Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Expert Group Meeting on “Post Financial Crisis and Potential Exit Strategies” (External peer review for the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2009-2010)

UN-House, MZ, MZ Hall
Beirut, 24-25 February 2011

Agenda

Thursday, 24 February 2011

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 9:45 Opening Session
Mr. Tarek Alami, Director a.i, Economic Development and Globalization Division
Mr. Simon Neaime, Chief, Economic Analysis Section

9:45 – 10:15 Session one: Recent Economic Trends in the ESCWA Region and Post Financial Crisis Situation
Speaker: Mr. Simon Neaime, Chief, Economic Analysis Section

10:15-11:15 Open Discussion

11:15– 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:15 Session two: Financial Implications of the Global Financial Crisis
Speaker: Ms. Rima Turk Ariss

12:15-1:15 Open Discussion

1:15 – 14.15 Lunch Break

14:15 – 14:45 Session three: Arab Economic Integration and Macroeconomic Exit Strategies
Speaker: Mr. Simon Neaime, Chief, Economic Analysis Section

14:45-16:00 Open Discussion
Friday, 25 February 2011

The second day of the EGM will be a roundtable on the Recent Political Change in Egypt and Tunisia: The Need for a Radical Complete Overhaul in Countries’ of the Region Political and Economic Structures. The round table is expected to shed light on possible priority issues to be discussed in ESCWA’s upcoming flagship publication “The Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region.”

9:30-10:00  Session four: The 2010-2011 Survey of Economic and Social Development: “Conflicts and Spillover Effects” Speaker:
Mr. Tarek Alami, Director a.i, Economic Development and Globalization Division
Mr. Simon Neaime, Chief, Economic Analysis Section

10.00-11.30  Brainstorming/Roundtable Discussion

I. Interactions of Economics and Politics in the Arab Region

Chair: SAMIR MAKDISI, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Senior Fellow, Institute of Financial Economics, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

a. Democracy in the Arab World: Explaining the deficit
b. What is the long term impact of the recent political change in on the region politically and economically?
c. Is the latest wave of commitments by countries of the region to provide cash transfers, reversing cuts in subsidies sustainable, sufficient or enough to quell potential future uprisings…
d. What are the future prospects for the region?
e. Regional Integration and cooperation (economic and political)

II. Focusing on Egypt

Chair: IBRAHIM AWAD, Professor of Public Policy, Director of the, Center of Migration and Refugee Studies, American University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

a. What were the triggers (economic, social, participation, quality of growth...)
b. How will it unfold,
c. What are the future prospects for Egypt?

11.30-12:00  Coffee Break
12:00-13:30 Brainstorming/Roundtable Discussion

III. The New Role of the State

Chair: HUSAM ZOMLOT, John F. Kennedy School of Government - Harvard University, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

a. What kind of Public policy is needed to improve impact on social cohesion that can give greater legitimacy to the democracies of the region?
b. How critical are the concepts of diversity and social inclusion to the evaluation of governmental services and programs where all have the resources, opportunities and capability that would allow full participation in the economic, social, and political life.
c. Economic, civil and legal governance

IV. A new development agenda and the Role of the UN

Chair: RAED SAFADI, Deputy Director, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France

a. Is it the time to introduce a complete overhaul in countries’ of the region political and economic structures with a clear path towards democracy and true economic reform?
b. What are the main elements of a new development paradigm that will address also the “other” deficits including democracy, knowledge…?
c. The need to revisit the debate on the interdependence of sustainable economic development and political reform.
d. Is there a new role for the UN to play other than Measure-Monitor – Analyze?

13.30-14.30 Lunch Break

14.30- 16.00 Closing Session and Recommendations