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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

FIRST COORDINATORS' WORKSHOP ON MEASURING THE WELL-BEING AND PROGRESS OF ARAB SOCIETIES BEIRUT, 1-5 NOVEMBER 2010

Summary

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the First Coordinators' Workshop on Measuring the Well-being and Progress of Arab Societies on 1-5 November 2010, in Beirut.

The workshop aimed to build the capacities of the national coordinators of the Project on Measuring the Progress of Arab Societies, by training them on the new methodologies of measuring well-being and progress of society, and informing them of the major global and regional experiences related to the Arab society in order to facilitate development of national frameworks for measuring progress in Arab societies.

The workshop reached some conclusions and recommendations, and developed a draft national action plan of measuring well-being and progress of society based on the regional roadmap.

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Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the First Coordinators' Workshop on Measuring the Well-being and Progress of Arab Societies, on 1-5 November 2010, in the United Nations House in Beirut. The workshop was attended by 12 participants from 12 Arab countries, namely Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Djibouti, the Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, and Yemen.
2. The workshop aimed to build the capacities of the national coordinators of the Project on Measuring the Progress of Arab Societies, by introducing them to the new methodologies of measuring well-being and progress of society, training and informing them of the major global and Arab-related experiences in order to develop national frameworks for measuring the progress of Arab society. The workshop also included discussions and exchange of national expertise in measuring the well-being and progress of Arab society. During the workshop, participants were trained on communicating with society and data users to engage them in the national framework development process. Besides, participants learned about the institutional structure and major activities of the global project promoted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in addition to the regional project roadmap for measuring Arab society progress implemented by ESCWA, in cooperation with its partners, according to the memorandum of understanding signed by ESCWA and OECD, and supervised by the regional project steering committee.
3. The training workshop was conducted by many experts from different organizations, universities, and research centres, namely: Mr. Raoul Suarez, OECD Advisor; Dr. Mudar Kassis, Professor at Birzeit University – Palestine; Mr. Jarrett Laughlin – Senior Research Analyst and Team Leader in the Canadian Council on Learning at Ottawa University; Mr. Mohammad Younes, Senior Analyst at the Islamic Studies Centre – Silatech Youth Index; Dr. Séverine Deneulin, Lecturer in International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Bath University – United Kingdom; Mr. Ian Johnston Alexander, Economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit; and Mr. Suman Seth, Researcher at Oxford University – United Kingdom.

I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The workshop reached some conclusions and recommendations, as follows:
 - (a) Maintain communication with the national coordinators participating in the First Workshop until the requirements of the national and regional project of measuring the well-being and progress of Arab societies are fully met;
 - (b) Continue holding training courses/seminars to upgrade the national coordinators' level and performance;
 - (c) Conduct exploratory visits to countries that are advanced in measuring, analysing, and disseminating well-being and quality of life;
 - (d) Create a national mechanism of cooperation and coordination among national institutions, research centres, and universities working in this field, and enrich the national and regional knowledge;
 - (e) Organize the national roundtable with various data users, civil society, media, and others, to identify the fields of interest to society with regard to well-being and quality of life;
 - (f) Develop and start implementing final national plans for the project;
 - (g) Establish a regional observatory for measuring society progress to serve the countries participating in the project;
 - (h) Evaluate the calculated indicators, develop and disseminate information collection systems;
 - (i) Analyse data, conduct and provide studies and research for decision makers;

(j) Raise statistical awareness and promote the importance of developing statistics in measuring the well-being and quality of life to monitor the progress of society.

II. MAIN TOPICS OF PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS

5. The workshop was held in eight sessions on the following topics: (a) The measuring progress agenda, new concepts and calculations of measures; (b) The Arab Democracy Index concept and methodology; (c) The Canadian Composite Learning Index and the Canadian Index of Well-being Index; (d) Silatech Youth Index; (e) The human development model; (f) Woman's Economic Opportunity Index; (g) The Multidimensional Poverty Index and Human Development Index; (h) The national coordinators' tasks and draft action plan.

A. SESSION 1: THE MEASURING PROGRESS AGENDA, NEW CONCEPTS AND CALCULATIONS OF MEASURES

6. Mr. Raoul Suarez, OECD Advisor, inaugurated the first session by introducing participants to the Measuring Progress Agenda in terms of equity, well-being, and development. The classical concept of development is initially based on economic growth of which society is an integral part; however, this concept was reversed as the economy has become part of society, and they both interact in one larger scope where the environment is influenced by them and interacts with them. In fact, economic growth leaves an impact on the economic well-being and therefore on the well-being of society. Mr. Suarez revealed the intertwined relation between the productive and environmental capitals which are both influenced by the human and societal potential. This potential is based on human and societal capital (education and health), and is influenced by the interactions and impact of institutional, legal, and political processes, which represent a large portion of the basic input of human development. Therefore, when measuring the well-being of society, we should consider the overall relations in order to reach the suitable measurements to increase knowledge and raise new questions about the concept of development in a broader and more complicated perspective than the classical one. There is a gap between the measurements given by existing indices and the situation reflected by society. In fact, in many countries, inequality among the members of society grew with increases in economic growth. Thus, economic growth does not necessarily yield benefits to the entire society. Consequently, the new vision of the Measuring Progress Agenda requires expanding the measurements of economic sources, focusing on household livelihoods, developing new measures for the well-being, quality of life, and inequality in the distributive factors of well-being, producing information that provides better assessment of the sustainability of economic growth, and developing indicators on the environmental impact of economic activity in view of producing better information for successful policies.

7. Afterwards, Ms. Neda Jafar, Regional Project Coordinator in the Arab Region, presented background information about the new progress measurements. At the outset, she mentioned that the interest in this topic has historical roots dating back since Aristotle's era. Besides, the need to develop new measurements has gained significance as it was mentioned in many speeches of heads of states who called for looking beyond materials or resources to achieve and promote human development by adopting new measurements. Measuring the progress of societies is important in every country, regardless of its level of development. Over the past 60 years, according to customs and traditions progress has been measured globally based on gross domestic product (GDP). Despite that, this indicator failed to reveal some of the factors that make a difference in people's life, contribute to their happiness, and improve their quality of life, such as issues related to security, income distribution, and clean environment, including the required factors that contribute to sustainable growth.

8. Figures were given as examples demonstrating the lack of a unified measure of progress among countries or regions. There is an urgent need to consider the selection process of indicators that take into consideration the specificity of each country or region, and to monitor progress and changes in a sensitive and logical manner. The first call to make a change in the measurements and monitoring of the progress

monitoring was addressed during the Global Conference on Environment and Development in 1987, followed by the World Summit Conference in 1992. This requires a change in the current thinking and methods, as well as meeting the needs of society and governments, creating new measurement methods and evaluating the existing data sources and indicators that are used. Therefore, it is important to identify the purpose of creating and choosing new measurements by raising the following questions: Do citizens have access to a reliable database that shows whether life is going in a better direction? Are policymakers held more accountable for their decisions and programmes in areas that matter to citizens? Is there engagement in policy discussions to focus on the desired objectives of society rather than on the necessary means and tools to achieve such objectives?

9. Ms. Jafar gave a second presentation on: What, How and Why Do We Measure Progress? It included the basic steps that need to be taken and the standards of choosing indicators. Besides, examples were given on good international and national practices. Discussions covered the elements required to develop the framework and select the indicators, in addition to the importance of disseminating information to all and sustain work in the future. Ms. Jafar also reviewed the methods of assessing progress in a country and what type of perspective to be adopted. Furthermore, discussions focused on following a participatory approach in society, elaborating the framework through holding roundtable discussions to identify critical areas of concern, and thereafter develop the relative indicators. Thus, the coordinator is responsible for voicing the opinion of the society in developing the national framework to underline the areas of societal concern and to be measured by indicators to monitor change and impact of programmes and policies being implemented.

B. SESSION 2: CONCEPT AND METHODOLOGY OF THE ARAB DEMOCRACY INDEX

10. Dr. Mudar Kassis, Professor at Birzeit University – Palestine, presented the concept and methodology of the Arab Democracy Index which follows forty indicators measuring the degree and depth of changes that may express, as a whole, the democratization in Arab countries and the extent to which it resembles the liberal democratic model in the nationalist State. Moreover, the index was strengthened with indicators related to equality, equity, and economic independence. This index is important as it brings to the attention of the public opinion the areas of success and failure of the different elements of democratization, and it provides important indicators for the politicians who wish to make a change in the index capacity to pinpoint the weaknesses of policy implementation or the areas where existing policies need to be developed or modified. Besides, the index is important for legislators who wish to hold their executive authorities accountable for their performance in social democratization, or to explore the areas that still need legal or constitutional reform initiatives. The index also makes a reference to the citizen and areas which need to be probed, explored in details and deeply scrutinized to unveil the reasons of success and failure in democratization.

11. Indicators examine democratization in terms of preparation (policies and legislations), and in terms of practices and their results. The selected indicators pertain to the different political, economic, and social areas of life, which reflect all stages of the democratic decision-making process, starting from the will to participate in decision making, including taking and implementing decisions, guaranteeing sustainable implementation, and conducting the necessary development to that end. All indicators were given an equal weight. The sources used include the centralized State sources such as ministries, security bodies, central statistical organizations, parliamentary committees and secretariats, in addition to higher judicial councils, court administrations, and local governance bodies, such as regional, local, and municipal councils, non-governmental organizations, syndicates and relevant vocational institutions, local newspapers, and Internet sites.

12. The discussion focused on data accuracy and emphasized that the significance of the index lies in its capacity to monitor impact changes in a certain period of time. Thus, it is a relative index that seeks to be valid by using the same standards in the comparison period, and aims to reveal the achieved progress. Dr. Kassis clarified that the index is invalid as an absolute figure, as it aims to make comparisons among countries and the time chains of the same country, and contributes to a deeper exploration of the factors and

results of change. Besides, the discussion tackled the necessity to distinguish and agree upon political and economic standards, such as: Is there a will of progress? Are there resources and laws that can be used? Is there implementation and can it be sustained over the years against the available budget? In fact, the index compares variables, such as education expenditure compared to armament expenditure, for instance. Moreover, participants stressed the importance of defining data sources to statistics users, and to raise people's awareness on conducting an accurate opinion poll about their perception of society and the impact of the index concept on them. The discussion also tackled the possibility of using the different indicators of this index at the national level, as it may stimulate some sensitivity. Dr. Kassis emphasized that data sources provided by participating countries are official in the index calculation. Participants also added that sensitivity depends on how information is presented – if the presentation is positive, it will be positively accepted by the relevant users, adding that it is important to institutionalize the process to ensure sustainability and monitor changes to evaluate the index efficiency and impact on public policy.

C. SESSION 3: CANADIAN COMPOSITE LEARNING INDEX AND THE CANADIAN INDEX OF WELL-BEING

13. On the second day of the workshop, Mr. Jarrett Laughlin – Senior Research Analyst and Team Leader in the Canadian Council on Learning at Ottawa University, Canada, presented two indices calculated in Canada, namely, the composite learning index and the Canadian index of well-being. Mr. Laughlin revealed the importance of multidimensional and lifelong learning and its impact on the economic conditions and social well-being which can be measured in time and space within different contexts for the sake of the well-being of Canadians. The learning index is a composite index that is based on four pillars. The framework comprises 27 indicators and 26 specific measures to evaluate the extent of learning in Canada. The first pillar is *Learning to Know*, which includes reading and writing skills for the youth, the increase of the school dropout rate, participation in the post-secondary education period, university studies, and access to educational institutions. The second pillar is *Learning to Do* including indicators related to the availability of training in the workplace, the participation of seniors in the employment-related training, and access to vocational training institutions. The third pillar is *Learning to Live Together*, which includes indicators on participating in social clubs and organizations, voluntary work, learning from other cultures, and access to societal services. The fourth pillar is *Learning to Be*, which includes indicators on media exposure (material reading, Internet), learning through culture (living arts, museums), learning through sports, access to broadband Internet, and access to cultural resources (such as art exhibitions). Besides, the socio-economic results of learning, the weighing process, the progress in five-year learning, and the replication of the national initiative at the international level were also presented.

14. Mr. Laughlin also presented the Canadian index of well-being, which is a composite index composed of indicators on healthy populations, living standards, community vitality, democratic engagement, time use, leisure and culture, education, and environment. The expert pointed out the major keys to success, namely: cooperation, technical expertise, public engagement, standards of selecting indicators, research, and verifying if the process is going in the right direction.

15. The discussions of working groups emphasized the importance of the Canadian experience with the two indices, and the possibility of adopting the same methodology to develop suitable frameworks in Arab countries, provided that change-sensitive indicators are selected to ensure efficient monitoring. The index is used to compare regions or countries, and helps to raise the awareness of society. Besides, the index includes a framework of indicators that provide a measurement tool of well-being with all its aspects and interlinked components.

D. SESSION 4: SILATECH YOUTH INDEX

16. In the morning session of the third day of the workshop, Mr. Mohammad Younes, Senior Analyst at the Islamic Studies Centre – Silatech Youth Index, presented the most important results and conclusions of the survey conducted by Gallup Institute between February and April 2010, covering more than 17,600 citizens across 19 countries of the League of Arab States. The opinion poll covered more than 10,000 citizens aged between 15 and 29 years.

17. The survey revealed some interesting results such as the youth's positive opinion about entrepreneurship in Arab countries, which is three times higher than in the United States of America, notably among the active and more educated youth, due to reasons and conditions that are different from the Arab region. Mr. Younes added that States can participate in the knowledge consortium which provides them with an opportunity to express their opinion about the index and obtain national data.

18. The workshop participants expressed their interest in using such statistics resulting from opinion polls, which are considered as a new field except in few Arab countries such as Morocco where qualitative questions in addition to quantitative questions were incorporated in most household livelihood surveys. Qualitative statistics contribute to clarifying quantitative data. In this regard, an example was given about Sweden which has the highest rank in the Human Development Index compared to the other countries. Conversely, Sweden has the highest suicide rate in the world; therefore, qualitative questions will contribute to interpreting contradictory or non-understandable phenomena and will give a significant dimension to the statistical figure.

E. SESSION 5: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL

19. Dr. Séverine Deneulin, Lecturer in International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Bath University – United Kingdom, inaugurated the afternoon session on the third day of the workshop through multimedia (video presentation). The lecture focused on the human development model, including the standard dimension of development and its evaluation, in addition to the economic and human development frameworks. She also explained the approach of potentials and the relevant basic terminology such as employments, work capability, conduct, potentials, and agency. Besides, she reviewed concepts pertaining to human development such as the basic needs approach which focuses on fully creating the suitable conditions for human life by focusing on the executive aspect such as goods and services including providing shelter, food, etc. Moreover, she pointed out the importance of incorporating human rights as a basis of accountability for development, and the failure of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to provide a framework for the development of societies.

20. An extensive discussion focused on the importance of the potentials approach and on the agency element among individuals to provide suitable solutions for society. For instance, a government cannot reduce the suicide rate by simply measuring it. In fact, it needs an indicator of accountability for any measures and policies that should be taken by society in this regard. Therefore, the following questions should be raised: What is the importance of an indicator? Why is the indicator about Internet use important? When choosing indicators, there should be a focus on the end or output, and not on the tools, input, or means.

21. The potentials approach focuses on the output rather than on the input like the household number. Therefore, it requires data that are classified and distributed according to age, gender, and urban/rural. Furthermore, this approach seeks to inquire about advantages rather than disadvantages as it focuses on well-being rather than poverty. When asked about the reason behind not using the MDGs to measure society progress, Dr. Deneulin replied that the MDGs may be achieved under a dictatorship, and therefore do not provide the requirements of well-being. Besides, the MDGs framework aims to achieve specific targets and does not include important components such equality, human rights, and so on.

F. SESSION 6: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY INDEX

22. On the morning of the fourth day, Mr. Ian Johnston Alexander, Economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit, gave a presentation on the Women's Economic Opportunity Index, which is an index for the legal and social frameworks affecting women's economic participation in the formal sector. Besides, he presented an overview of the index and its indicators that measure the extent to which women's economic opportunities are affected and the relevant data of Arab countries. The model specifically focuses on factors affecting women's economic opportunities, and goes beyond measuring the output of gender gaps. The index is made up of 26 indicators divided by five subject areas: labour policy and practice, access to finance, education and training, the women's legal and social status, and the General business environment. It is a vital quantitative and qualitative model that does not cover the informal sector, and measures 133 countries.

23. The participants expressed their opinions about the methodology and particularly about the quality of using input and output indicators together. In addition, some raised questions about the weighing mechanism among sectors, as there is a huge gap in the implementation of laws between the committed public sector and the non-committed private sector. In fact, the real problem faced by most countries lies in the implementation and not the promulgation of laws. Mr. Johnston clarified that the index does not differentiate among sectors and between the paid labour and self-employment. He also clarified the difference between the methodology based on measuring the need for work, and the women's right to work according to the equal work for equal pay concept, and it focuses on the output indicators which are gender-sensitive such as women's work in low-paid jobs. Some participants suggested adding the Women's Political Participation Index to the proposed framework. Besides, participants showed great interest in the indicators in view of the significance and applicability of this framework at national and regional levels.

G. SESSION 7: MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

24. Mr. Suman Seth, Researcher at Oxford University – United Kingdom, gave a presentation on the Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality Index and the Human Development Index. The Multidimensional Poverty and Inequality Index was developed by Oxford University through identifying five missing dimensions of poverty, namely Quality of work, Empowerment, Physical safety, Psychological well-being, and the Ability to go about without shame, which are internationally comparable. Mr. Seth demonstrated to participants the importance of considering the multiple dimensions at the same time, and finding the interlinked relations influencing the calculation of any index.

25. A focus was made on presenting the methodology and methods of calculating both indices. Moreover, he explained the differences between the old and new methodology of calculating the Human Development Index. Mr. Seth also trained participants on calculating the Multidimensional Poverty Index which gained the participants' attention in view of its importance in the Arab region.

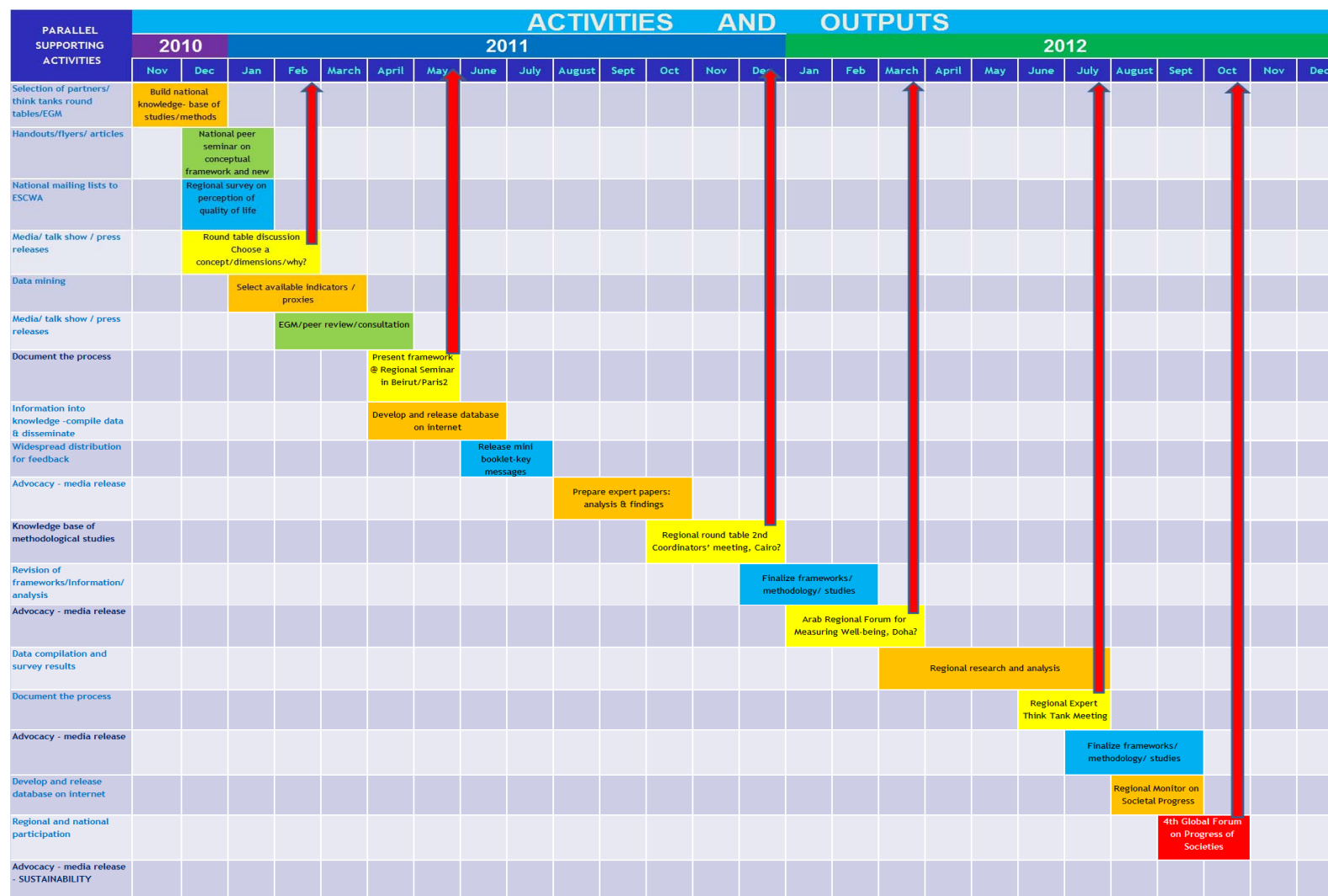
H. SESSION 8: NATIONAL COORDINATORS' TASKS AND DRAFT ACTION PLAN

26. The last day was dedicated to the last session discussing the Draft Regional Action Plan based on the global plan towards New Delhi Conference to be held in the last quarter of 2012. Ms. Jafar presented the Draft National Roadmap and the coordinators' tasks to be discussed and adapted at the national level and submitted by each national statistical office to ESCWA by the end of 2010.

27. The national coordinators' tasks include raising the awareness of society about the well-being and quality of life concept in order to measure society progress by calling for an effective participation in this initiative. This call is made by publishing a series of newspaper articles and/or conducting TV/radio interviews, and distributing publications. Their tasks also include searching for national studies conducted in this field in order to enrich the Knowledge base at the regional and national levels. ESCWA will publish the most important research papers on the Virtual Library website, and on the Wiki Progress website of OECD.

28. Besides, the coordinator's tasks include organizing national roundtables and seminars, coordinating the national framework development, creating indicators, and finalizing the national study. The coordinator is also called to provide a list of the relevant partners' names, such as users and data producers at all levels, in order to conduct a regional opinion poll survey on the society's perception of well-being and quality of life. This survey will be conducted online by ESCWA as soon as it receives the national mail list. The survey is aimed at enriching the national and regional studies.

29. Below is the national and regional roadmap timetable:



III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

30. ESCWA held the First Coordinators' Workshop on Measuring the Well-being and Progress of Arab Societies, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) on 1-5 November 2010, at the United Nations House in Beirut.

31. The workshop was attended by 12 representatives of national statistical organizations from 12 Arab countries, namely Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Djibouti, the Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, and Yemen. A number of experts from regional and international organizations and European universities also participated in the workshop.

B. OPENING AND WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

32. The workshop was inaugurated on Monday 1 November 2010 by Mr. Juraj Riecan, Chief of the Statistics Division at ESCWA, who asserted that people's interest in the quality of life is gaining significance; thus, it requires developing new statistics about this topic. He also mentioned a statement issued by ESCWA revealing that the concern of societies about their quality of life is increasing around the world. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop a more comprehensive vision for the measurement of progress. This vision should take into consideration the social, environmental, and economic concerns rather than focusing only on economic indicators such as the GDP which, notwithstanding its importance in measuring the economic activity, is not a comprehensive indicator that measures the progress of States.

33. Dr. Khalid Khawaja, Chief Expert at AITRS, also delivered a speech stressing the importance of developing methods to measure progress in Arab societies, and particularly developing the minimum set of multidimensional and priority indicators for each country, while taking into consideration the relevant specificities and local conditions. He also noted the importance of engaging decision makers, civil society, and the media in developing a bottom-up list of indicators, conducting an awareness-raising campaign, and creating an IT system to monitor progress. Besides, Dr. Khawaja reviewed, in his speech, all activities undertaken in the Arab region on measuring the progress of societies, where AITRS and ESCWA were active members and organizers.

34. Ms. Neda Jafar, Regional Project Coordinator in the Arab region, delivered a speech clarifying the workshop objective as part of the activities undertaken under the project on measuring the well-being and progress of Arab societies, which is related to statistical research and analysis of well-being as an indicator of the progress of Arab societies. This indicator aims to measure the progress of societies, and based on that, to adopt the necessary policies, take the right decisions, and improve the monitoring of policies and programmes as well as their real impact. The project is expected to pave the way for developing organized action programmes, enriching knowledge, and improving public policy measures. Therefore, it requires a new method in data collection and analysis (including data on personal perceptions), in order to produce appropriate information. For that purpose, the main issues and key indicators of well-being should be identified within a comprehensive framework engaging researchers, analysts, decision makers, civil society organizations, media, and experts from multiple disciplines in the region. The output of this work will then be published and developed in the region and in every participating country. The project allows countries to develop bottom-up frameworks that complement the indicators of traditional top-down frameworks, such as the joint national evaluation, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the MDGs, and others.

35. This workshop is important as it lays down the foundation of the project by building its coordinators' capacities and introducing them to their tasks in the national implementation of this project, in view of developing measures that serve the progress of national societies. Furthermore, the project aims to provide Arab and national output at the Fourth World Forum on Society Progress to be held in India in 2012. Ms.

Jaafar also reviewed the workshop agenda for the coming five days. Besides, the participants expressed their expectations and the desired benefit from this workshop. Below is a summary of each session.

C. WORKSHOP EVALUATION

36. The workshop was evaluated by participants on a scale ranging between “very good” and “good”. Participants also stressed the workshop importance and success, particularly in introducing the measurement of society progress, reviewing the experiences of some participating countries, and acquiring knowledge on the new methodologies of calculating indicators that focus on human development and provide references. Moreover, participants extended their appreciation to the workshop organizers for using different explanatory tools such as multimedia and video, and holding working groups. They hoped that the training will be expanded to cover new methodologies for measuring the progress of societies, and to upgrade the level of capabilities in developing well-being and progress indicators.

37. All participants completed an evaluation sheet of the workshop, and the following points were graded as “very good”:

The objective of the training workshop was met. Participants acquired new skills/expertise, and the training material was clear. The tools used in the training, the training venue (hall), order, planning, organization, quality of interpretation, interaction with experts, exchange of opinions with other colleagues, and the trainees’ access to the necessary lectures and printed materials of the workshop, were graded as “very good”.

38. The following points were graded as “good” by participants:

The workshop duration; how the workshop content meets the participants’ needs at work; the practical aspect; the balance among topics; the organization and distribution of invitations, agendas, and materials before the workshop; flight tickets; and the workshop duration.

39. Participants of the workshop commended the lecturers and organizers, and thanked the organizational efforts deployed to prepare for this workshop and to provide administrative and social services.

D. CLOSING

40. The workshop was concluded by Dr. Khalid Khawaja, Chief Expert at AITRS; Mr. Juraj Riecan, Director of the Statistics Division at ESCWA; Ms. Neda Jafar, Regional Coordinator. The organizers emphasized that it is important to benefit from the workshop material to implement national activities in the field of measuring the progress of societies, which is a task assigned to national coordinators. Finally, certificates were distributed to the national coordinators participating in the workshop.

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