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MANAGEMENT ISSUES**REVISED DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013****Summary**

In introducing the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Secretary-General indicated that he would continue the process of strengthening the Organization through the preparation of its programme plan (proposed strategic framework) and budget proposals (proposed programme budget) for 2012-2013.

Since the programme of the United Nations should be demand-driven by the Member States and jointly developed by the Member States and the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other Departments are required to conduct intergovernmental reviews of their respective parts of the strategic framework for 2012-2013 as proposed by the Secretary-General, prior to consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fiftieth session (New York, 7 June - 2 July 2010).

This document presents the revised draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 pertaining to Programme 18: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia. In January 2010, the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 was submitted to the Technical Committee, whose membership comprises senior officials from member countries and which is mandated by the Commission to follow up implementation of programme activities and support ESCWA in achieving its aims. The revised draft strategic framework, currently before the Commission, takes into account the comments provided by member countries during the Technical Committee meeting and advice from United Nations Headquarters. The Commission is invited to discuss the overall programme orientation, as well as the programme focus areas and the strategies contained therein, taking into account the specific mandates of the Commission and the general mandates of 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 2012-2013.

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Introduction

1. In introducing the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Secretary-General indicated that he would continue the process of strengthening the Organization through the preparation of its programme plan (proposed strategic framework) and budget proposals (proposed programme budget) for 2012-2013.
2. Since the programme of the United Nations should be demand-driven by the Member States and jointly developed by the Member States and the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other Departments are required to conduct intergovernmental reviews of their respective parts of the proposed strategic framework for 2012-2013, prior to consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its fiftieth session (New York, 7 June - 2 July 2010).
3. The strategic framework of ESCWA for 2012-2013 is being developed in accordance with the following four stages, set by the General Assembly:
 - Stage 1: Development of a draft strategic framework by the ESCWA secretariat, based on its global and regional mandates (time frame: October-December 2009);
 - Stage 2: Refinement of the draft strategic framework by ESCWA member countries through the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee and the twenty-sixth session of the Commission (time frame: January-May 2010);
 - Stage 3: Consolidation of the proposed strategic framework of all programmes of the United Nations by Headquarters (time frame: February - early April 2010);
 - Stage 4: Global intergovernmental reviews by the CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (time frame: June-December 2010).
4. In October 2009, the ESCWA secretariat embarked upon the preparation of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, based on the following methodology: (a) a desk review of recent mandates and recommendations by the Commission and intergovernmental committees, and the recent global mandates in the economic and social development fields; (b) a desk review of the programme achievements of ESCWA in the last two bienniums; (c) regional situation analyses through the medium of ESCWA studies; (d) informal consultations with line ministries and Government offices through member country visits and contacts during ESCWA-organized activities; and (e) consultations with other regional commissions and United Nations entities which are members of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs.
5. The Technical Committee,¹ whose membership comprises senior officials from member countries and which is mandated by the Commission to follow up implementation of programme activities and support ESCWA in achieving its aims, carried out the review of the draft strategic framework of Programme 18: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia for the biennium 2012-2013 at its fourth meeting (Beirut, 26-27 January 2010).
6. The revised draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, currently before the Commission, takes into account comments provided by member countries during the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee and advice from United Nations Headquarters on the introduction of minor changes to the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013.

¹ Established by the Commission at its twenty-fourth session. See paragraph 49 of the Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the Twenty-fourth Session (E/ESCWA/24/10).

7. The Commission is invited to exchange views on the overall programme orientation, as well as the programme focus areas and the strategies contained therein, taking into account the specific mandates of the Commission and the general mandates of 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 2012-2013. The decisions of the Commission will be immediately communicated by the Chairman of the current session of the Commission to the Chairman of the fiftieth session of the CPC.

REVISED DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2012-2013

A. PROGRAMME ORIENTATION

8. The overall orientation of the programme is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region, and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and with other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

9. Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) and 1985/69, establishing ESCWA and amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50, in which ESCWA was requested to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV), the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and, through the lead role of the Commission in the Regional Coordination Group, foster partnerships and cooperation with those organizations.

10. ESCWA together with the other regional commissions will continue to pursue work aimed at promoting regional and subregional economic integration as well as implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and sustainable development. As the regional arms of the United Nations, the regional commissions will use their convening power to continue to advance multilateral dialogue, regional networks and the sharing of knowledge, and will strive to further interregional and intraregional cooperation among each other as well as with other regional and subregional entities. The Commission will continue to engage with the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs as a key global body for ensuring coherence on common thematic areas among entities of the United Nations Secretariat working in the social and economic sectors.

11. In the 2012-2013 biennium, ESCWA will pursue its programme objectives by promoting economic and social integration at both the subregional and regional levels, and solidarity in the international political arena and global economy. Regional integration will be scaled up to cover the Arab region through continued strategic partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa subregional office for North Africa, and with regional and subregional organizations such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on four regional priority areas and three cross-cutting issues, namely:

(a) Stimulating sustainable management of natural resources, with emphasis on water, energy and the productive sectors, while incorporating climate change responses to sectoral strategies and plans;

(b) Promoting integrated social policies;

(c) Stimulating sustainable economic development based on higher productivity and competitiveness and through regional integration and cooperation in a globalizing world;

(d) Accelerating the development, adaptation, diffusion and use of advanced technology, in particular information and communication technology;

(e) Enhancing statistical capacity development;

(f) Promoting gender mainstreaming, the advancement of women and their effective participation and involvement;

(g) Promoting peacebuilding and mitigating the impact of conflict, its root causes and spillover effects on sustainable development.

12. The global financial crisis of the second half of the 2000-2010 decade has negatively impacted economic performance in the region, resulting in plunging financial and real estate asset prices, collapse of commodity prices, and decline in export earnings. The resulting contraction in economic activity has led to mounting unemployment. Consequently, the need for proactive employment policies to absorb the growing labour force in the region, particularly for youth and women, is more pressing than ever.

13. The development and implementation of integrated social policies are yet to be given the same level of consideration as economic policies despite development experiences showing that economic growth on its own does not lead to equitable and inclusive development, social justice and social stability. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to both the equitable provision of public services and the integration of key social groups – including women and youth – into the process of development. In addition, greater emphasis should be given to enhancing good governance to ensure that effective processes and mechanisms are established to facilitate transparent and participatory policy formulation and implementation.

14. The region is characterized by large gas and oil reserves and production, scarce water resources and food dependency. The water shortage challenge is amplified by such factors as rapid population growth and overexploitation of available water resources, and will be further exacerbated by climate change, which is expected to increase the proportion of areas affected by droughts, producing significant negative effects on agricultural productivity and other productive sectors which may undermine national and regional development agendas. As such, ESCWA will continue to support building capacities of member countries to sustainably manage water and energy resources in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, by promoting integrated water resources management practices to facilitate progress in the implementation of MDG 7's targets on water and sanitation. Advocating for improved energy access to poor areas, and the efficient use of energy sources (cleaner fuels, renewable energy resources, etc.) will remain a key priority. ESCWA will also provide technical advice to incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation responses into sectoral strategies and plans, by preparing regional assessments of the impact of climate change on water resources, advancing the role of the energy sector in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, and supporting member countries to utilize available international resources for supporting relevant projects. Furthermore, ESCWA will continue to strengthen capacity in member countries to improve sustainable rural livelihoods, and increase the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

15. ESCWA will pursue an integrated approach to development with a view to balancing economic growth and social equity in the region while paying special consideration to least developed and conflict-stricken countries. To this end, efforts will be made towards supporting the design and implementation of national policies to promote an equitable and inclusive process of development, enhancing regional capacity to collectively address crucial existing, and emerging challenges, through the promotion of regional integration initiatives, advancing intraregional trade and investment, integrated transport and communications infrastructure, and trade and transport facilitation.

16. The marginalization of women and their limited access to information and resources hinder the development process in the Arab countries. ESCWA will support efforts to enhance gender equality and the advancement of women through: (a) documentation and exchange of best practice within the region; (b) capacity-building of national women machineries to better uphold their role and responsibilities; (c) providing technical expertise in gender mainstreaming; and (d) implementing and monitoring international conventions and conferences.

17. ESCWA will strive to promote the development of knowledge-based economies in the region through analysis and normative activities to build local capacity in information and communication technology, and to narrow the digital divide. This will be coupled by the formulation of coordinated strategies and action plans for the development of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society.

18. Developing statistical capacity continues to be essential in order to enhance the ability of countries of the region to generate timely, reliable, comparable and gender-disaggregated statistics for informed policymaking and programme development, and for tracking progress realized in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

19. Security and stability are the minimum conditions for sustainable human development and the full realization of human potential. However, continued instability, conflict, occupation and their spillover effects, are a driving force of the development deficit of ESCWA member countries. In partnership with its member countries, other United Nations system offices and other multilateral and regional institutions, ESCWA activities will aim to minimize the ramifications of continuous instability by assisting member countries in formulating conflict prevention, reconciliation and revitalization policies within development programmes that are resilient to continuous crisis. ESCWA will also assist member countries to formulate and implement policies and programmes that address the economic and social spillover effects generated by conflict/occupation as well as the impact of emerging global challenges on the most vulnerable ESCWA member countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs). ESCWA will build on its comparative advantage and established in-house expertise in identifying and mainstreaming good governance models catering to the specificities of ESCWA member countries, and modernizing state structures related to peacebuilding efforts with the goal of achieving stability and sustainable development in the region.

20. ESCWA will continue to carry out analytical and normative work, supplemented by the provision of technical cooperation support in line with the articulated needs of ESCWA member countries. 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, while paying due consideration to the advancement of South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the promotion of gender mainstreaming through the programme of work of the organization and within the Commission in pursuance of the global priorities of the United Nations. Similarly, lessons derived from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the United Nations commitment to encourage and support evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

21. The regional support provided by ESCWA should contribute towards:

(a) Increased national capacity to devise and apply comprehensive, equitable economic and social policies and programmes, and to deal with transboundary issues;

(b) Improved coordination of efforts and resources of United Nations bodies with a view to providing joint responses in tackling multifaceted problems that the countries of the region face;

(c) Enhancing the work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions in reviewing and appraising the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits;

(d) Increased knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation between the countries of the region and with countries in other regions, thereby furthering the promotion of interregional and intraregional collaboration;

(e) Enhancing the development capacity and utilization of the knowledge capital in the region.

22. It is anticipated that the consultations which have taken place between the thematic clusters of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs would contribute to enhanced coordination and increased collaboration in major common work areas of the United Nations Secretariat working on economic and social development. Moreover, through its leadership of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA strives to facilitate consultation processes among concerned United Nations entities leading to the identification of priority areas where collective support for development interventions could be provided, whether at the level of the ESCWA region or in the broader context of the Arab region.

B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE SEVEN SUBPROGRAMMES

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

Objective: to achieve integrated sustainable management of natural resources in the ESCWA region, with emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors, while incorporating climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of member countries to develop and implement national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and action plans for sustainable management of energy and water resources in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of positive responses, in follow-up surveys received from member countries and regional stakeholders, expressing satisfaction with ESCWA expert meetings, advisory and capacity-building services targeted at achieving their sustainable development goals</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of measures designed and implemented by member countries, with ESCWA support, for the integrated sustainable management of natural resources, in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</p>
(b) Enhanced capacity of Governments and other public and private stakeholders to incorporate climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans, and to stimulate financial and technical supports for the inclusion of climate change issues into plans and strategies	<p>(b) (i) Increased number of countries implementing sustainable energy plans and initiatives including projects formulated or implemented with ESCWA support and financed through the clean development mechanism and other international financing mechanisms</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of partners contributing to the preparation of ESCWA regional assessments and measures for climate change adaptation</p>
(c) Strengthened capacity in member countries to develop and apply best practice and plans for improving sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood and increasing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, in support of achieving the MDGs	<p>(c) (i) Increased number of measures taken by small and medium-sized enterprises, with ESCWA assistance, to adopt environmentally-sound technologies and their possible applications for sustainable rural livelihood</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of plans developed and best practice applied by member countries based on ESCWA initiatives and support for enhancing access to basic energy, water and sanitation services</p>

External factors

23. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to adopt and apply the sustainable development policies advocated by world summits and by global and regional conferences; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding; (c) political stability is improved, thereby allowing for a better cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as a more effective implementation of technical cooperation; and (d) developed countries will fulfil their commitments to support the formulation and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures by developing countries, including ESCWA member countries, through technology transfer and financial support.

Strategy

24. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The subprogramme will concentrate on enhancing knowledge and facilitating the formulation, adoption and implementation of integrated sustainable development strategies and policies in light of the relevant global mandates arising from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPoI), the MDGs, in particular goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), as well as the outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-13 Bali, December 2007 and COP-15 Copenhagen, December 2009).

25. The subprogramme will continue to:

(a) Advocate and promote sustainable production and consumption patterns of energy and water resources, including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to a wider section of the population of the region;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to enhance synergy among the countries in the region on sustainable development priority issues including climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(c) Facilitate cooperation among member countries on the management of shared water resources and the development of energy networks;

(d) Increase awareness on the possible impacts of climate change on water resources, and the needed precautionary measures and means for integrating climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans;

(e) Support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the fields of integrated water resources management, energy efficiency, renewable energy applications and cleaner fossil fuels;

(f) Facilitate regional coordination and preparation for the implementation of regional and global commitments on sustainable development, in particular, on the thematic areas to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

26. In support of achieving the MDGs, the subprogramme will also promote sustainable rural livelihood approaches and increase the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

27. This will be achieved by undertaking quality research and analytical work; disseminating best practice; building capacity and rendering advisory services on priority sustainable development issues; promoting interregional and intraregional cooperation on sustainable development and climate change related issues, through partnerships with other regional commissions, international mechanisms for financing climate

change related actions, and regional organizations, in particular the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and strengthening ESCWA regional mechanisms for coordination on energy and water as regional forums for advancing sustainable development issues such as those identified in UN-Water and UN-Energy, and UNEP Environmental Management Group (EMG).

Subprogramme 2. Social development

Logical framework

Objective: to enhance the capacity of member countries to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms that promote an equitable and inclusive process of social development, taking into consideration regional specificities

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened national capacity to develop a rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, including for vulnerable groups	(a) (i) Increased number of national institutions that generate knowledge and information on vulnerability and vulnerable groups, with ESCWA assistance (ii) Increased number of evidence-based policies and programmes on social integration initiated by member countries, with ESCWA assistance
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to address the integration of various socio demographic groups, in particular youth, the elderly and labour migrants in the process of development	(b) (i) Total number of countries responding, with ESCWA assistance, to the World Programme of Action on Youth (ii) Increased number of measures and policy provisions adopted by member countries to integrate ageing and labour mobility priorities in development plans and programmes
(c) Enhanced partnership between Governments and civil society organizations in designing, implementing and monitoring development policies, including social policies, and related programmes and projects	(c) (i) Increased number of advisory processes, networks and agreements on the approaches to participatory social development, local development, and related capacity-building programmes, supported by ESCWA (ii) Increased number of instances in which, civil society organizations and other institutions are consulted in the process of design, implementation and monitoring of policies by Governments, with ESCWA assistance

External factors

28. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries remain committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals and continue to support activities that promote comprehensive social development; (b) extrabudgetary financial resources are commensurate with planned activities; and (c) there is a minimum level of political stability and a secure working environment.

Strategy

29. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums, and continue to advocate equity, social justice, inclusion and participation as the guiding social development principles.

30. During the biennium 2012-2013, particular attention will be paid to promoting: (a) an integrated social policy approach; (b) social integration at national and local levels; (c) youth development; and (d) participatory development.

31. Social development requires the creation of an enabling environment for people to develop their full potential, expand their development choices and lead productive lives according to their needs and interests. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities - the range of things that people can do or be in life. The most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, be knowledgeable, have access to opportunities and resources needed for a decent standard of living and be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

32. Countries that have achieved higher social development dividends and equitable social well-being for all ultimately achieved those targets by ensuring synergy between economic and social objectives, in a way that social development goals became an integral part of national development strategies. The integrated social policy framework rests on three pillars: a clear policy vision; a shared consensus; and coordinated implementation. The policy vision entails both a conviction in social equity and the political will to implement integrated social policy. A shared consensus requires institutional space and mechanisms to enable the dialogue, and checks and balances vital to ensuring citizens' participation in equitable development. The coordinated provision of social services involves a comprehensive approach to how people are involved with, receive and benefit from social services. In this regard, civil society organizations can play a critical role in terms of monitoring the impact of public and social policies on different social groups, including vulnerable groups.

33. Having documented and disseminated knowledge about social development approaches, tools and institutional mechanisms, the subprogramme will seek to build the capacity of member countries to mainstream social equity concerns in their public policymaking, including identifying mechanisms to finance social development. Particular efforts will be made to support member countries in formulating, implementing and monitoring social policies and strategies designed to ensure a more equitable process of human development. The subprogramme will also continue to assist member countries in the implementation of internationally agreed plans of actions and recommendations, including the MDGs.

34. In order to achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will undertake both normative and technical cooperation activities. The normative activities will include research and analysis on social and demographic issues, the preparation of substantive reports and the organization of expert group meetings. Technical cooperation activities will include the provision of advisory services, capacity development workshops and field projects. Partnerships will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and civil society groups. In the process, the subprogramme will also act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practice and lessons

learned in the field of social development, and for increased interaction between Western Asia and other regions of the world.

Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

Logical framework

Objective: to achieve economic development and accelerate the attainment of the MDGs through appropriate macroeconomic policies, adequate financing for development and the promotion of regional integration including transport and trade facilitation

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and implement policies and measures recommended in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of policies and agreements adopted by member countries for promoting regional integration, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance</p>
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to continue the implementation of the international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA for the enhancement of regional integration, as well as the other various components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including institutional frameworks, transport and trade facilitation and road traffic safety	<p>(b) (i) Increased number of actions taken by member countries to accelerate and enhance regional integration through the implementation of the United Nations international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA on roads, railways and maritime transport</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to facilitate intraregional transport and trade among member countries including the implementation of the Single Window Initiative, and establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees</p> <p>(iii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to improve road traffic safety</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase international trade	(c) (i) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services in trade policy and negotiations, to which ESCWA is able to respond to positively (ii) Increased percentage of follow-up survey responses where member countries acknowledged that they benefited from ESCWA analytical outputs and capacity-building services in trade policy and trade negotiations
(d) Enhanced capacity of member countries in the region in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation	(d) (i) Increased percentage of stakeholders in the region that, through follow-up surveys, [acknowledged benefits] from ESCWA analytical outputs in the area of macroeconomic policies and development strategies in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and development strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation (ii) Increased number of macroeconomic policies and development strategies adopted by member countries based on ESCWA analytical work in these areas
(e) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in member countries and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and instruments to achieve diversified economies and create effective national and regional value chains	(e) (i) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to diversify their national economy and create effective value chains (ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, in economic policy and strategic planning, that ESCWA is able to respond to positively

External factors

35. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to increase their subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in funding; (c) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; (d) up-to-date and reliable economic and transport statistics are made available on youth unemployment and the MDGs; and (e) the regional stakeholders' access to IT facilities.

Strategy

36. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Revised Damascus Declaration on

Responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Doha Development Agenda, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM), and the relevant General Assembly and ESCWA resolutions provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

37. To enhance the capacity of member countries in accelerating the attainment of the MDGs, the subprogramme will continue to lead the coordination and production of a joint regional LAS-UN report on the MDGs in the Arab region. The report will be policy oriented and will suggest practical policy recommendations for member countries that should assist them in accelerating the attainment of MDGs by 2015.

38. To achieve its expected accomplishment in the financing for development area, the subprogramme will assist member countries to analyse and evaluate world and regional financial development and propose regional strategies and coordinated regional responses. Emphasis will be placed on the development of strategic partnerships with financial institutions and development funds to accelerate the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Follow-up on International Conference on Financing for Development. The subprogramme will also undertake normative and analytical studies to assist policymakers in member countries to deal with issues related to financial markets development, foreign direct investment, workers' remittances, debt management, official development assistance, regional integration and globalization.

39. The subprogramme will focus on enhancing regional integration through building the capacities of member countries in accelerating the implementation of the United Nations international transport conventions concluded within ESCWA over the last 35 years for roads, railways and maritime. Work will continue on the implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) including transport and trade facilitation for enhancing regional integration and South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the implementation of the single window concept, and the continued establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees (NTTFC) and related regional coordination. The subprogramme will also serve as a regional platform to raise awareness about road traffic safety issues.

40. The subprogramme will continue to work to enhance international trade policy formulation for servicing productive capacity-building and utilization of domestic and regional markets, interregional and intraregional trade in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA). It will continue to enhance the capacities of member countries in the subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase their international and intraregional trade, and their integration in the multilateral trading system.

41. In the area of economic analysis, the subprogramme adopts a two-track strategy. The first track consists of:

- (a) A continuous assessment of the region's macroeconomic performances for timely identification and analysis of socially inclusive macroeconomic policy issues;
- (b) Economic research with modelling and forecasting techniques and normative approaches, including human rights-based approach for development that are relevant to the regional context;
- (c) Putting analytical emphasis on regional priorities such as poverty alleviation, socially inclusive macroeconomic policies consistent with long-term development goals, and employment creation, in particular among the youth.

42. The second track will be implemented in parallel with the first, by utilizing analytical and normative outputs of the former in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on development and socially inclusive macroeconomic issues and policies in the region.

43. The analytical outputs of the subprogramme will be utilized in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on policies and strategies pertaining to achieving the objectives of the subprogramme. This will be carried out through organizing effective intergovernmental group meetings, expert group meetings, seminars, workshops, technical advisory services, and the preparation of studies and reports. An increased interaction with global and regional stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental bodies, will be sought to promote regional cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

Subprogramme 4. Information and communication technology for regional integration

Logical framework

Objective: to narrow the digital divide and build an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society and knowledge-based economy in the ESCWA region in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and with internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the MDGs

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Perceptible progress towards the development of knowledge-based economies in ESCWA member countries, substantiated by the formulation and implementation of pertinent policies and strategies	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries formulating and/or reformulating ICT policies and implementation strategies, with the direct or indirect assistance of ESCWA, that emphasize the development of knowledge-based economies (ii) Increased number of member countries collecting reliable and gender-sensitive data, and developing indicators aimed at measuring the impact of ICT on socio-economic development, with ESCWA assistance (iii) Increased number of regional initiatives for the development of enabling environments towards a knowledge society achieved through partnerships and ICT applications, with ESCWA assistance
(b) Enhanced capacity towards competitiveness of the ICT sector in the region on the production and service delivery levels with special focus on partnerships, research, development and innovation	(b) (i) Increased number of national and regional action plans implemented by ESCWA member countries for the development of a productive and competitive ICT sector and e-services, with ESCWA assistance (b) (ii) Increased number of national and regional initiatives and partnerships aimed at improving research, development and innovation in the ICT sector, with ESCWA assistance

External factors

44. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that:
(a) extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational

activities; and (b) the political stability is sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Strategy

45. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Information and Communication Technology Division. Global changes are taking place at the economic, social and cultural levels, with information and knowledge playing a major role in the move towards the information society. The accelerating development in knowledge during the past few decades has modified the principles of economic growth with the move towards a knowledge-based economy affecting all sectors of the economy. Significant differences exist in the capacity of countries to adapt to changes in technology and knowledge. Consequently, the move towards the information society constitutes a real challenge to developing countries, particularly in view of the expanding digital divide with developed countries, thus rendering them increasingly vulnerable to reduction in productivity and economic capacity. This leads, in turn, to unemployment, poverty, corruption and marginalization. Greater efforts must be exerted in order to increase literacy and education levels and tap human resources and talent, especially among women and the growing youth population. With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society in harmonization with the Arab ICT Strategy of the League of Arab States, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action in order to build an inclusive, people-centred information society that is based on productive national ICT sectors.

46. The subprogramme, in its effort to meet the needs of ESCWA member countries, will carry out analytical studies, convene meetings and provide advisory services to support that endeavour, act as a catalyst for changes in policymaking in member countries, and promote the adoption of a more comprehensive set of ICT measurements and indicators that will help strategic decision-making to identify priority areas of policy action and measure the impact of ICT on socio-economic development. It will assess and revise plans of action based on ESCWA member countries feedback, monitor progress, evaluate impacts and benchmark national development with other countries based on international indices, with a view to improving the productivity and competitiveness of the ICT sector in the region towards building knowledge-based economy.

47. In order to enhance national capacity, with special focus on human resources development, and take advantage of the digital opportunities pertaining to socio-economic development in the region, pilot field projects will be implemented in selected ESCWA member countries. Field projects will incorporate a social dimension through the active involvement of local communities, with a focus on youth employment and the empowerment of women, in order to build a people-centred information society.

48. The subprogramme will continue to place special emphasis on promoting an enabling environment and harnessing the development of ICT thematic applications, including e-services and digital Arabic content, with the aim of building on ICT as an agent of change to empower citizens and improve the quality of life.

49. Building on the accomplishments of the previous biennium in activating partnerships for implementing ICT projects, the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and partnerships in activities that will contribute to efforts aimed at harnessing research and development in science and technology, particularly ICT, for socio-economic development. To that end, it will promote the establishment of mechanisms aimed at exchanging information and sharing knowledge among regional players and with counterparts outside the region. The subprogramme will also seek close cooperation and coordination with other ESCWA subprogrammes and with international and regional organizations including regional commissions to promote knowledge-based economies, sustainable development, ICT impact measurement and empowerment of women and youth in the information society in order to achieve more effective results.

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

Objective: to improve the production, harmonization and dissemination of quality demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on societal development and progress towards development goals, gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i) Increased number of ESCWA member countries expressing their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (ii) Increased number of measures taken by ESCWA member countries to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics, with ESCWA assistance
(b) Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, reliable and comparable social, economic and environment statistics and indicators, including gender-disaggregated data, in compliance with global international standards and recommendations, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(b) (i) Increased number of ESCWA member countries adopting new or revised international statistical standards (the System of National Accounts (SNA) and foundational socio-economic classifications), with particular emphasis on conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed, with ESCWA assistance
(c) Increased Government capacity to produce high-quality data on key socio-demographic, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on development (societal development and progress towards MDGs), gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, as well as enhance capacity of decision makers and the civil society to use this data	(c) (i) Increased number of member countries that provide at least 60 per cent of core indicators for the ESCWA statistical database (ii) Increased number of database queries to online ESCWA statistical databases

External factors

50. The subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there are no significant shortfalls in regular and extrabudgetary resources for statistical capacity-building; (b) the regional and international organizations active in official statistics in the region willingly cooperate with ESCWA; (c) the ESCWA Statistical Committee assumes its steering role in setting priorities and providing a strategic direction; and (d) there is minimum political stability and a secure working environment, with political

stability being sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region and enable the effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Strategy

51. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a continued need to align the production and dissemination of statistics in the region with the emerging needs of society and policymakers, improving relevance and comparability of statistics at the regional level in social, economic and cross-cutting issues. Addressing those challenges will strengthen the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking, and monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policies.

52. During the biennium 2012-2013, the subprogramme will make efforts to: (a) act as a house of expertise and a forum for exchange of views in statistical issues for ESCWA member countries; (b) concentrate on training at the national, subregional and regional level; (c) work in close/direct cooperation and coordination with professional staff in national statistical offices of member countries in data quality assurance and implementation of international classifications and recommendations; (d) respond to requests of technical assistance coming from member countries; (e) assist in exchange of expertise amongst member countries; and (f) build trust with their counterpart in ESCWA member countries.

53. A special attention will be paid to indicators on development – for monitoring progress towards the MDGs as well as other indicators on quality of life, well-being and societal progress guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome regarding the monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme will increase its collaboration with other ESCWA subprogrammes with the aim of improving the quality of the secretariat's analytical outputs and products. The subprogramme will also collaborate with other regions, whenever this may bring benefits to ESCWA member countries. The subprogramme will also aim at enlarging the geographic scope of statistical cooperation to Arab countries in general, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the League of Arab States and its subsidiaries, as well as with other partners.

54. The subprogramme will advocate the importance of full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, especially those which address the following issues: (a) the importance of the impartiality of official statistics and their availability to the public; (b) the use of appropriate methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; and (c) the presentation of information on sources and methods according to internationally agreed standards.

55. The subprogramme will continue upgrading the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices needed for increasing the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic statistics, and in adopting new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The capacity-building activities of the subprogramme will focus on: (a) economic statistics (short-term statistics, 2008 revision of the System of National Accounts, producer and consumer price indices, statistics on external trade in goods and services, energy and industry statistics); (b) social and demographic statistics (population and vital statistics including migration, household budget surveys, poverty, employment/labour, health, culture and education); and (c) cross-cutting statistical areas (gender statistics, environment and sustainable development and issues related to societal development). The strategy is guided by ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 and the ESCWA Commission session resolutions 247 (XXII), 276 (XXIV) and 287 (XXV) on strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region, and resolution 286 (XXV) on gender statistics.

56. The subprogramme will also aim at improving harmonization of official statistics in priority subject-matter areas. To this end the subprogramme will aim at producing short implementation guidelines and supplements to global standards, comprising regionally agreed harmonized definitions, concepts and methods. The subprogramme will also work towards improved coordination of official statistics in the region by promoting data sharing and joint questionnaires among international and regional statistical organizations.

This is supported by ESCWA Commission session resolution 283 (XXV) on compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems.

57. The ultimate goal of the subprogramme is to improve statistics made available to policymakers, as well as researchers and public at large, while reducing the statistical burden on respondents, particularly national statistical offices in the ESCWA region. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the development and harmonization of statistical databases following the international recommendations concerning statistical data and metadata dissemination and exchange with a free and broad access to the public. With a focus toward electronic online dissemination, the subprogramme will continue production of printed statistical publication, as deemed necessary. The feasibility of various statistical products will be periodically evaluated.

58. To enhance coherence across the United Nations system and coordination among international agencies, the subprogramme will work in close cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other relevant United Nations entities, development banks and funds, regional and subregional organizations, and other statistical partners and networks.

Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women

Logical framework

Objective: to reduce gender imbalances, encourage exchange of lessons learned among member countries and contribute to increased respect of the rights of women in line with international conventions and conferences

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced knowledge and capacity of national machineries for women to implement and monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and be effective agents in promoting a positive role for women in the socio-economic and political development of their societies	(a) (i) Increased number of initiatives (strategies, policies and programmes) for the advancement of women, designed by national machineries for women with ESCWA assistance, are adopted and implemented in their respective countries (ii) Increased number of national machineries for women showing improved reporting on periodical CEDAW reports submitted to the CEDAW Committee
(b) Strengthened capacity of member countries to mainstream gender in national policies, plans, statistics and programmes	(b) (i) Increased number of initiatives undertaken by Governments, with support from ESCWA, to mainstream gender in selected pilot ministries and their respective policy papers, structure, programmes and disseminated information (ii) Increased number of gender-disaggregated data sets, including gender analysis publications, developed by member countries with support from ESCWA

External factors

59. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries remain committed to implementing the internationally agreed conventions and development goals; (b) there is political will for enhancing the role of national mechanisms and to strengthen dialogue with civil society; and (c) the political situation is stable enough to permit the developments.

Strategy

60. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums and continue to advocate for the advancement of women.

61. As the recent Beijing + 15 reports from member countries have shown, many improvements were seen in the past five years in relation to the status of women in the socio-economic and political development. This is very true in the areas of education, access to health and legal reform. Nonetheless, representation of women in the economic sphere and in decision-making positions remains one of the lowest in the world. The problem is exasperated given the limited available and reliable gender disaggregated data and information. At the same time, the need to develop region specific gender indicators has also surfaced among the member countries to ensure the availability of a comprehensive and effective measurement of the region's development in the field of gender equity.

62. Most member countries in the ESCWA region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and have been periodically reporting on the progress made in implementation in the fields of legislation and actual access to rights. Furthermore, some of the countries are actively lifting some of the reservations that were made on the Convention. Nevertheless, there is a need to widely disseminate the Convention among already ratifying States and promote it among other member countries who are still considering ratification. As has been shown by reports made to the CEDAW Committee as well as the concluding comments and recommendations made by the Committee, efforts are still needed to ensure that member countries are fulfilling their international obligations and commitments, and producing quality periodical reports.

63. Similarly, most countries have engaged over the past years in gender mainstreaming activities at the national level and in line ministries. In fact, many of the member countries have developed initiatives for national mainstreaming strategies. Nevertheless, work in this area remains limited to familiar terrain and has not been generalized to all fields and contexts, and hence has a weak impact on existing structures.

64. Although in most of the member countries a national women machinery (NWM) has been established with a strong mandate, the limited financial and trained human resources available have hindered the active engagement of NWMs at the policy or programmatic levels. Furthermore, the limited exchange of experience among existing NWM has resulted in repeating past efforts without analysing the lessons learned from them.

65. Finally, the ability to engage the civil society to take an active role in the policy dialogue has been one of the key hindering factors affecting the positive involvement of all stakeholder in promoting the equal status and equity agenda.

66. The expected accomplishments will be achieved by servicing and providing assistance to member countries through: (a) needs assessments; (b) documentation and dissemination of knowledge; (c) provision of advocacy tools and research methodology; (d) sharing knowledge and experience; (e) ensuring that socio-economic development issues related to advancement and empowerment of women are adequately addressed in the intergovernmental debate; (f) assisting member countries in the development and implementation of

national policies and international conventions; and (g) providing training and capacity-building activities on gender issues.

Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

Logical framework

Objective: to mitigate the impact of conflict and its spillover effects on development in the ESCWA region

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to identify, formulate, adopt and implement recovery and peacebuilding policies, strategies and mechanisms geared towards the structural prevention of conflict, mitigating its impact on development, addressing its regional spillover effects and the ramifications of emerging global issues	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of policies, strategies and mechanisms identified and/or adopted by member countries and civil society dedicated to the structural prevention of conflict and mitigating its impact on development, with ESCWA assistance</p> <p>(ii) Increased percentage of civil servants and civil society representatives acknowledging, through follow-up survey responses, having benefited from ESCWA analytical activities and/or outputs dedicated to the formulation of national and regional peacebuilding and conflict mitigation policies, strategies and mechanisms that promote development</p>
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply good governance models and best practice that strengthen public institutions to pre-empt conflict, achieve reconciliation, peace and attain development goals	(b) (i) Increased number of modern tools and best practice introduced by national stakeholders, in partnership with ESCWA, to strengthen and modernize institutions in conflict-affected countries, with the prospect of enhancing service delivery and mitigating the impact of conflict and its spillover effects

External factors

67. The subprogramme will achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are fully committed to and supportive of the effective implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict,² the 2005 outcome document recommendations, as well as the timely and adequate realization of the ESCWA ministerial sessions resolutions pertaining to mitigating the impact of conflict on development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions; (b) there is continued and adequate access to beneficiaries, in particular decision makers, in spite of political tensions and conflict in crisis-afflicted countries; and (c) adequate human and financial resources are made available for supporting ESCWA conflict-affected countries, particularly those under occupation and the LDCs.

² Report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304).

Strategy

68. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Section. The strategy is a response to the ESCWA region's relentless struggle with the ramifications of continuous instability and resulting development deficits. It departs from the premise that conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development are inseparable and mutually reinforcing, and must be led by a strong public sector in which good governance practices are applied. Significantly, conflict mitigation measures targeting crisis-afflicted countries will inevitably reduce conflict across the region and its repercussions.

69. As such, this strategy derives from the following: (a) the 2005 World Summit Outcome which stresses the interlinkages of security, development and human rights; (b) the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict which highlights capacity development and national ownership as a central element of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and calls for the support of regional organizations to enhance crisis management capacities; (c) the timely attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, the MDGs; (d) the United Nations Millennium Declaration which states that development and poverty eradication depend on good governance within each country; and (e) the ministerial session resolutions in which ESCWA member countries have called upon the secretariat to mitigate the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability, to strengthen the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development, and to enhance regional cooperation under unstable conditions.

70. The first pillar of the subprogramme will focus on building the capacity for development of ESCWA member countries, in particular, conflict-affected countries, to implement peacebuilding policies, strategies and mechanisms that are geared towards the structural prevention of conflict or potential sources of conflict, mitigating its impact on development and addressing its regional spillover effects as well as the ramifications of emerging global issues. The second pillar of the strategy is to strengthen the capacity of member countries to apply good governance applications and best practice that enhance the capacity of public institutions to improve service delivery, and to pre-empt conflict and achieve reconciliation, peace and attain development goals.

71. The subprogramme will achieve these objectives by focusing its activities on three areas:

(a) Promoting revitalization/recovery policies and strategies, inclusive dialogue, reintegration and reconciliation as part of peacebuilding and conflict mitigation policies and mechanisms;

(b) Developing conflict management capacity of State institutions and strengthening the abilities of conflict-affected countries to provide basic services by restoring and strengthening core Government functions through public sector modernization;

(c) Addressing the ramifications of spillover effects generated by conflict and the impact of emerging global challenges on the most vulnerable ESCWA member countries, in particular the LDCs.

72. In order to achieve the above, the subprogramme will examine suitable recovery and peacebuilding strategies and policies to attain sustainable development, as well as human and institutional development, particularly in conflict and post-conflict countries. These interventions will be based on advisory missions, field oriented situation analysis, desk research and in-depth studies on the root causes of conflict, its impact on development as well as the spillover effects generated. Throughout its normative work, the programme will solicit substantive inputs, including the challenges and the strategic development priorities of member countries and civil society representatives that are catalysts for peacebuilding. From its normative work, the subprogramme will also work towards developing policies, strategies and mechanisms that attain greater development interactions through greater regional integration. Regional integration policies will be geared

towards reducing tensions and preventing conflict or mitigating its impact so as to facilitate attainment of national development goals.

73. The subprogramme will also focus on tailoring policies and other interventions that will mainstream good governance practices within the public sector thereby enhancing its efficiency and service delivery capacity, consequently strengthening its ability to lead as well as sustain peacebuilding efforts in conflict and post-conflict countries.

74. Furthermore, the subprogramme will work closely with member countries, the United Nations system (United Nations country teams of conflict-affected countries in particular), the League of Arab States and other multilateral/regional organizations as well as civil society to develop conflict sensitive policy recommendations that will enhance recovery and peacebuilding efforts in the region.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

General mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/270 A & B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/265	Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/49	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
61/157	Human rights and extreme poverty
61/266	Multilingualism
62/208	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations
63/17	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
63/227	Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
64/1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
64/141	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
64/172	The right to development
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
64/216	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008- 2017)
64/221	South-South cooperation
64/223	Towards global partnerships

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 developed 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
2008/21	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2009/1	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2009/9	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
2009/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2009/29	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 light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2009/31	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

258 (XXIII)	Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
260 (XXIII)	Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions
261 (XXIII)	Strengthening the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the field of economic and social development
263 (XXIII)	Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
268 (XXIII)	Adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- 269 (XXIV) The role of ESCWA in light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent change process
- 272 (XXIV) Youth employment in ESCWA member countries
- 286 (XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment
- 289 (XXV) Supporting the comprehensive development effort of Yemen

Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

- 57/253 World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 60/200 International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006
- 61/215 Industrial development cooperation
- 63/217 Natural disasters and vulnerability
- 63/281 Climate change and its possible security implications
- 64/197 Agricultural technology for development
- 64/198 Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
- 64/200 International strategy for disaster reduction
- 64/201 United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)
- 64/202 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
- 64/206 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 64/224 Agriculture development and food security
- 64/236 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolution

- 2006/49 Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
- 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 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 255 (XXIII) The establishment of a regional mechanism for building capacities to manage shared water resources
- 281 (XXV) Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region

*Subprogramme 2. Social development**General Assembly resolutions*

- 63/225 International migration and development
- 64/130 Policies and programmes involving youth
- 64/131 Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities
- 64/132 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
- 64/133 Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond
- 64/134 Proclamation of 2010 as International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
- 64/135 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
- 64/154 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto
- 64/166 Protection of migrants
- 64/207 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2006/4 Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger
- 2006/15 Promoting youth employment
- 2006/16 Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
- 2006/18 Future organization of the work of the Commission on Social Development
- 2007/2 The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 2008/18 Promoting full employment and decent work for all
- 2008/20 Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

285 (XXV) Integrated social policy

Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration

General Assembly resolutions

60/5 Improving global road safety

63/277 Organization of the United Nations conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development

64/188 International trade and development

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)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/4 Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger

2007/2 The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all

2007/30 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

2009/30 A strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

256 (XXIII) Adoption of the memorandum of understanding on maritime transport cooperation in the Arab Mashreq

257 (XXIII) Selection of the routes to be given priority in implementation of the agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

265 (XXIII) Regional cooperation in the field of road traffic safety

270 (XXIV) Macroeconomic policy for financial stability

279 (XXIV) Follow-up to implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq

290 (XXV) Call for regional action to accelerate implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Western Asia

*Subprogramme 4. Information and communication technology for regional integration**General Assembly resolution*

- 60/252 World Summit on Information Society
- 64/187 Information and communication technologies for development
- 64/212 Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2006/46 Follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- 2009/7 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2009/8 Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 273 (XXIV) Follow-up to the development of the Information Society in Western Asia
- 284 (XXV) Establishment of the ESCWA Regional Technology Centre

*Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**General Assembly resolutions*

- 63/225 International migration and development
- 64/131 Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities
- 64/132 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
- 64/137 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
- 64/139 Violence against women migrant workers
- 64/217 Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2005/13 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
- 2006/6 Strengthening statistical capacity

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 262 (XXIII) Support for the capacities for member countries in the field of statistics and the International Comparison Programme

- 276 (XXIV) Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region
- 283 (XXV) ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
- 287 (XXV) Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking

Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

- 64/137 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
- 64/138 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 64/141 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
- 64/217 Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2009/14 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

- 278 (XXIV) Increasing the role of women in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development

General Assembly resolutions

- 64/125 Assistance to the Palestinian people
- 64/150 The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
- 64/185 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

- 2005/3 Public administration and development
- 2009/18 Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighth session
- 2009/34 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

Security Council resolution

1645 (2005) Post-conflict peacebuilding

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

260 (XXIII) Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions

271 (XXVI) 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
