UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Regional Forum on "**National Knowledge and Technology Development and Transfer Systems**"
UN House, Beirut, Lebanon 27-29 Nov 2017

Information Note

I. BACKGROUND

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) are drivers of economic growth, improved productivity and efficiency, job creation, and sustainable development. STI play a central enabling role in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because of the need to "upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes (Target 9.4)". Institutionalized technology transfer processes are therefore essential for universities and research centers to play their expected leadership role in driving local development. Unfortunately, most of ESCWA Member Countries (EMC) have not adequately exploited science and technology local capacity for enterprise and socio-economic development. As a result, present capacity is not fully captured and local production systems are delivering marginally competitive selling products and services. There is a need to reconfigure a formal clinical role for STI in local problems solving and planning for a virtuous economic cycle.

This project started in July 2015 at the end of the MDGs and at the UN launching of new global goals stressing sustainability knowns as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) distilled from the Rio+20 summit, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) experience, and the Internationally Agreed Development Goals Dialogues (IADG) agreements.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focuses on inclusive development and "leaving no one behind". Following this historic global consensus, development should now encompass all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental-linear development efforts are no longer an option.

Further progress towards Sustainable Development requires improvements in key areas of; poverty and inequality, health, gender, institutional capacity, education, urban planning and land degradation, as well as International cooperation for trade, technology, and finance. STI relevant SDG targets.

While the challenges to achieving the SDGs remain country-specific, there are common elements. Those challenges take into account the local context and the current status in which applied sciences have been taking an increasingly important role, as various Arab countries strive to address a set of common priority areas, but with differing mechanisms of implementation. The evaluation of how well the challenges are met depends, in part, on STI relevant Key Performance Indicators. Many Arab countries have embarked on the rationalization of national innovation and technology transfer capacity through instituting different programs and activities and reforming innovation and scientific research legislations, policies, and strategies.

UN-ESCWA has been implementing since 2015 the UN-Development Account project on "Establishment of National Technology Transfer Offices (NTTO) in selected ESCWA member countries" (Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia) which aimed to enhance national innovation system capacity through updating related legislations, policies; and the establishment of NTTO linked to universities and research institutions facilitating the partnership among the research community, economic development sector, industry, and relevant governmental actors in those selected countries.

This Regional forum is the last event organized within the framework of the project activities and will showcase the project achievements, lessons learned and best practices, taking into consideration national scientific research and technological development systems towards supporting efficient implementation of sustainable development goals in the Arab countries.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the regional forum is to enhance and promote national scientific research and technological development systems towards supporting efficient implementation of sustainable development goals in Arab countries.

Specifically, the regional forum will aim to:

➢ Showcase reformed STI related national legislations, policies and operational Technology Development and Transfer systems
➢ Facilitate linkages among the universities and research institutions with the economic development sector, industry, and relevant governmental actors.
➢ Promote institutional interface for science with policy planning and assessment
➢ Reinforce regional network of technology transfer experts and institutions for conceivable sustained exchange and cooperation platform.

III. TOPICS

1. Science, Technology and Innovation Landscape Analysis in the UNDA selected Project Countries
2. National Technology Transfer System Relevant Legislations and Policies
3. Operational Framework and Foresight of Effective National Technology Transfer System
4. Research and Development (R&D) Technology Transfer (TT)/ Intellectual Property (IP) Institutional Policies
5. Sustainability of National Technology development and Transfer Systems
6. National Technology Transfer Systems Facilitating implementation of Sustainable Development in Arab Countries
7. National Technology Development and Transfer in Health Technologies in Arab Countries

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. Management of established NTTO hosting institutions in selected Arab countries
2. Representatives from existing technology transfer systems in Arab countries
3. Candidate agents to establish affiliation in future NTTO
4. Key Related stakeholders: Arab universities, industrial chambers, IP offices, Science and Technology Parks, Incubators and accelerators, others

Participants are kindly requested to return **Scanned Passport Copy, Registration Form and Personal Photo** to (maaroufa@un.org; halasah@un.org) no later than **06 November 2017** to allow time for necessary travel arrangements.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

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