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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on the Global Financial & Economic Crisis:
The Social Impact and Response in ESCWA countries
Beirut, 8 December 2009

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 – 9:45 | Opening Session Keynote: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment Challenges in the Region: Mahmood 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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