



## Yemen Hosts UN-ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session



The Yemeni Capital Sanaa was chosen to host the UN-ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session, to be held next May. This decision comes to reinforce a long cooperation between UN-ESCWA and Yemen, whereby both parties are working on a series of issues, including reaching the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), building human and financial capacities, and confronting economic and social challenges that face Yemen.

In the context of preparations for the Ministerial Session, UN-ESCWA Executive Secretary Bader Omar AlDafa visited Yemen and met with President Ali Abdallah Saleh, Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Mujawwar, as well as senior officials and ministers,

headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation AbdulKarim Al-Arhabi, and accredited heads of UN missions in Yemen. Alongside the accompanying delegation, meetings were attended by Yemen's Ambassador to Lebanon, Fayssal Amin Abu Ras.

### Desalination and Power Generation

Talks between AlDafa and Saleh focused on Yemen's pressing needs in the fields of water; desalination; solar power generation in a number of Yemeni villages; electrical linkage projects between Yemen and neighbouring countries; professional and technical training; combating poverty and unemployment;

and investment attraction. AlDafa expressed UN-ESCWA's readiness to provide studies, advisory services, training sessions and field projects for Yemen in these sectors, affirming the Commission's commitment to expand its cooperation with Yemen and participate in combating the challenges it faces.



**"What strengthens political relations among States and protects them from instability is the interconnection of economic interests with the benefits of its citizens" Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh.**

### IN THIS ISSUE

Yemen Hosts UN-ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session

The Environment and Economic Resources in Figures

Facts and Figures

## The Environment and Economic Resources in Figures

UN-ESCWA organizes activities that service economic and social integration in the region, and its development as a whole. Such activities include trainings to perfect the capacities of member countries in many fields, to face global challenges, including the environment and sustainable development. It was in this context that UN-ESCWA designed a project to strengthen member countries' national capacities in environment statistics, indicators and accounts. Along the project, it organized a sub-regional training session, in cooperation with MEDSTAT-II-Environment sector, and the United



## Yemen Hosts UN-ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session (Cont.)

AlDafa also discussed with Mujawwar, AlArhabi and other concerned officials preparations for holding UN-ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session, as well as side activities of the event that highlight investment opportunities in Yemen. They asserted the importance of preparing well for the Session, so its outcome strengthens the Regional Commission's role, especially in serving integration and cooperation among countries of Western Asia. Mujawwar praised in this regard the excellent ties between Yemen and UN-ESCWA, placing special emphasis on the importance of the continuity of this cooperation and its development. For his part, AlArhabi noted the importance of holding the Ministerial Session, which represents an occasion

for representatives of member countries to exchange ideas, and opinions on the issue of developing UN-ESCWA's work and activating its role for the service of member countries.

### UN-ESCWA Services

Throughout 2007, UN-ESCWA advisory services to Yemen revolved around: environment protection and management, and its relation to statistics and trade; networking; Women's rights; statistical sample withdrawal and statistics development; drafting the final version of the national information strategy; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); transport; and reviewing the draft law and draft document of the study on national ports strategy. ■

## The Environment and Economic Resources in Figures (Cont.)



Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organized on "the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water" (SEEAW), on 10-13 March 2008 in Amman, Jordan.

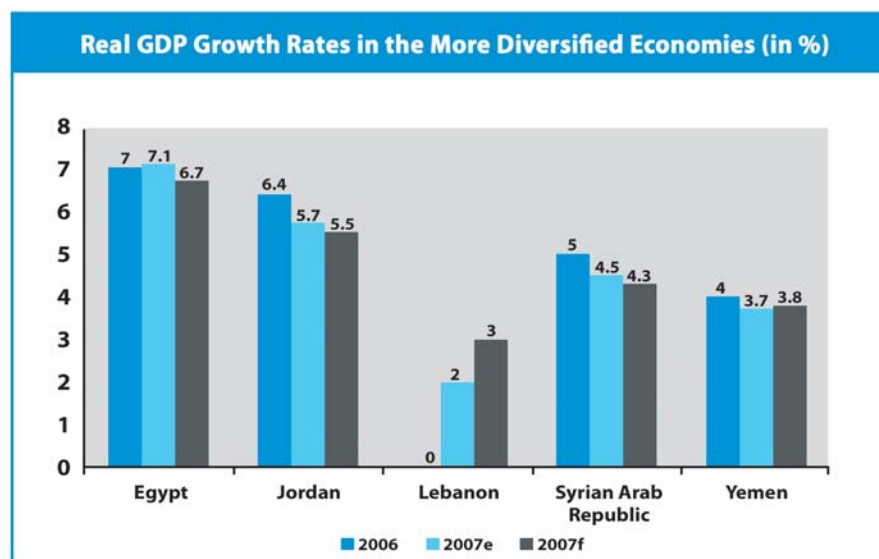
### Towards Strengthening Water Statistics

Participants in the meeting included representatives of National Statistical Offices and the Water Authorities of 9 ESCWA member countries, in

addition to an expert from the Austrian Federal Environment Agency. The training focused on the explanation and discussion of the basic concepts, definitions, methodologies and classifications used in the System of Integrated Environment-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW). The United Nations Statistical Commissions had adopted this system as a statistical standard in 2007. Participants were also trained on elaborating the flow accounts on the water supply and use, emissions accounts and assets accounts. In the training, Jordan presented pilot work on the standard tables on water accounts while Bahrain and Palestine were able to produce initial tables on water accounts.

The discussions ended with a set of recommendations aiming at strengthening national capacities to improve water statistics and accounts, developing coordination mechanism among all concerned parties in water statistics and accounts, and for the preparation of water accounts that can be used for an integrated environmental and economic policy making. ■

## Facts and Figures



Source: Estimates and Forecasts of GDP Growth in the ESCWA Region 2007-2008, UN-ESCWA.

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