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:
- 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: 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:
- 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