



ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Expert Group Meeting on the Global Financial & Economic Crisis: The Social Impact and Response in ESCWA Countries

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Committee Room 1, B1 Level, UN House

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:45** **Opening Session Keynote:**
- **Roberto Bissio**, Director, Third World Institute (Uruguay) and Coordinator, Social Watch
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Break**
- 10:00 – 11:15** **Panel 1: Effects of the Crisis on the Labour Market**
- Moderator:** **Samir Radwan**, Labour Economist, Egypt
- Speakers:**
- Employment Challenges in the Region: **Mahmoud Messkoub**, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
 - Impact on Migration and Remittances: **Azfar Khan**, International Labour Organization Regional Office, Lebanon
- Discussion**
- 11:15 – 13:00** **Panel 2: Poverty, MDGs and Gender**
- Moderator:** **HE Georges Corm**, Economist, historian and former Minister of Finance, Lebanon
- Speakers:**
- On Poverty: **Mahmoud Abdel-Fadhil**, Cairo University, Egypt
 - On MDGs: **Adib Nehmeh**, UN-ESCWA, Lebanon
 - On Gender: **Lina Abu-Habib**, Collective for Development and Training on Development, Lebanon
- Discussion**
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Session 3: Social Protection in times of Crisis**
- Moderator:** **Ziad Abdel-Samad**, Arab NGO Network for Development, Lebanon
- Speakers:**
- Global Lessons & Best Practices: **Hassan Abdel-Ati**, EDGE for Consultancy & Research, Sudan
 - Unemployment Insurance in Bahrain: **Farooq Ameen**, Ministry of Labour, Bahrain
 - Social Policy Reform in Morocco: **Abdeljalil Grefft-Alami**, Ministry of Social Development, Morocco
- Discussion**
- 15:30 – 15:45** **Break**
- 15:45 – 17:00** **Session 4: Roundtable on Policy Recommendations**
- **Moderator:** **Rami Khoury**, Issam Fares Policy Institute, AUB, Lebanon
- Discussants:**
- **Krishnan Sharma**, Financing for Development Division, UNDESA, New York
 - **Frederico Neto**, SDD, ESCWA, Lebanon
 - **Ibrahim Seif**, National Economic and Social Council, Jordan