



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة  
ESCWA



## Beijing Platform for Action +25 discussed in Beirut

ESCWA discussed the national review on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action +25 (BPFA+25) in Lebanon with the National Commission for the Lebanese Women in two consultative workshops held in Beirut, on 8 and 14 May. Discussions helped improve the report's content, identify its sources of information, and accelerate its submission.

ESCWA, in partnership with UN Women and the League of Arab States, will be consolidating the 22 national reports into a regional one, to be presented during the upcoming 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2020.

This technical assistance comes as part of the ESCWA efforts to support Arab States in the preparation of their national reviews on the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action after 25 years.

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## Reforming and restructuring electricity sector in 4 member States

High level officials from Lebanon, Mauritania, Palestine, and Syria gathered in Cairo from 13 to 16 May to discuss "Reforming and Restructuring the Electricity Sector" and implementing supportive policies in their countries in a training workshop organized by ESCWA in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy.

The workshop was an occasion for participants to hold several meetings with relevant officials from the host country.

The workshop provided valuable insights, experiences and lessons learnt related to the sector's reforming and restructuring, development and implementation of supportive policies and legal and institutional framework. Participants also enhanced their technical knowledge on programs to improve network performance, reduce energy loss, rationalize energy consumption and develop customer service systems.

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## Combating marginalization in Arab region

A two-day expert group meeting (EGM) was held at ESCWA in Beirut on 13-14 May entitled “Leaving No One Behind: Reaching the Most Marginalized in Selected Countries in the Arab Region.”

The meeting, organized in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS) at the Lebanese American University (LAU), reviewed a forthcoming report bearing the same title, and highlighting three case studies: inhabitants of the rural South and Western parts of Tunisia, the cemetery dwellers in Egypt, and residents of the Tabbaneh area in Northern Lebanon.

Presentations also revolved around the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in Libya; exclusion in the Arab Region from a gender perspective; and understanding inclusive education based on case studies in five countries of the Arab region.

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## Social protection reform in the Arab region

The first draft of a forthcoming regional report entitled “Social Protection Reform in the Arab Region” was discussed on 14 May by a score of government officials from ESCWA member States, academics and experts.

The report describes and analyses recent and ongoing reforms in the spheres of social insurance; social assistance; and health care in the Arab countries.

The report will showcase success stories, highlight recent achievements of the region and specifically encourage a system approach to social protection that better integrates different parts of social insurance, social assistance, and health care in order to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda in leaving no one behind.

The report will also serve as a guiding document to build a harmonized concept and terminology on social protection across Arab countries.

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## UN and universities: a promising partnership

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, welcomed the 6th UN Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Universities Conference on 2-3 May 2019 with a focus on “Preparing United Nations Language Professionals for the Challenges of Today and the Future”.

ESCWA, the only duty station that sent a representative for Arabic language services, joined MoU coordinators representing 4 other UN duty stations and MoU universities focal points to discuss the evolving profile of UN language professionals. Artificial intelligence, machine translation, remote and onsite training were among the topics addressed in the context of how to better equip language professionals to face current and future developments.

The MoU between the UN and Université Saint Joseph (USJ) of Beirut was signed in 2010 with strong results. USJ ranked among the top MoU collaborators in 2017 and the most represented in internships in 2018.

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## ESCWA-ILO-UNOG team wins silver medal at 46th Inter-Agency Games

Four ESCWA colleagues participated in the 46th Inter-Agency Games that was held in Lisbon, Portugal between 30 April and 4 May.

Adib Younes, Patrick Bou Fayad, Toufic El-Saleeby and Wassim Hammoud represented the Commission in Volleyball, Basketball, and Table tennis respectively. The mixed team of ESCWA/ International Labour Organization (ILO)/ United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) ranked 2nd in volleyball and won the silver medal.

The Inter-Agency Games aims to enable staff members of UN agencies and organizations to know each other through sports meetings and thereby to improve mutual understanding and working relations.

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## Did you Know...

... the world has seen a dramatic rise in life expectancy and the most common causes of child and maternal mortality have been reduced globally due to improved and more accessible health care in many countries?

However, only 3 Arab countries have attained 77% coverage for essential health services. And 8 Arab countries are still striving to reach the target of less than 70 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births by 2030.

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