

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

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Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



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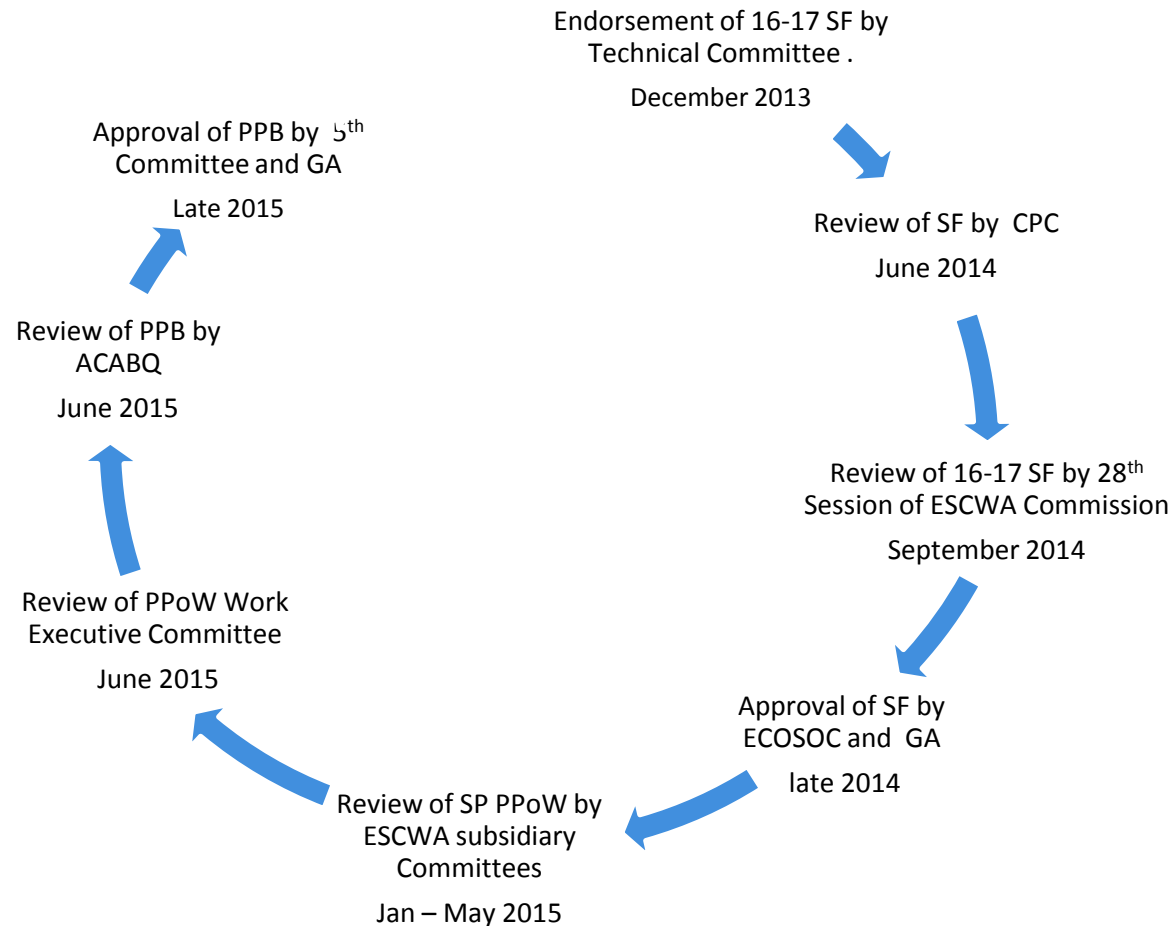
Introduction

ESCWA will focus on equitable and sustainable development in the region. The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on three strategic pillars serving as mainstays for work to be implemented on eight priority areas.

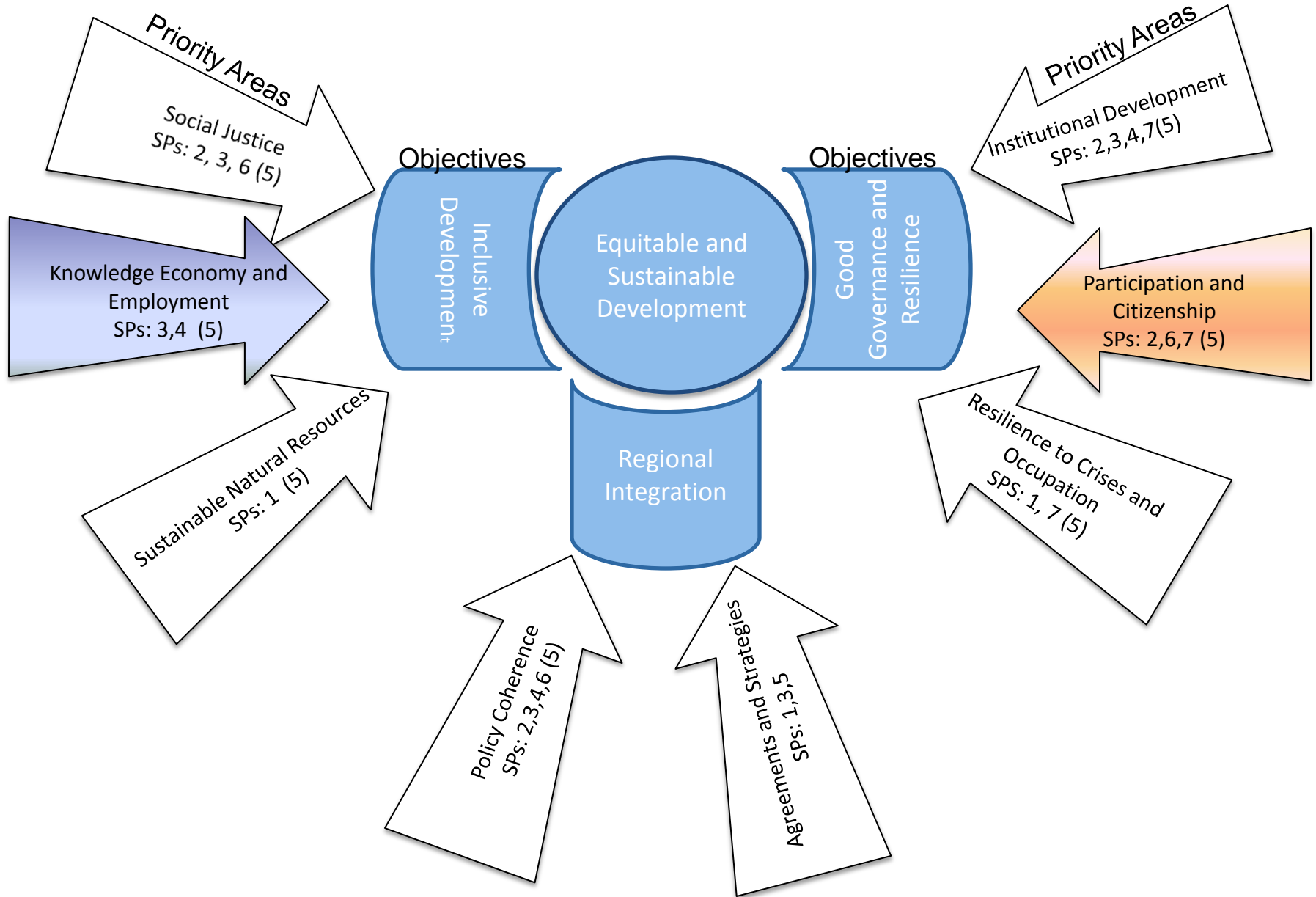
The mandates resulting from the post-2015 development agenda will have a considerable impact on the work of ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017

ESCWA's programme for 2016-2017 is a fully integrated, results oriented programme which aims to take advantage of the programmatic and financial complementarities that exist between our budget sources

Process to review 2016-17 Plans (SF and PPOW)



ESCWA's Strategic priorities 2016-17



Inclusive development



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Inclusive development

Social Justice

In accordance with Tunes Declaration (September 2014)

- ESCWA will promote development and poverty eradication strategies that guarantee decent employment ... and equal access to, and benefit from, resources based on the principles of equity, including equity across generations.
- ESCWA will support member countries in ensuring that social inclusion and integration guide policy and institutional development, making certain that there is equal access to decision-making processes, to social services and social protection.
- ESCWAs programme will focus inter-alia on issues related to multidimensional poverty, social protection, disability, equality, equity and participation

Inclusive development

Knowledge economy & employment

ESCWA will pay special attention to promoting the transfer of technology to increase the competitiveness of economies in the region through value-added industrial development, while making effective and efficient use of human and natural resources.

The programme will concentrate on promoting equitable economic development by supporting member states in developing national plans as well as promoting the link between technology and innovation policy and economic development (in accordance with resolution 315 (XXVIII) of the ESCWA 28th session).

Inclusive development

Sustainable natural resources

ESCWA will focus its work on promoting integrated management to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of resource consumption through the use of new technologies and innovation, thus maximizing the impact that the use of these resources has on income generation and job creation.

ECWAs' work will focus on issues related to water , energy and food security while exploring the nexus between these three areas as well as those with other areas of work of ESCWA

Additionally, ESCWA will continue it successful programme on climate change and promotion of sustainable development approaches in the region

Regional integration



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Regional integration

Policy coherence

- ESCWA will work with member countries to improve cross-border infrastructural linkages.
- ESCWA will also encourage member countries to participate in efforts to harmonize policies to take advantage of the added value of regional integration in economic, social and environmental areas.
- ESCWAs' activities will focus on promoting policy coherence on issues including migration, energy and water infrastructure and gender based violence

Regional integration

Agreements & strategies

- ESCWA will focus on integrated work programmes that help Arab countries to benefit from the synergies arising from cooperation among them.
- ESCWA will accentuate the role of integration as a driver towards a knowledge economy, while emphasizing the need to ensure equal opportunities for development and an equitable share of the benefits of integration.
- This programme will pay particular attention to trade integration by supporting LAS and member states directly in the ACU negotiations and implementation of these agreements as well as transport through the ITSAM agreements and promoting the integration of the financial sector
 - The programme will also aim to reach agreements on the use statistical terms in Arabic

Good governance & resilience



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Institutional development

- ESCWA will focus on the link between development and resilience. Effective and efficient institutions are needed to address and prevent crisis in some countries, and to address the challenges of transition in others.
- ESCWA will endeavour to enhance the capacity of state institutions to enhance public service delivery.
- The programme will focus on institutional planning, mapping and efficiency . Additionally, we will expand our work with member states on how to measure progress towards strengthening institutions

Good governance & resilience

Participation & citizenship

- ESCWA will continue to support efforts by member states in advancing governance, rule of law, accountability, transparency and social cohesion.
- ESCWA will support member states ongoing efforts to enhance civil society engagement and empowerment and to support inclusive participation and gender equality.

Resilience to crisis & Israeli occupation

- ESCWA will work with member states to reduce the negative impacts of crisis and Israeli occupation while identifying the root causes of crises.
- ESCWA will enhance support to member states in dialogue and post-conflict development, particularly in Arab least developed countries.
- ESCWA's programme will focus on developing tools to enhance resilience and assess direct and indirect impacts of crisis. We will continue our work on the neighbourhood and cross-border effects of crisis.
- Special attention will be paid to the impacts of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Cross-cutting issues



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Partnerships

- Through its 2014 partnerships Policy, ESCWA continues to expand its network of international, regional and national partners to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member countries.
- ESCWAs Partnerships are guided by the principles :
Commonality of Vision and Outcomes, Integration into Planning Processes, Adherence to UN Charter, Comparative Advantage, Mutual Benefit, Regional Partnerships as Priority, Transparency and Accountability.
- ESCWA will build on its special relationship with the **League of Arab States**.
- It will also continue to convene the **Regional Coordination Mechanism** as a platform to discuss regional policy priorities.
- Mobilizing additional financial and in-kind contributions will be important to ensure that ESCWA can disseminate and operationalize the results of its normative work

Cross-cutting issues

Statistics

As a leader of the Statistics Coordination Taskforce of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA will:

- ESCWA will lead the regional component of a global programme to support member states in improving their capacity to gather the data needed for implementation of the SDGs
- Promote coordination of statistical activities among national statistical offices and international organizations active in the region.
- Promote regional agreement on the use of statistical terms in Arabic to establish accepted practice
- Put in place an internal coordination mechanism to harmonize statistical information used in UN publications and studies.

Cross-cutting issues

Gender

ESCWA will assist member countries in:

- Addressing gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislations and programmes.

Furthermore, ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into its entire programme of work. It will continue to be at the forefront in the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (UNSWAP) on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

THANK YOU

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