A REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM FOR THE ESCWA REGION

A PROPOSAL

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- EVOLVING CONCEPT OF ACCOUNTABILITY
- KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPMENT:
  - GOVERNMENT
  - PARLIAMENT
  - CIVIL SOCIETY
  - PRIVATE SECTOR
  - ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
- EACH CONTRIBUTES ACCORDING TO ITS MANDATE AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE
WHAT HAPPENS IN ABSENCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY?

- ABSENCE/WEAKNESS LEADS TO:
  - WASTE OF RESOURCES
  - SPREAD OF CORRUPTION
  - CONSISTENT FAILURE TO DELIVER ON DEVELOPMENT GOALS
  - MORE INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE
  - GREATER CITIZEN DISSATISFACTION
  - BREEDING GROUNDS FOR MASS UPRISINGS
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY IS AT THE
  CORE OF REGIONAL/INT. ACCOUNTABILITY

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON
  INCLUSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FACILITATES:
  - EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND PEER REVIEWS
  - INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES
  - SUPPORTING NATIONAL MECHANISMS
  - SHARING COST OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- PROPOSAL BASED ON FIVE PRINCIPLES:
  - SIMPLICITY
  - FOCUS ON PRIORITY ISSUES, IN LIGHT OF COUNTRY REVIEW FINDINGS
  - SELECTIVITY VS COMPREHENSIVENESS
  - ADJUSTABILITY OF TIME FRAME AND SEQUENCE, BASED ON PROGRESS MADE
  - ONGOING CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND STAKEHOLDERS
PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- MANY OPTIONS ARE POSSIBLE
- THE OPTION SUGGESTED HAS TWO PHASES:
  - **PHASE I**, a 4-5 year pilot to carry out selected tasks
  - **PHASE II**, longer term to consolidate and expand tasks in light of lessons learned and member states’ feedback
- COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER STATES AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE WITH REGIONAL AND INT. PARTNERS IS CRUCIAL
APPROVE OR MODIFY TASKS. IF APPROVED, THESE COULD INCLUDE:

- SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND AGREEMENT ON ACTION PLANS
- SUPPORT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS
- LAUNCHING OF PILOT PEER REVIEWS
- WORKSHOPS TO UPGRADE MONITORING & EVALUATION SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE
PHASE I TASKS (Cont)

- MID-TERM REVIEW OF PROGRESS
- STARTING WORK ON REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INDEX, AND
- (DEPENDING ON RESOURCES) REGIONAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM ON SDS

- THE MID-TERM REVIEW WOULD SHOW IF THE LAST TWO TASKS ARE FEASIBLE DURING PHASE I
PHASE II PROPOSED TASKS

- PHASE II IS A CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION PHASE.
- IT REQUIRES POLITICAL LEADERS’ REVIEW OF PHASE I PROGRESS AND APPROVAL OF PHASE II STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE DEV ISSUES
- A TECHNICAL PLATFORM TO WORK OUT AN ACTION PLAN BASED ON SUCH APPROVAL
PHASE II TASKS (cont)

- PENDING APPROVAL, PHASE II PLAN COULD INCLUDE ACTIONS TO:
  - REGULARISATION PEER REVIEWS & FOLLOW UP
  - DEVELOP THE REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY INDEX AND PUBLISH ITS RESULTS
  - FINALISE THE REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING SYSTEM
  - SUPPORT MORE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF MEMBER STATES IN REGIONAL AND INT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORA
PHASE II TASKS (cont)

- PREPARE, ON BEHALF OF MEMBER STATES, PROGRESS REPORTS FOR ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM AND OTHER BODIES
- STRENGTHEN ONGOING AND EXPAND LINKS WITH REGIONAL AND INT ORGS AND ENGAGE THEM IN RELEVANT TASKS
- CONDUCT PERIODIC PROGRESS REVIEWS AND ADJUST PLANS ACCORDINGLY
ROLES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Member states are the prime actors, with their institutions.
- ESCWA is a facilitating reg. org. (plan, coordinate, support, etc).
- Political platforms (LAS & others) develop consensus and feedback.
- UN agencies/commissions & other int. bodies are sources of knowhow & experience sharing.
THANK YOU