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Committee on Social Development
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE ARAB REGION**

Under this agenda item, the Committee on Social Development will discuss the following issues:

1. Employment and labour markets E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part I): This report contains a review of existing research on the economic structures of Arab labour markets. It also offers suggestions and makes recommendations on ways to address the challenges faced by those markets.
2. Role of civil society and participatory development in political transitions E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part II): This report highlights the role of civil society in promoting participatory development, particularly addressing the challenges of the political transitions that were prompted by popular movements in the region since 2011. The report also presents lessons learned from the implementation of the ESCWA participatory development approach.
3. Impact of youth participation on social cohesion E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/IG.1/4(Part III): This report explains how the participation of youth and their engagement in public life can advance social cohesion. It stresses the importance of empowering this fast-growing group which constitutes the fifth of the population of Arab countries.
4. Integrating a regional Arab dimension to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda: ESCWA will give a Power Point presentation on its contribution to the ongoing global debate on the development agenda for the period beyond 2015, the deadline set for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The presentation stresses the need to adapt global development goals to regional and national priorities and challenges. It also offers recommendations on policy directions and implementation mechanisms for the post-2015 development agenda.
