

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

Recommendation	Next Steps	Responsible	Status
<p>(a) RCM members to develop a unified United Nations programme of support to member countries to facilitate the preparatory work for the Arab customs union, including an action plan for 2014-2015 and the following activities:</p> <p>(i) Use of modeling tools to assess such elements as a unified customs tariffs, products to be included, and more;</p> <p>(ii) Analysis of the socioeconomic impact of different policy options related to the establishment of the customs union;</p> <p>(iii) Capacity-building activities (training in MC)</p> <p>(iv) Support in negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in light of the establishment of a customs union, namely, accession support to non-members and capacity-building support to members.</p>	<p>ESCWA has initiated consultations with LAS and UNDP on the implementation of a package of technical assistance activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing a technical paper on fiscal challenges of the ACU 2. Preparing a technical paper on the differentials in tariff regimes between GCC countries and the rest of Arab countries members to GAFTA 3. Preparing a technical paper on a preliminary assessment of the GCC Custom Union 4. Preparing a technical paper on Review of institutional arrangements related to economic and trade matters for a Customs Union with focus on the GCC CU 5. Development of a specific dynamic CGE model for the assessments of the implications of alternative scenarios of implementing the CU on Arab economies and their fiscal balances 6. Training workshop for LAS's senior staffs on using the model for the analysis of trade reforms in the Arab region <p>The first three technical papers are being prepared in cooperation with the UNDP under the project aid for trade.</p> <p>Further to these activities, EDGD implemented other important activities in support to MCs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An informative workshop on WTO's Bali agreement in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and WTO, held in Dubai April 2014 2. The inter-regional forum on identification and preparation of bankable projects to be funded under the WTO's initiative on aid for trade, Tunis April 2014 3. Workshops on WTO's accession 4. Technical assistance to MC on impacts analysis of trade reforms 	ESCWA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st draft completed 2. In progress 3. 1st draft completed 4. In progress 5. In progress 6. Design of the training in progress, lack of XB resources 1. Implemented 2. Implemented 3. In progress for Tunisia but not yet started for Morocco, Lebanon, Iraq, and Sudan.

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

<p>(b) Concerned United Nations agencies and the League of Arab States were called upon by ESCWA to contribute to the “Arab Economic Integration Report” with a focus on the Arab customs union to be produced during the second half of 2014. ESCWA will initiate contacts with concerned United Nations agencies to determine modality of contributions;</p>	<p>The report is planned to be published in the second half of 2015</p>	<p>ESCWA</p>	<p>In progress. No UN agencies are involved.</p>
<p>(c) Concerned United Nations agencies and the League of Arab States are also requested to contribute to an ESCWA-led series of normative papers on the socioeconomic impact of infrastructure connectivity in the region, with a focus on issues of transport and energy, with a view to do the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) Establish a legislative framework and guidelines;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Develop project proposals to promote interconnectivity.</p>	<p>ESCWA’s hired a high level senior transport advisor to be fully working on the issues of transport connectivity in the region and with the rest of the world.</p>	<p>ESCWA</p>	<p>Not started</p>
<p>(d) The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will coordinate efforts with the Regional United Nations Development Group (R/UNDG) and RCM members on regional consultations in partnership with the League of Arab States, also with a view to the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul in 2016;</p>	<p>OCHA to brief RCM members about the summit in December 2014. http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/.</p>	<p>(OCHA)</p>	<p>In progress</p>

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

<p>(e) Concerned United Nations Agencies committed their support to the League of Arab States in the preparation of the three side fora of the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, Tunisia 2015 on youth, civil society and the private sector;</p>	<p>UN Agencies working with LAS. UN-LAS Coordination meeting held in Geneva in June 2014.</p>	<p>RCM Members</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>(f) RCM members agreed to accelerate the implementation of the activities included in the matrix of activities of the United Nations and League of Arab States General Cooperation Meeting in Vienna in 2012 and to use the matrix as a tool to monitor implementation before the next coordination meeting in Geneva, tentatively scheduled for 17-19 June 2014, taking into consideration the importance of the post-2015 agenda. Furthermore, they agreed on the following:</p> <p>(i) To maintain two versions of the matrix: one comprehensive matrix managed by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the League of Arab States; and one focused on RCM collaborative actions, but not including single-agency activities;</p> <p>(ii) Cluster leaders (DPA, ESCWA, UNDP and OCHA) to circulate the RCM collaborative matrix relevant to their cluster before the end of 2013;</p> <p>(iii) RCM members to include qualitative assessments of implementation in the status column of the matrix.</p>	<p>Activities completed. Matrix revised and shared. New Matrix prepared, discussed and approved during the Geneva UN-LAS Coordination Meeting in June 2014.</p>	<p>RCM Members & LAS</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

(g) All TWGs will prepare clear annual work plans linked to deliverables and a timeline for implementation to be pre-approved by members. Updates by RCM TWGs should also be shared well ahead of time of the next meeting;	Progress reports under preparation; annual workplans to be discussed at the 20 th RCM	<u>5 TWGs</u> <u>Chairs</u> -ESCWA (MDGs & Stats) -UNEP (CC) -FAO (FS) -ESCWA/ LAS/IOM (Migration)	In progress
(h) The terms of reference (TOR) and scope of the TWG on Climate Change should be reformulated with a narrower focus and rotational leadership of the group by different agencies. UNEP will organize consultations early in 2014;	To be discussed and decision reached at 20th RCM	UNEP & TWG members	Under consideration
(i) The TOR of the TWG on Food Security and Nutrition will be reviewed and adjusted by February 2014. FAO will lead consultations	Updated ToRs in May 2014.	FAO	Completed
(j) United Nations agencies will ensure that any proposals to the 2015 Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, including the Sustainable Development Strategic Framework for the Arab Region, are presented to the relevant ministerial councils by no later than April 2014, so that they are considered in the July 2014 Meeting of the Special Committee for the preparation of the 2015 Summit in Tunis. The League of Arab States will provide RCM members with the master list of all upcoming ministerial council meetings in 2014;	Proposals have been submitted to relevant inter-governmental bodies, including the Social Council, the Women's Council and the Arab ECOSOC. Dates of the Summit still to be confirmed.	All RCM members	Completed

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

(k) United Nations agencies were requested to follow up on national consultations, including youth consultations, on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that were initiated in 2012, and to place results at the service of upcoming regional intergovernmental consultations;	UN CTs supporting 88 countries undertake National Consultations. http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap Youth Policies Global Forum, October 2014 http://www.youthpolicy.org/event/global-forum-on-youth-policies/	UNDP	completed
(l) United Nations entities should continue and enhance support for the follow-up on the implementation of decisions and resolutions of past Arab Economic and Social Development Summits, and recommendations of side fora made since 2009. The League of Arab States will propose modalities of interventions and support;	Support is of an on-going nature	All UN RCM Members	In progress
(m) RCM members were urged to coordinate stronger linkages between the global disaster risk reduction framework to be developed by 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to ensure that the Post- 2015 Development Agenda will reflect the risks of disasters and the need to build resilience;	UN Joint Statement prepared for the 2 nd Arab Disaster Risk Reduction Conference in Sharm Al Sheikh on 14-16 September	UNISDR	completed
(n) (RCM members agreed that the Inter-agency MDG TWG for Arab States will revise its TOR to reflect the transition to the Post-2015 Agenda SDGs. Among the TWG's new tasks will be acting as a repository of information and documentation, maintaining coordinated timelines of regional events, and initiating joint activities. The Group would also be the coordination interface with LAS	Under preparation to be shared at 20 th RCM	ESCWA	In progress

Matrix of Recommendations – 19th RCM

(o) Members agreed on the importance of supporting a regional annual ministerial review back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in order to enhance the linkages between the regional and the global processes. UNEP will share a “white paper” on embedding the environment in the SDGs in the context of the Arab region.		ESCWA	Completed.
---	--	-------	------------