

**Expert Group Meeting on
“Inclusive Social Development in the Arab Region”**

Beirut, 4 and 5 November, 2014

Preliminary Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 4 November 2014

8:30 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening session:</p> <p>Welcome address - Mr. Frederico Neto, Director, Social Development Division (SDD), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</p> <p>Introductory remarks and objectives of the meeting - Ms. Naela Haddad, O-i-C, Inclusive Social Development, SDD, ESCWA</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 12:30	<p>Session I: Presentation and discussion of ESCWA Inclusive Social Development report</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Frederico Neto, SDD, ESCWA</p> <p>-“Key issues and aspects in Inclusive Social Development in the Arab region” - Mr. Adam Coutts, Honorary Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (ESCWA Consultant)</p> <p>Introducing the main issues addressed in the first draft of the ESCWA report on inclusive social development in the Arab region with the objective of highlighting key overarching regional issues, respective policy implications and proposed recommendations</p> <p>Presentation: (20 min.)</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <p>1 - Ms. Rana Jawad, Lecturer in Social Policy, Admissions Tutor for Sociology and Social Policy, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK (10min.);</p> <p>2- Mr. IlCheong Yi, Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) (10min.);</p> <p>3 - Ms. Hania Sholkamy, Anthropology Sociology Professor, Social Research Center, American University in Cairo (AUC) (10min.);</p> <p>4 - Ms. Dima Jamali, Professor of Management, American University of Beirut (10min.);</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session II: Inclusive labour markets and social protection for the

	<p>informal sector</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Francois Farah, Executive Adviser on ICPD Beyond 2014/Post 2015, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</i></p> <p>- "ILO's policies and programmes to extend social security and protection to include the disadvantaged and poor" - Ms. Ursula Kulke, Senior Regional Social Security Specialist, ILO Regional Office for Arab States (15min.);</p> <p>- "Providing fiscal space for social protection - a summary of issues" - Mr. Niranjan Sarangi, Economic Affairs Officer, EDGD, ESCWA (15min.);</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p>
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:30	<p>Session III: Formulation of the social pillar of the SDGs and the post 2015 UN development agenda- Key issues and regional priorities</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Tarek Al Nabulsi, Head of the Coordination and Follow-Up Unit, Cabinet of the Assistant Secretary-General of Social Affairs, League of Arab States (LAS)</i></p> <p>- "Progress made in the formulation of the SDGs and post 2015 UN development agenda and role of the regional commissions" - Ms. Jana El Baba, Research assistant with the food and environment policy section, SDPD, ESCWA (15 min.);</p> <p>- "The social pillar of the sustainable development goals, and how it relates to the Arab region" Ms. Nadine Suleiman Naber, Associate Professor, Department of Gender and Women's studies, Asian American studies, University of Illinois at Chicago (ESCWA Consultant) (15 min.);</p> <p>- "Reflections on the social agenda of SDGs: What is there and what is not?" Mr. Francois Farah, Executive Adviser on ICPD Beyond 2014/Post 2015, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (15 min.);</p> <p>- "Service delivery for an inclusive social development as a governance priority in the Arab region", - Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief of the Governance and Statebuilding Section of the Emerging and Conflicts Related Issues Divisions (ECRI) ESCWA (15 min.);</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p>

Day 2: Wednesday, 5 November 2014

8:30 – 10:00	<p>Session IV: Country experiences on inclusive social policies and lessons learned</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Seiko Sugita, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences (SHS), UNESCO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country experience- Iraq: - <i>Ms. Khawla Mohamed el Beer, Head of division, Social development policy, ministry of planning (10 min.);</i> - Country experience- Kuwait: “Kuwait country experience on inclusive social policies and programmes to extend support to persons with special needs” - <i>Mr. Saleh Al-Ghadouri, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (10 min.);</i> - Country experience- Palestine: “Inclusive social development in Palestine: content and mechanisms” - <i>Mr. Ayman Fawadleh, General Directorate of Social Sector Planning, Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (Palestine) (10 min.);</i> - Country experience- Sudan: “Sudan's efforts to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities” - <i>Mr. Abu Osama Abdalla Mohammed Taktook, General Secretary, and Ms. Salma Ahmad Geneif, Member, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (10 min.);</i> - Country experience- UAE: “Marine reserves in the region to support fishermen’s income” - <i>Ms. Fatimah El Hantoubi, Head of Environment Section, Al Fujairah Municipality, UAE. (10 min.);</i> - Country experience- Yemen: “Policies and programmes to expand the social protection umbrella” - <i>Ms. Eman Al Hamami, Director General, Women and Social Protection, Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, Sana’a (10 min.);</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:30	<p>Session V: Ensuring equality of access</p> <p><i>Moderator: : Mr. Khaled Abu Ismail, Chief of Economic Policy Section, EDGD, ESCWA</i></p> <p>-“Data gaps for policy making in promoting social inclusion and education beyond 2015 in the Arab region” - <i>Ms. Seiko Sugita Programme Specialist in Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO and Ms. Yayoi Segi-Vitchek, Education programme specialist (UNESCO)</i></p> <p>-“Social and cultural means to bolster social cohesion and curb social exclusion and marginalization” - <i>Ms. Shoubo Jalal, Regional Communications for Development Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa</i></p> <p>- "A new urban agenda - Advocating for integrated and inclusive sustainable urbanisation in the Arab region" <i>Ms. Katja Schaefer, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS)</i></p> <p>-“ Perspective on policies and programmes needed to provide for universal adequate housing and access to land” - <i>Mr. Ghassan Al-Samman, Sector Head, Media and Foreign Relations Sector, Arab Town Organization</i></p> <p>- “Towards a socially inclusive agenda in the Arab region” - <i>Mr. Nawaf Kabbara, President of the Arab Organization of Disabled Persons (AODP)</i></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p>
12:30 – 13:00	Coffee Break
13:00-14:00	<p>Session VI: The way forward: Towards a social inclusive agenda in the Arab region</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Section Chief, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA.</i></p> <p><u>Round Table Discussion:</u></p> <p><i>Panellists: Mr. Tarek Al Nabulsi, Mr. Francois Farah; Mr. IlCheong Yi, Ms. Katja Schaefer, Ms. Ursula Kulke, Ms. Seiko Sugita, Ms. Shoubo Jalal, Mr. Adam Coutts,</i></p>
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Closing Session: Summary of remarks, recommendations and wrap up, - <i>Mr. Frederico Neto, ESCWA</i></p>