart illustrates the size of youth group in demographic window indicators and in total working age population.

17. As people are at the centre of demographic analysis, this process has two aspects: a quantitative aspect related to population size and growth, and a qualitative aspect related to population needs and behaviour at different stages of demographic transition. Human needs and behaviour vary with age and have different economic and social implications. The needs of children and juveniles require big investments in health and education; youth in early stages of working age represent a basic agent of employment supply and savings increase; and the elderly have increased needs for health care and secure retirement income.

### General indicators of the onset of the demographic window



18. A critical revision of the development approaches and their capacity to integrate major life stages in the development process has become necessary, taking into consideration the demographic characteristics of each country. Any unfavourable factors affecting any of those critical stages, in particular childhood and youth, shall result in negative circumstances to the following life stages.

#### B. APPROACH BASED ON THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH

19. Youth issues have been central in United Nations priorities for decades. When the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1965 the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, it recognized that addressing young women and men principles, ideals and potentials is a vital necessity for achieving societal objectives and goals. Three decades later, in 1995, the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995.<sup>5</sup> The Programme of Action for Youth included initially ten priority areas to which five other priority areas identified by the process of monitoring and evaluating the Programme of Action for Youth were added in 2003 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007.<sup>6</sup> Those priorities are characterized as being:

<sup>5</sup> A/RES/50/81. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

<sup>6</sup> A/RES/62/126. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

(a) Of a complex nature, where each priority presents challenges requiring solutions, and opportunities to harness;

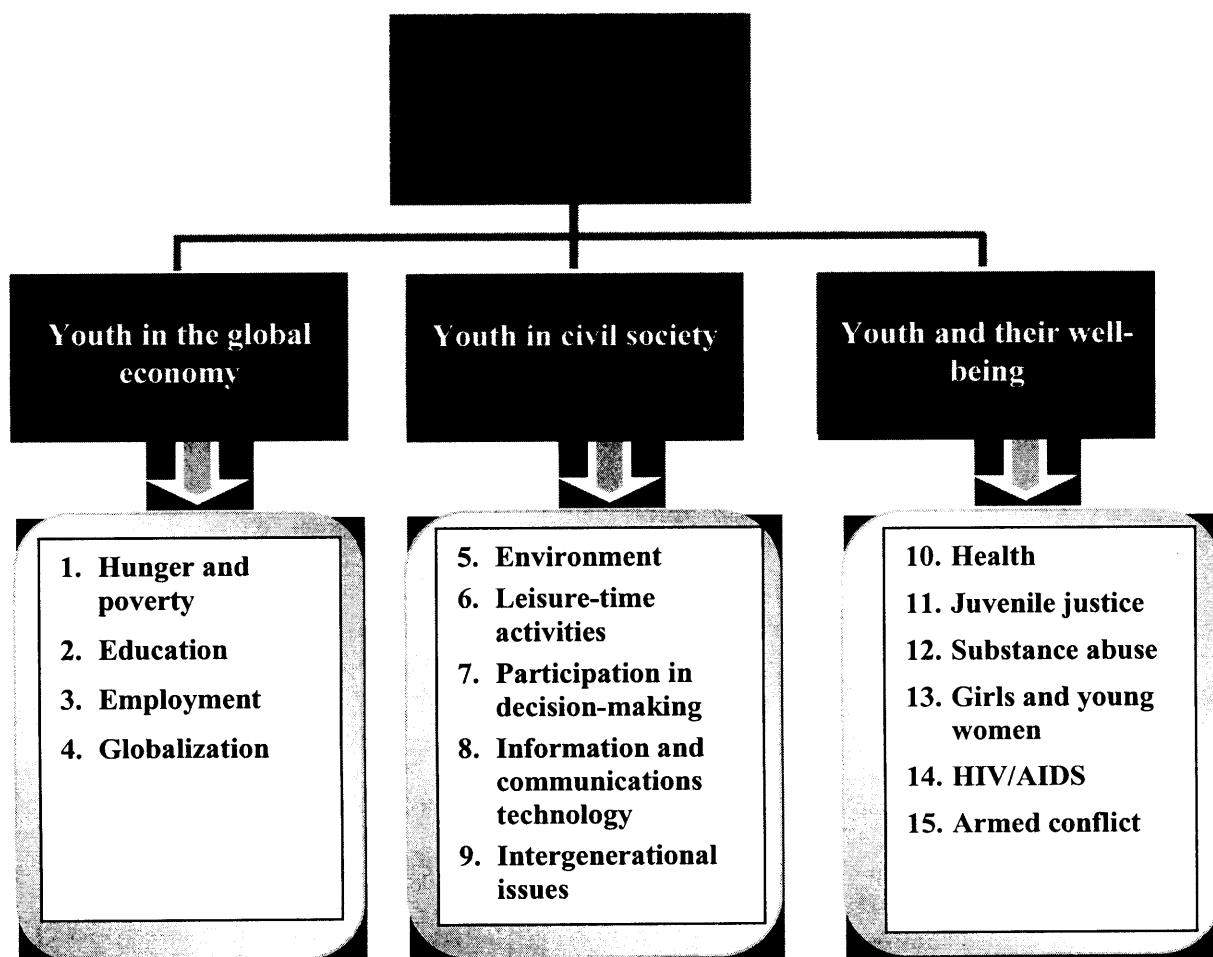
(b) Correlated by a cause-effect factor and non-dissociable, such that investing in one of them also impacts on the others;

(c) An integrated plan targeting the youth group and aiming, through empowerment and integration strategies, at improving the situation of that group;

(d) Cognizant that youth are a distinct population group in a transition phase with special needs and potentials;

(e) Aimed at building youth capacities and expanding their options.

20. The 15 priority areas have been incorporated in the Programme of Action for Youth as illustrated in the following chart:



21. The World Programme of Action for Youth provides a guiding framework at the local and regional levels. It recommends international action for youth development and capacity-building and stresses that “every State should provide its young people with opportunities for obtaining education, for acquiring skills and for participating fully in all aspects of society”. The World Programme of Action for Youth is an unprecedented initiative by the world community which recognized the youth value as a human resource and a fundamental agent of change and economic and social development. The General Assembly approved in its sixty-second session in 2007, a cluster of goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy, within set time frames, in the areas of globalization, poverty and hunger, education and



employment. Those indicators are expected to help countries in the formulation of national agendas aimed at youth development and providing them with better opportunities, and in evaluating the progress achieved at the national level in that regard.

22. The World Programme of Action for Youth is more closely associated to the life cycle approach and provides a framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities of investing in youth. The main characteristics of the life cycle approach are as follows:

(a) Accumulative outcome resulting from development interventions because interventions in the early stages of human life benefit subsequent generations;

(b) More effective use of resources by defining major gaps, risks and priorities for breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

#### **IV. EXPERIENCES OF ARAB COUNTRIES IN YOUTH INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT: ESCWA REGIONAL SURVEY**

23. ESCWA has prepared a questionnaire on the response of Arab countries to the World Programme of Action for Youth, which covered most countries of the region and focused on efficiency of the development planning process and methods, efficacy and nature of interventions, and availability of institutions devoted to planning and policy formulation and competency of their staff. The most significant conclusions of the questionnaire included: ambiguity of national strategies on youth, absence of policies for integrating youth as key agents for development, and persistent adoption of the sectoral approach.

24. In addition to structural factors inherent in the economic, social and political nature of societies in the region, which obstruct sustainable development, waste efforts exerted by countries in that regard and prevent them from harnessing opportunities offered by demographic changes, the survey helped diagnose the following factors: (a) lack of integration between social, economic and demographic performance; (b) focus placed on improving the well-being of people through universal interventions instead of targeting specific socio-demographic groups; (c) perception of youth as a group that causes problems and should be contained through meeting its health, education and leisure needs.

25. In evaluating progress achieved in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth, the survey noted that non-participation of youth in the development of their societies is not attributed exclusively to their lack of personal competency to undertake the development burdens, but also to the limited opportunities offered by society for participation in the development process, and the inability of some countries to achieve economic, social and political development in the context of structural changes occurring in the global economy and the resulting new needs and specifications required for major social and political systems and institutions at the local and regional levels.

26. Despite the growing attention paid by countries of the region to youth issues, those countries are still far from overcoming the challenges faced by youth, new realities dictated by globalization and its tools, and other crises and challenges including pandemics, such as HIV prevalence, deterioration of the environment in which youth live, wars and local and regional conflicts. Response to the World Programme of Action for Youth in the Arab region as a whole and in ESCWA region in particular, remains slow and limited to scattered sectoral programmes aimed at partly meeting the youth needs. The survey noted the following with regard to the circumstances surrounding the process of policy formulation:

(a) Shortage of youth-specific statistical data and information disaggregated by age, gender and geographical distribution (urban and rural);

(b) Unidentified needs and priorities of the country and its subregions;

- (c) Lack of data on youth subgroups in regions and areas where youth are facing the most difficult challenges, including youth with disabilities and youth in armed conflict areas;
- (d) Lack of studies on defining and assessing fundamental factors of youth exclusion;
- (e) Absence of national training programmes and capacity-building on formulating youth policies;
- (f) Absence of effective institutions to coordinate sectoral efforts and ensure efficiency of institutional mechanisms aimed at providing functional development for youth;
- (g) Lack of political commitment to the youth issue and Government engagement in other priorities with less impact than that of youth;
- (h) Insufficient legislations and political orientations relevant to youth development;
- (i) Lack of manuals designed to guide the formulation of youth policies.

## V. CHALLENGES FACED BY COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

27. The challenges faced by countries of the region in achieving social development can be summarized as follows:

(a) Youth social, economic and political exclusion stemming from educational gap: about 13 million youth still suffer from illiteracy; education is still conventional; gap is still wide between education in developing and developed countries; gap persists between the (technical) education available to the poor and (the special and elite) education available to the wealthy; gender gap continues to exist with more females, in particular those coming from poor families, dropping out of school and female education still focusing on the traditional role of women;

(b) Unemployment of youth, which is the group most vulnerable to challenges posed by globalization and advancement in information and communications technology and their implications on labour markets: in that regard, the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation*<sup>7</sup> prepared by the World Bank indicates that unemployment is basically more of a problem related to the youth than part of the problems of the entire population, because youth make more than half the total unemployed population; unemployment prevalence among youth is 3.5 times more than that among adults; world youth unemployment rate is 14 per cent while youth unemployment rate in the Middle East is 25 per cent; youth first-time job seekers represent about 50 per cent of unemployed population, the highest regional rate in the world; the unemployment period for youth with university degrees or vocational education is relatively long (up to three years in Morocco for example);

(c) Education curricula lagging behind the changing economic opportunities: it is imperative to improve education and provide capacity-building for youth in order to adapt to new labour market requirements;

(d) Shortage of adequate globalization tools: data on the usage of globalization tools indicate that the indicator of personal computer usage is 18 computers per thousand population in the Arab region while the world average reached 78.3; the Human Development Report 2002<sup>8</sup> noted that Internet users in Arab countries were 4.2 million, a proportion of only 1.6 per cent of the population, due to factors including alphabetical illiteracy of about 60 million population and low income for the larger part of the population;

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<sup>7</sup> Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org>.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2002: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2002>.

(e) The economic, social and cultural gap that separates youth in the Arab region and youth in other regions of the world;

(f) Lack of strategic vision and commitment to a philosophical framework that serves as a basis for the development process in general and youth development in particular;

(g) Governments consistently dealing with youth through unsustained sectoral programmes and projects instead of devising policies targeting youth as a socio-demographic group.

## VI. ESCWA GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH POLICIES

28. ESCWA adopted a youth targeting approach for policy formulation in order to identify economic, social and political priorities for the youth group aged 15-24 as a specific socio-demographic group facing its own challenges. In that approach, four characteristics distinguish the youth group, some functional and some behavioural, with respective impacts on the future of development in Arab countries. The youth group is:

(a) *In the economically active age*: increased numbers of new comers to the labour market lead to increased unemployment rates and increased pressure on the labour market and the educational and health systems;

(b) *In the reproductive age*: early marriage and high fertility rates in general are contributing factors to population growth and increase of proportion of youth to total population;

(c) *In a critical age*: youth are known to be unstable and easy to irritate or affect, especially in a social and economic environment where deprivation, inequity and inequality persist;

(d) *In a transitional age*: youth are transformed from a resource consumer group to a wealth producer group.

29. The approach adopted by ESCWA lies on the World Programme of Action for Youth and its general foundations and priorities. It represents a framework used by ESCWA to urge national Governments to develop integrated and comprehensive youth policies. In that context, national policies on youth should be:

- (a) Coordinated with other Government sectoral policies;
- (b) Integrated in the national development plan;
- (c) Targeted to youth needs and aspirations as an integral part of planning;
- (d) Responsible for the youth sector independently.

30. The development approach targeting youth contributes to reducing social exclusion of that group, restoring social balance and positively absorbing youth dynamism through the following:

(a) Addressing youth issues away from the conventional method which deals with the entire population, and devising a national agenda for youth;

(b) Developing standard indicators with clearly defined goals and timeframes;

(c) Changing the support provided for youth from an instantaneous and random support to a planned and programmed one;

(d) Changing the perception of youth from a source of problems to a human asset, an agent of societal change, a valuable wealth and an active partner in development;

(e) Stimulating investment in youth.

31. Designing a national integrated policy for youth lies on formulating a vision for youth by the youth and all concerned parties based on youth priorities as seen by youth themselves. The following are major elements of that policy:

(a) Fostering youth participation in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty, introducing reforms and democracy, enforcing fundamental human rights and strengthening the role of civil society;

(b) Encouraging Governments to address youth issues, needs and aspirations from a perspective encompassing all sectors;

(c) Encouraging youth to engage in civil activities and enable the environment necessary for the preservation of youth dignity, through policies and programmes concerning youth, in particular in local areas of development and action.

## **VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

32. The review included in this report leads to the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) Youth in the Arab region are a dynamic group, a major key to human development and an important agent of change that impacts the development process and is affected by it; therefore, this group should be targeted and put at the centre of development; youth needs and aspirations should be dealt with as an integral part of national planning and policy formulation;

(b) The Arab region is undergoing demographic changes which could be positive and may lead, if the outcome is addressed rationally, to a historic opportunity for increasing per capita income and improving the quality of life;

(c) The comprehensive development approaches are no longer in harmony with the demographic changes which dictate new economic and social interventions;

(d) The practical importance of emerging new age cohorts having a role in the economic, social, cultural and technical changes and in changing the substance and methods of policies should be acknowledged;

(e) The World Programme of Action for Youth and its subsequent supplements should serve as a reference plan for countries in their national action aimed at meeting youth aspirations and needs;

(f) National policies on youth should be associated and coordinated with other Government sectoral policies and integrated in the national development plan;

(g) The national policy on youth should be responsible for the youth sector independently and should be at the same time in the heart of national comprehensive development plans.

Annex**PROPOSED GOALS AND TARGETS FOR MONITORING THE PROGRESS  
OF YOUTH IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY\***

Goals	Targets
<b>Globalization</b>	
Goal 1: promote opportunities for youth to participate in the global economy	Target 1.1: by 2015, develop and implement policies and programmes to increase the number of cross-border educational opportunities and cultural exchanges among youth
	Target 1.2: by 2015, increase the number of international agreements for recognition of educational, including vocational, qualifications, based on existing international conventions
	Target 1.3: by 2015, ensure that all young people, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to legal identification
Goal 2: minimize the negative impact of globalization on youth	Target 2.1: between 2005 and 2015, halve the proportion of youth without social protection
	Target 2.2: between 2005 and 2015, increase by 50 per cent, the coverage of social inclusion programmes targeted at marginalized youth, especially young migrants
<b>Poverty and hunger</b>	
Goal 3: eradicate extreme poverty of young women and men	Target 3.1: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of youth-headed households living in extreme poverty, while ensuring that female youth-headed households are not disproportionately impoverished
	Target 3.2: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of young women and men without access to water, sanitation, electricity, health care and other basic services
	Target 3.3: ensure that young women and men, through youth organizations, are involved in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national development and/or poverty reduction strategies
	Target 3.4: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of youth without adequate shelter or housing
	Target 3.5: between 2005 and 2015, increase by 50 per cent the proportion of young women and men with access to microfinance or other financial services

\* United Nations, *Goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy*. Report of the Secretary – General, A/62/61/Add.1 – E/2007/7/Add.1. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

Goals	Targets
<b>Education</b>	
Goal 4: ensure equitable access to safe and nutritious food for all young women and men	<p>Target 4.1: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of young women and men suffering from hunger</p> <p>Target 4.2: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of young women and men living without secure access to safe and nutritious food</p> <p>Target 4.3: ensure equal access to timely food aid for young women and men in crisis situations</p> <p>Target 4.4: by 2015, develop and implement policies aimed at the provision of information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles</p>
Goal 5: promote access to quality education and ensure that formal and non-formal education of youth supports lifelong learning and skills development	<p>Target 5.1: achieve universal access to quality basic education and ensure gender equality in education by 2015</p> <p>Target 5.2: between 2005 and 2015, increase by 50 per cent the proportion of students completing secondary education</p> <p>Target 5.3: by 2015, develop and implement policies to promote the transition to quality post-secondary education, including vocational education and non-formal programmes, and other skill-building opportunities</p> <p>Target 5.4: ensure that opportunities for technical and vocational education and skills training are available to all youth by 2015</p> <p>Target 5.5: by 2015, develop and implement national systems of quality assurance in education based on internationally agreed upon standards and tools</p> <p>Target 5.6: by 2015, increase by two thirds the proportion of young women and men with the ability to use computers and the Internet as a tool for learning and knowledge acquisition</p>
<b>Employment</b>	
Goal 6: increase decent and productive employment opportunities for young women and men	<p>Target 6.1: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of youth who are neither in education nor in employment</p> <p>Target 6.2: halve, between 2005 and 2015, the proportion of employed youth in vulnerable employment</p> <p>Target 6.3: by 2015, reduce the gap between youth and adult unemployment rates</p>
Goal 7: in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, develop and implement national strategies for decent and productive work for young women and men	<p>Target 7.1: by 2015, develop and implement national employment policies and legislation that include components addressing the needs of specific vulnerable groups of young people</p> <p>Target 7.2: by 2015, develop and implement national policies to promote the transition between education and decent and productive employment</p> <p>Target 7.3: by 2015, develop and implement national policies to ensure that information, knowledge and financial services are available to potential youth entrepreneurs</p>

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