



## UN-ESCWA in WSIS Follow-up Process



"Where are we after two and a half years from Tunis?", a question that the 5 UN regional commissions attempted to answer at the dialogue organized within the 11th session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UN-CSTD), held on 26-30 May 2008 at the UN headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. UN-ESCWA participated in the event, profiling the region and discussing its activities in the implementation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes. The meeting brought together high-level delegates, including 15 ministers, and representatives of in-

ternational and regional organizations, civil society and business entities. Furthermore, the UN-ESCWA and Alcatel-Lucent publication on "Broadband for development in the ESCWA region" was highlighted within discussions on broadband and cyber-security in the information society.

The 11th session of UN-CSTD recommended a draft resolution on the "Assessment of WSIS implementation 2008 for adoption at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)". The document points to the evolving challenges and opportunities, based on successes and short-

comings in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

### Measuring the Information Society

Also in Geneva, UN-ESCWA participated in the Global Event on Measuring the Information Society, organized by the "Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development", on 27-29 May 2008.

At the first global event on measuring the information society, UN-ESCWA gave a presentation entitled "Regional initiative on measuring the information society in Western Asia", highlighting its

### IN THIS ISSUE

- UN-ESCWA in WSIS Follow-up Process
- UN-ESCWA Publications
- Facts and Figures

capacity building efforts with member countries so they adopt, collect and analyse internationally agreed core Information and Communication Technology (ICT) indicators for policy-making purposes. During the event, the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, which includes UN-ESCWA, reviewed its recent publication on "The global information society - a statistical view" and its work plan for future activities. A proposal for enhancing the core ICT indicators was approved as well as the addition of indicators for ICT in education. Current research on measuring the socioeconomic impact of ICT and suggested indicators for e-government were discussed. The new core ICT indicators list will be submitted for approval of the UN Statistics Commission in its upcoming meeting in February 2009. ■

## UN-ESCWA Publications



### Good Practices in Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

#### Applications in Seaports in ESCWA Member Countries

Using information and communications technology (ICT) in ports is essential to ensure accurate, real-time control and pre-planning for port management operations. ICT applications benefit trade facilitation at ports by decreasing time, cost and human error during vessel and cargo operations, and many ports are therefore using ICT as a key tool in their operations. Adopting the combined system as the recommended architecture for ports in ESCWA member countries, this publication includes case studies on best practices in the application of ICT in seaports in selected member countries. ■

Source: UN-ESCWA Publications Catalogue (2006/2007).

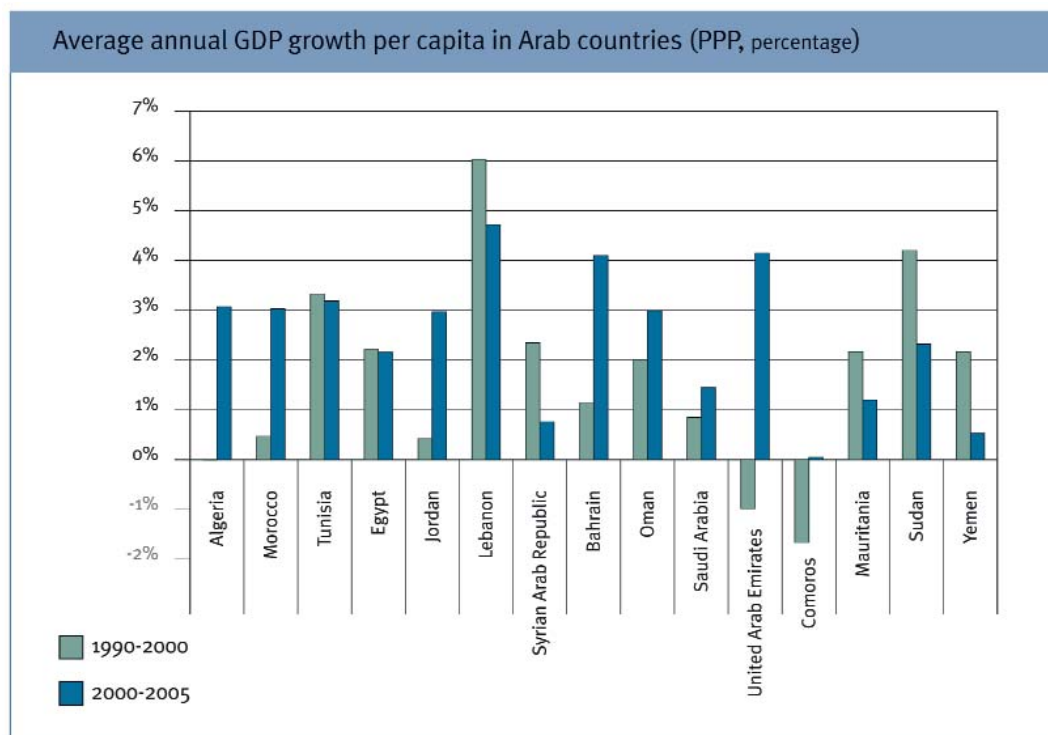
## Facts and Figures: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007

### Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

#### GDP per Capita Growth in the Arab Region

Growth in GDP per capita is an essential means of improving the welfare of people and of lowering the incidence of poverty in a country. Since 1990, the Arab region, which is characterized by very large and persistent disparities in income levels, experienced only modest growth in per capita terms, as illustrated in the figure below. Using purchasing power parity (PPP) rates and based on data for 15 out of 22 countries, average annual growth of real GDP per capita over the period 1990-2005 was 1.8 per cent for the region as a whole. Of particular concern is the fact that several of the low-income countries in the region did not succeed in significantly raising income per capita levels between 1990 and 2005. In the Comoros, GDP per capita decreased by 15.2 per cent during the said period. Yemen remains the

Arab country with by far the lowest GDP per capita measured in PPP terms. In 2005, average annual GDP per capita was US\$ 798, corresponding to a mere 3 per cent of the per capita income level in the United Arab Emirates. In Yemen, growth performance has been rather weak since 1990; owing to very high rates of population growth, GDP per capita increased only at an annual rate of 1.6 per cent. Per capita growth in Mauritania and Morocco has also been largely disappointing during the period 1990-2005, though Morocco has recorded substantially higher growth since 2000. On the positive side, some Arab countries, namely, Algeria, Lebanon, Oman and the Sudan, were able to raise average per capita income levels by more than 40 per cent between 1990 and 2005. ■



Source: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens, UN/LAS.

#### Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon e-mail: [webmaster-escwa@un.org](mailto:webmaster-escwa@un.org)  
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510 website: [www.escwa.un.org](http://www.escwa.un.org)