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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

**Expert Group Meeting on the  
“Economics of middle class in the Arab region”  
Cairo, 28-29 June 2013**

**Preliminary Agenda**

**Day 1: 28 June 2013**

13:30-14:00	<b>Registration</b>
14:00- 15:00	<b>Opening:</b> Abdallah Dardari, Director Economic Development & Globalization Division, ESCWA <b>Introductory remarks:</b> Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief Development Policy Section, ESCWA <b>Objectives of the meeting:</b> Naren Prasad, First Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA
15:00 – 17:00	<b>Background paper 1: The economic perspective of middle class</b>  The economic perspective of middle class will provide an economic definition of the middle class in the region and why the middle class is important from an economic point of view. This will be based on the data derived from various household surveys in the region.  Discussions

**Day 2: 29 June 2013**

9:00 – 10:30	<b>Background paper 2: Macroeconomic and labour market policies and middle class</b>  Macroeconomic and labour market policies and middle class will provide a narrative of the labour market and middle class conditions including elements of employment conditions, informality, labour market analysis among others. It will also provide an understanding of how the macroeconomic policies of the past decades have affected the labour market in the region and hence the middle class.  Discussions
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	<b>Background paper 3: Political economy of middle class</b>  Political economy of middle class will provide a political economy perspective to defining and assessing the middle class in the region.  Discussions
12:30 – 13:30	Break
13:30 – 15:00	Discussions <b>Background paper 4: Political sociology of middle class</b>  Political sociology of middle class will provide a political sociology perspective of the middle class, which will consist of the characteristics of the middle class, and provide indicators of middle class on social mobility, rural-urban divide, education level, occupation, family size among others.  Discussions
15:00-15:15	Break
15:15-17:00	<b>Wrap up &amp; summary</b>  <b>Closing remarks</b>

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