



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on Moving the Development Agenda Forward:
Opportunities and Potential Gains
Beirut, 5-6 November 2009

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Thursday, 5 November 2009

9.30 - 10 a.m. Registration of participants

10 - 10.15 a.m. **Opening remarks**

Mr. Bader Omar AlDafa, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

10.15 - 11.45 a.m. **First session**

Item 1 **Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources**

(a) Integrated water resources management and adapting to climate change

Keynote speaker: Mr. Mutasem El Fadel, Professor and Director, Water Resources Center, Dar Al-Handasah (Shair & Partners), Chair in Engineering, American University of Beirut

Moderator: Mr. Abdallah Al-Droubi, Director of Water Resources Division, The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry lands (ACSAD), Syrian Arab Republic

12 - 01.30 p.m. **Second session**

(b) Enhancing the role of the energy sector in achieving sustainable development and mitigating climate change

Keynote speaker: Mr. Mohamed Salah El Sobki, Professor of Electric Power Systems, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt

Moderator: Mr. Saad Al Jandal, Research Scientist, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait

Note: Should the discussion of any agenda item take less time than has been allocated thereto, discussion shall proceed to the next agenda item.

Thursday, 5 November 2009 (continued)

2.30 - 4 p.m.

Third session

Item 2

Youth bulge, employment and investment

(a) Youth bulge and the demographic window of opportunity

Keynote speaker: Mr. Atef Khalifa, Professor of Demography, Cairo University, Egypt

Moderator: Mr. Abdul-Aziz Farah, Regional Adviser on Population and Development Strategies, Jordan

4.15 - 5.45 p.m.

Fourth session

(b) Investment in youth employment and skills

Keynote speaker: Mr. Zafiris Tzannatos, expert in socio-economic development issues

Moderator: Mr. Hussein Shaban, General Manager, Documentary Center for Humanitarian International Law.

Friday, 6 November 2009

10 - 11.30 a.m.

Fifth session

Item 3

Regional integration for socio-economic development

(a) Building partnerships and implementing international agreements concluded by ESCWA

Keynote speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim El Dimeery, Former Minister of Transport, Egypt

Moderator: Mr. Fouad Bawarshi, General Director, Air Transport Committee, Al Gezairi Transport, Lebanon

12.30 - 2 p.m.

Sixth session

(b) Enhancing socio-economic development of member countries through regional cooperation and integration

Keynote speaker: Ms. Thouka Al-Khalidi, Former Chief of Globalization and Regional Integration Division, ESCWA

Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Al-Kawaz, Senior Economist, Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait

3 - 4.30 p.m.

Seventh session

Item 4

Development priorities for 2012-2013

Keynote speaker: Mr. Roberto Laurenti, Chief, Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division, ESCWA

5 - 5.30 p.m.

Conclusions and recommendations