



Chiefs of Five Regional Commissions Meet in Beirut, Inaugurate Technical Committee

The Executive Secretaries of the five UN Regional Commissions met at the UN House in Beirut to discuss some of the main issues on the global and UN agendas and means of further enhancing their cooperation.



The meeting brought together the Executive Secretaries of the Geneva-based Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Jan Kubis, the Bangkok-based Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Noyleen Heyzer, the Santiago-based Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Barcena, the Addis Ababa-based Economic Commission for Africa, Abdoulie Janneh and the Beirut-based ESCWA, Bader AIDafa. Chiefs of the regional commissions explored cooperation in their vast areas of work, particularly in energy efficiency and environment protection, food security,

gender concerns, and financial issues in the face of a lingering economic crisis that has had wide-ranging global effects.

While in Beirut, the senior UN officials paid courtesy visits to the three top Lebanese leaders, to whom they also expressed condolences for the tragic airplane crash early Monday. Lebanon had declared Monday a day of national mourning following the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines plane just minutes after its takeoff from Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut.

The high-level UN officials also opened the fourth meeting of ESCWA's Technical Commit-

tee that was attended by ambassadors and representatives of the 14 member countries of the Western Asian commission.

The meeting convenes "while the world is weighed down by disasters and crises, some are natural and others man-made," AIDafa said in his inaugural remarks. He added that these times add to the challenges we face, but that they renew our commitment to work towards the social and economic development of our region.

The technical committee was slated to discuss issues of special relevance to the ESCWA region, especially climate change, food security and women's empowerment. These issues are of particular importance for an area that suffers from water scarcity, relies on food imports and has a lot to achieve for women's empowerment. These are also issues that impact heavily on the future of the region's development. ■

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ESCWA and UNITAR Train on the Art of Diplomacy

ESCWA organized with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the UN House in Beirut a one-day training for diplomats on the art of conference diplomacy. The training course aims to familiarize participants with the underlying concepts and notions of conference diplomacy.

The sheer volume, nature and complexity of over 20,000 meetings and conferences held yearly often present considerable challenges for delegates to advance their national interests and draw maximum benefit from the exchange of information and cooperation which gener-



ESCWA and UNITAR Train on the Art of Diplomacy (Cont.)

ally flow from such gatherings, and hence the need for such a workshop. As an instrumental regional forum for negotiations and agreements on regional policies for economic and social development, ESCWA presented the ideal venue for this training. Partnership with UNITAR in this regard is a major booster and an essential factor for success.

The training was developed and conducted by UNITAR specialists, focusing on members of permanent diplomatic missions accredited to ESCWA irrespective of their ranks and functions. Preference was given to recently accredited diplomats who are new to the multilateral environment. The training gave these diplomats the tools to navigate international conferences and introduced them to the main outlines of conferences, their purposes, products and processes. Trainees were also familiarized with the collective, national and personal

purposes in international conferences. Formal processes and informal procedures of work were detailed throughout the workshop.

The training included sessions on “Conference Diplomacy: An Introductory Analysis” and “Multilateral Diplomacy: The United Nations System at Geneva, A Working Guide”. ■



“Although governance among sovereign and equal States has been regarded as “governance without government,” the conduct of States in modern society is determined by certain principles and procedures.”
 **James N. Rosenau & Ernst-Otto Czempiel: Governance Without Government: Order and Change in World Politics, 1992)

UNESCO Heritage Sites in ESCWA Region

Palestine: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls

Date of Inscription: 1981

Date of Inscription on List of World Heritage in Danger: 1982

Source: UNESCO/BPI



As a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem has always been of great symbolic importance. Among its 220 historic monuments, the Dome of the Rock stands out. It was built in the 7th century and was decorated with fine geometric and floral motifs. It is recognized by all three religions as the site of Abraham’s sacrifice. The Wailing Wall delimits the quarters of the different religious communities, while the Resurrection rotunda in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher houses Christ’s tomb.

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