



**Expert Group Meeting and Training on
Arab Development Outlook (2017): Fiscal Policy in the Arab Region**
Venue: B1 Committee Room I, UN House, Beirut

26-27 JULY 2017

DRAFT AGENDA



Day 1: 26 July 2017	
8:30-9:00	Registration/Coffee
9:00-9:15	Welcome to participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCWA (TBC)
9:15-9:45	Introduction to the meeting: Key issues and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, ESCWA
09:45-11:15	<p>Theme: Fiscal policy, growth and structural transformation in the Arab region</p> <p>Chair: Ahmed Kamaly, ESCWA</p> <p>Presentations by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why fiscal policy is important for structural transformation in the Arab region (Niranjan Sarangi, ESCWA) • A model for Egypt's structural transformation (Motaz Khorshid, Cairo) <p>Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant (Mohammed Hedi Bchir, ESCWA) • Discussant (Kamiar Mohaddes, Cambridge Univ) <p>Open discussion</p> <p>Rapporteur: Salim Araji, ESCWA</p>
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	<p>Theme: Public social spending and human development in the Arab region</p> <p>Chair: Samir Aita, Président du Cercle des Economistes Arabes</p> <p>Presentation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public social spending policies: Patterns and recent reforms (Gisela Nauk, ESCWA) • Impact of public social spending on education and health (Niranjan Sarangi, ESCWA) • Fiscal policy and environmental sustainability (Souraya Zein, ESCWA) <p>Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant (N. Bhanumurthy, NIPFP, Delhi) • Discussant (Ahmed Kamaly, ESCWA) <p>Open discussion</p> <p>Rapporteur: Verena Gantner, ESCWA</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break



14:00-15:30	<p>Theme: Fiscal policy challenges in conflict affected countries</p> <p>Chair: Taline Koranchelian (METAC, IMF, Beirut)</p> <p>Presentation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal policy challenges in conflict affected countries (Salim Araji, ESCWA; Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, ESCWA) • Fiscal policy priorities in conflict affected countries (Fernando Cantu-Bazaldua, ESCWA) <p>Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant (Jasim Ajaka, Lebanese University) • Discussant (Ahmed Sheikh Ebid, ESCWA) <p>Open discussion Close of Day 1 Rapporteur: Maisaa Youssef, ESCWA</p>
<p>Day 2: 27 July 2017</p>	
9:00-10:30	<p>Theme: Fiscal policy and governance challenges in the Arab region</p> <p>Chair: Ghassan Dibeh (LAU head of the Dept of Economics)</p> <p>Presentation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal policy and economic governance – Ahmed Kamaly, ESCWA • Invited presentation on the role of institutions and oil wealth – Chahir Zaki, Cairo Univ • Invited presentation on fiscal policy during the transition in oil-importing countries (Jala Youssef, ERF) <p>Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant (Carlos Conde, Programme Coordinator, OECD) • Discussant (Xavier Rama, METAC, IMF) <p>Open discussion Rapporteur: Mohamed Saleh, ESCWA</p>
10:30-10:45	<p>Coffee break</p>
10:45-12:30	<p>Theme: Debt and fiscal space challenges in the Arab region</p> <p>Chair: Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, ESCWA</p> <p>Presentation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited presentation on debt sustainability methodologies (Benno Ferrarini, ADB, Manila) • Debt and fiscal space challenges in the Arab region (Niranjan Sarangi, ESCWA)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government Finance Statistics in National Accounts (Omar Hakouz, ESCWA) Remarks by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taline Koranchelian (METAC, IMF, Beirut)• Simon Naime (Institute of Financial Economics, AUB, Beirut) Open discussion Rapporteur: Souraya Zein, ESCWA
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:15	Theme: ADO 2017: Macro-fiscal frameworks toward promoting inclusive growth and decent employment Moderators: Khalid Abu-Ismaïl and Niranjana Sarangi Round Table Discussion Agreements and final take away messages
15:15-15:30	Valedictory note/closing remarks: TBC