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LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDD/2010/  
25 November 2010  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Expert Group Meeting on Bridging the Urban Divide in the ESCWA region:

Towards Inclusive Cities

Beirut, 25-26 November 2010

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK****Thursday, 25 November 2010**

**9:00 – 9:30 Registration**

**9:30 – 10:00 Opening Session**

Welcome Statement and brief introduction to EGM (*Mr. Frederico Neto, ESCWA*)

EGM concept note: Bridging the urban divide in the ESCWA region (*Ms. Mona Khechen, ESCWA*)

**10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break**

**10:30 – 12:30 Session 1: Unbalanced National Growth and the Challenge of Inclusive Development**

**Chairperson:** *Ms. Maha Yahya, ESCWA*

**10:30 – 11:30 Presentations:**

Thematic paper (*Ms. Mona Harb, American University of Beirut*)

Case Study 1: Saudi Arabia National Spatial Strategy (*Mr. Yassin Yassin, UNDP, Saudi Arabia*)

Case Study 2: National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory (*Mr. Sami Feghali, Council for Development and Reconstruction, Lebanon*)

Case Study 3: Bahrain National Spatial Planning Strategy (*Mr. Feras Ameen, Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning, Bahrain*)

**11:30 – 12:30 Discussion**

**12:30 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 – 16:00 Session 2: Urban Dualities and the Role of Urban Planning and Management**

**Chairperson:** *Mr. Ahmed Taha Saghier, Arab Urban Development Institute, Saudi Arabia*

**14:00 – 15:00 Presentations:**

Thematic paper (*Mr. Yasser Elsheshtawy, UAE University, Al-Ain*)

Case Study 1: Aleppo City Development Strategy (*Mr. Mahmoud Ramadan, GTZ, Syria*)

Case Study 2: Amman Plan (*Ms. Hania Maraqa, Amman Institute, Jordan*)

Case Study 3: Strategic Planning in Egypt, the case of Rosata City (*Ms. Fahima el Shahed, General Organization for Physical Planning, Egypt*)

**15:00 – 16:00 Discussion**

**Friday, 26 November 2010**

**9:30 – 11:30 Session 3: Urban Poverty and Targeted Development Initiatives**

**Chairperson:** *Mr. Frederico Neto, ESCWA*

**9:30 – 10:30 Presentations:**

Thematic paper (*Mr. Babar Mumtaz, Development Planning Unit, University College London*)

Case Study 1: Khartoum's State Pro-poor Urban Planning Policies (*Mr. Burhan Elghazali, Ministry of Science and Technology, Sudan*)

Case Study 2: Sana'a Informal Settlements (*Ms. Yasmeen al-Awadhi, Ministry of Public Works and Highways, Yemen*)

Case Study 3: Iraq's Local Area Development Programme (*Mr. Saad al-Kadhimi, UNDP, Iraq*)

Case Study 4: Giza's informal areas, the Boulaq el Dakroul Project (*Mr. Khaled Abdel Halim, UNDP, Egypt*)

**10:30 – 11:30 Discussion**

**11:30 – 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30 – 14:30 Special Session: Introduction to State of the Arab Cities**

**Speaker:** *Mr. Tarek El-Sheikh, UN-Habitat, Kuwait*

**14:30 – 14:45 Break**

**14:45 – 15:30 Closing Session**

**Chairperson:** *Mr. Ghassan Samman, Arab Towns Organization*

Presentation of Recommendations

Discussion

Closing Statement