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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Social Development
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Summary

The proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development presents a set of activities and outputs related to the implementation of the expected accomplishments envisaged under subprogramme 2 on social development, of the strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015.

The Committee on Social Development is invited to review the activities listed in the proposed programme of work, and discuss the extent to which they meet the priorities of ESCWA member countries and their relevance to the expected accomplishments in the field of social development under subprogramme 2. The Committee is also invited to discuss ways to concretely measure the indicators of achievement in order to accurately monitor progress achieved in member countries as a result of implementing the proposed outputs.

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Introduction

1. The activities comprised in the proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of social development were formulated on the basis of subprogramme 2 on social development, of the strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015, which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012). The responsibility for the implementation of subprogramme 2 lies with the Social Development Division (SDD) at ESCWA.

I. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

2. The Committee on Social Development is invited to review the proposed outputs and provide its guidance to the secretariat based on the following two criteria: (a) the extent to which the proposed outputs respond to the needs of intended beneficiaries, namely ministries and authorities in the Arab region in charge of social development issues; and (b) the extent to which those outputs contribute to the realization of the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 2, while also taking into account the outcome of the deliberations that take place at the present session.

II. SUBPROGRAMME 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. OBJECTIVE OF SUBPROGRAMME 2 FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015

3. The objective of subprogramme 2 is to enhance the capacity of member countries to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms that promote an equitable and inclusive process of social development, taking into consideration regional specificities.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to develop a rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, social protection, the provision of adequate social services and employment generation	(a) (i) Increased number of new policies, programmes and measures that aim at expanding social protection, improving the provision of social services and generating employment
	(ii) Increased number of policies and programmes that are formulated or enhanced to ensure the integration of key sociodemographic groups, including youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and migrants in national development processes
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to adopt social development policies and programmes based on the participation of civil society and other stakeholders, in public policy formulation, implementation and monitoring	(b) (i) Increased number of instances in which Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate in developing, implementing and monitoring social development policies and programmes
	(ii) Increased number of committees and joint ventures between representatives of Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders entrusted with the formulation, implementation and monitoring of social policies and programmes

C. STRATEGY*

19.37 The responsibility for implementing subprogramme 2 lies with the Social Development Division. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums and will continue to advocate equity, social justice, inclusion and participation as the guiding social development principles.

19.38 During the biennium 2014-2015, particular attention will be paid to promoting social development through a rights-based approach to social policy and protection; social integration; special focus on key sociodemographic groups, such as youth, older persons and migrants; employment generation; and participatory development.

19.39 Inclusive societies that successfully integrate all social groups into the national development process are better equipped to maintain social cohesion during times of crisis and to avoid sociopolitical upheaval. In this context, there is an urgent need to promote social integration, employment generation and civil society participation in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of public policies, through three types of activities: the identification of the priorities of citizens; the formulation and implementation of policies based on those priorities; and the monitoring of the impact of such policies on the lives of those affected.

19.40 Work under the subprogramme will seek to build the capacity of member countries to mainstream social equity concerns in their public policymaking and will assist them to implement internationally agreed plans of action and recommendations, including the Millennium Development Goals in the run-up to the 2015 target date for their implementation.

19.41 Both normative and technical cooperation activities will be carried out under the subprogramme. The former will include research into and analysis of social development issues, the preparation of substantive reports and the organization of expert group meetings, while the latter will include the provision of advisory services, the organization of capacity-development workshops and the launching of field projects, notably in the areas of youth development, social protection and civil society participation.

19.42 Partnerships will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society groups. In the process, the subprogramme will act as a regional platform for exchanging experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the field of social development, and for increased interaction between Western Asia and other regions.

D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

4. Subprogramme 2 will achieve its expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member countries remain committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals and continue to support activities that promote comprehensive social development; (b) extrabudgetary financial resources are commensurate with planned activities; and (c) there is a minimum of political stability and a secure working environment.

E. OUTPUTS

5. During the biennium 2014-2015, the following outputs are expected to be delivered under subprogramme 2:

* The paragraphs under Strategy are numbered from 19-37 to 19-42, where 19 refers to programme 19 on economic and social development in Western Asia, of the strategic framework of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, and 37 to 42 are the consecutive numbers in that document which contains all the United Nations programmes. This numbering is maintained for the Strategy in ESCWA programme of work documents as well as in the programme of work for each of the seven subprogrammes.

(a) *Servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies*(i) *ESCWA (twenty-eighth session)*

Parliamentary documentation: Report of the Committee on Social Development on its ninth session (2014, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Committee on Social Development*

a. Servicing the meetings of the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (2015, expected accomplishments (a) and (b));

b. Parliamentary documentation:

i. Social protection for the informal sector (2015, expected accomplishment (a));

ii. Population and development issues (2015, expected accomplishment (a));

iii. Policy implications of partnership in the democratic process (2015, expected accomplishment (b)).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert groups*

a. A new Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities and Plan of Action 2014-2023 (2014, expected accomplishment (a));

b. The impact of population policies on human development in Arab countries (2014, expected accomplishment (a));

c. Labour market policies (2015, expected accomplishment (a));

d. Participatory processes in Arab countries undergoing democratic transition (2015, expected accomplishment (b)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*(i) *Recurrent publications*

a. Integrated Social Policy Report VI: Integrated Policies for Inclusive Labour Markets (2015, expected accomplishment (a));

b. Population and Development Report (No. 7): The Impact of Population Policies on Human Development in Arab Countries (2015, expected accomplishment (a)).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

a. Participatory Processes in Arab Countries Undergoing Democratic Transition (2014, expected accomplishment (b));

b. Inclusive Social Development in the Arab Region (2014, expected accomplishment (a)).

(iii) *Technical material*

a. Policy briefs

i. Reviewing the outcome of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration in the Arab region (2014, expected accomplishment (a));

- ii. Population and development (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - iii. Participation and civic engagement (2014, expected accomplishment (b));
 - b. The demographic profile of the Arab region (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - c. Labour market country profiles (2014) (expected accomplishment (a));
 - d. Social protection country profiles (2014 and 2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - e. Review of international good practice in population policies (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - f. Labour market trends in the Arab region (2014, expected accomplishment (a));
 - g. E-seminars/discussions on:
 - i. Participation, civic engagement and social cohesion (2014, expected accomplishment (b));
 - ii. Democratic transition and civil society organizations (2015, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (iv) *Other printed material*
- a. Social development bulletins
 - i. United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - ii. Participation in democratic transitions (2015, expected accomplishment (b));
 - iii. Social policy issues (2014, expected accomplishment (a));
 - iv. Integrating demographic changes into development planning (2014, expected accomplishment (a));
 - b. Pamphlets/brochures
 - i. Theme of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - ii. Priority theme of the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development (2014, expected accomplishment (a));
 - c. National demographic profiles of ESCWA member countries (2015, expected accomplishment (a));
 - d. Information kit on participatory development programmes: conditions and mechanisms (2015, expected accomplishment (b)).
- (v) *Contribution to joint outputs*
- Subprogramme 3 publication, Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region (chapters on social policies) (2014 and 2015, expected accomplishment (a)).
- (vi) *Events*
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (2014 and 2015, expected accomplishment (a)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

(i) *Advisory services*

Providing guidance on participatory development and local development mechanisms and instruments (2014 and 2015, expected accomplishment (b)).

(ii) *Workshops*

a. Expanding social protection to the informal sector (2015, expected accomplishment (a));

b. Capacity-building for public-civic partnership in democratic governance (2015, expected accomplishment (b)).

(iii) *Field projects*

a. Regional initiative on youth employment - Phase II (2014 and 2015, expected accomplishment (a));

b. Operationalizing ESCWA participatory approach in public policy processes in member countries (2014, expected accomplishment (b));

c. Strengthening national capacities for integrated sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region (Development Account) (2014-2015, expected accomplishment (a)).

Annex

LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

General Assembly resolutions

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 64/154 | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto |
| 64/166 | Protection of migrants |
| 65/170 | International migration and development |
| 65/186 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 65/312 | Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding |
| 66/121 | Policies and programmes involving youth |
| 66/122 | Promoting social integration through social inclusion |
| 66/124 | High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities |
| 66/125 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 66/126 | Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family |
| 66/127 | Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing |

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2006/4 | Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger |
| 2006/15 | Promoting youth employment |
| 2006/16 | Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities |
| 2006/18 | Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development |
| 2007/2 | The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all |
| 2008/18 | Promoting full employment and decent work for all |
| 2010/12 | Promoting social integration |

2010/13	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2010/14	Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2011/27	Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability issues in the development agenda
2011/28	Modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

285 (XXV)	Integrated social policy
295 (XXVI)	Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development
298 (XXVI)	Social development
304 (XXVII)	The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development
