

**ESCWA**

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

For Regional Integration

Sudan Social Policy Country Profile

Aide Memoire for the Expert Group Meeting
Khartoum, 10 December 2007

Summary

The Social Development Division (SDD) at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is finalizing work on the Sudan Social Policy Country Profile. This report is part of a broader process of consensus building and priority setting aimed at working with the Government of Sudan to identify challenges and opportunities in social policy in the country.

To review and validate the draft report, SDD in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare Women and Children and in partnership with UNDP is planning to hold an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 10 December 2007 in Khartoum, Sudan. The meeting will bring together between 20 and 25 experts from throughout Sudan to review the first draft of the report, and provide input and comments prior to its finalization. The EGM will also be an opportunity to review with the group options for follow-up activities to the report, including the holding of a National Conference on Social Policy during the first half of 2008.

Background

An initial draft outline of the Social Policy Country Profile was the subject of deliberations during two Peer Review Meetings (PRMs); the first in Khartoum on 26 June 2007 and the second in Juba on 24 September 2007. Based on the recommendations of those two meetings, a national consultant and focal point has elaborated the first draft of the report which is being submitted to the EGM for review.

Report Objectives

The Sudan Social Policy Country Profile is primarily intended as an analytical think-piece to trigger discussions and deliberations around key strategic policy choices and to provide an overview and quick analysis of the social policy situation in Sudan. The Country Profile will highlight the state of social development in the country and will seek to assess the social equity dimensions in public policy making, including the processes, tools and instruments available for social policy design, implementation and monitoring. The report will conclude with a set of recommendations for consideration by policy makers and stakeholders.

Expected EGM Outcomes

A thorough review and critique of the Sudan Social Policy Country Profile will be undertaken by experts attending the EGM on 10 December 2007. Although the draft report is in Arabic, deliberations at the EGM will take place in both English and Arabic through simultaneous translation. Through their deliberations, participants will review the report's technical soundness, overall coherence and approach. Their input will be incorporated into the final Report which is expected to be ready by January 2008. In addition, participants at the EGM will be expected to give input to the follow-up plan of action, commenting on proposals for activities related to the National Conference on Social Policy in Sudan.