

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Executive Committee  
Third meeting  
Rabat, 6-7 May 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019****Summary**

The proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2018-2019 was prepared on the basis of programme 19, on economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the same period. The ESCWA proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 was adopted by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session held in Doha, from 13 to 15 December 2016.

This document does not provide information on resource requirements, as only the Secretary-General of the United Nations can issue such information in his proposed programme budget, which is reviewed by the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies before being approved by the General Assembly. The present proposal may thus undergo slight amendments during that review process. Those will be communicated to ESCWA member States through the national focal points.

The ESCWA secretariat is presenting the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 to the Executive Committee for consideration in order to ensure that it responds to the needs of member States. Participants to the meeting are invited to review it, provide their comments on it and adopt it in this or an amended form.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Overall orientation.....	3
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 4. TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 5. STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 6. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>SUBPROGRAMME 7. CONFLICT MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Annex. Legislative mandates .....</i>	<i>36</i>

### Overall orientation\*

19.1 The overall orientation of programme 19 concerning economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, is to foster sustainable development, social justice and regional integration among member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), paying special consideration to the least developed and conflict-affected countries. ESCWA, through its seven interdependent subprogrammes, is responsible for the implementation of this programme.

19.2 The mandate for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, establishing ESCWA, and 1985/69, amending its terms of reference to underscore its social functions. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, requested the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives, and called for the prioritization of sustainable development initiatives at the country level.

19.3 Member States shape and define the priorities and approaches of ESCWA. At the twenty-eighth ministerial session held in Tunis in September 2014, they adopted the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region, which reaffirmed social justice as a core value of the Arab and Islamic culture and a foundation for secure, cohesive and prosperous societies. The Declaration requested the ESCWA secretariat to embed social justice in its work, and in particular in its efforts to support the adaptation, implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Declaration further called on the secretariat to bolster its research and advisory efforts in the areas of justice, poverty, inequality, social protection, social inclusion, women's empowerment, natural resource management, access to technology, good governance, and trade policies, as key areas in achieving sustainable development. The Declaration reinforced the mandate of ESCWA to monitor the effects of the Israeli occupation in Palestine.

19.4 In the outcome document of the 2015 Sustainable Development Summit, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", United Nations Member States pledged that no one would be left behind. The 2030 Agenda called for transformative action to eliminate poverty and globally embark on a sustainable and resilient path for development and growth, through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their means of implementation. Member States recognized the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in promoting sustainable development. They emphasized the role of regional commissions in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, and agreed that regional and subregional frameworks could facilitate the effective translation of policies into concrete action at the national level. They also requested the regional commissions to support their member States in developing national-level reviews and to contribute to follow-up at the global level, including in the High-level Forum on Sustainable Development.

19.5 The 2030 Agenda recognized that sustainable development could not be realized without peace and security and, conversely, that peace and security would be at risk without sustainable development. It also underscored the need to build peaceful and inclusive societies that would provide equal access to justice and be based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent and accountable institutions. The 2030 Agenda called for the adoption of measures and actions to remove all obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment. Other global frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action

---

\* The paragraphs under "Overall orientation" are numbered from 19-1 to 19-17, where 19 refers to programme 19 on economic and social development in Western Asia of the strategic framework of the United Nations for the biennium 2018-2019, and 1 to 17 are the consecutive numbers in that document which contains all United Nations programmes. This numbering is maintained under the "Strategy" related to each of the seven subprogrammes of ESCWA, which are presented in the subsequent sections of this document.

Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, issued similar recommendations in order to put the global community on a pathway towards realizing sustainable development by 2030.

19.6 In the context of these global frameworks and well aware of the many development challenges that face the Arab region, ESCWA has developed a comprehensive strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda, which were adopted in resolution 322 (EC.2) of 16 December 2015. The Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted on 15 December 2016 by member States at their twenty-ninth session, reiterated their call for support by the ESCWA secretariat in that regard.

19.7 In the Arab region, widespread conflict is the dominant challenge to development. In addition to causing loss of life, conflict and occupation hinder sustainable development and largely contribute to economic disintegration, damage to infrastructure, loss of social cohesion, diminished access to social services and violations of basic human rights. The region has the world's largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons, which has further exacerbated the hardships of those already vulnerable, particularly women and children. While not all Arab countries are directly experiencing violent conflict, its spillover effects and increasing insecurity have affected development in the whole region.

19.8 Achieving sustainable growth is another key challenge facing the Arab region. Low productivity, lack of economic diversification and technological innovation, a large informal labour market and the absence of adequate social protection schemes have resulted in increasing and widespread poverty, inequality and the world's highest youth unemployment rates. Ineffective trade and fiscal policies exacerbate the low rates of intraregional trade and interrupt value chains. In addition to economic inequalities, the region also suffers from gender inequality, unequal access to information and services, and inadequate attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, informal workers and migrants.

19.9 Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption place a growing burden on scarce natural resources such as water, energy and arable land, and pose serious challenges to food security. Climate change further exacerbates desertification and increases the incidence of natural disasters in the region.

19.10 Institutional weakness is an overarching challenge to the implementation of a sustainable development agenda in the Arab region, where institutions suffer from political, financial, capacity and technical limitations that hinder their effectiveness. This institutional weakness obstructs the ability of Arab countries to foster inclusive policymaking processes, limits their capacity to produce the quality data required for evidence-based policymaking, and slows the mobilization of the necessary means of implementation, such as financing, technology and international or regional cooperation.

19.11 The proposed ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 envisages an integrated response to those significant obstacles to sustainable development, based on the collective approach to achieving the 2030 Agenda designed by the regional commissions. The approach consists of integrating SDGs into national development planning and fiscal frameworks; promoting policy coherence, consistency and coordination across sectors and levels of intervention; enhancing statistical capacities of member States; and leveraging appropriate means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology and innovation, and global and regional partnerships.

19.12 First and foremost, ESCWA will work on advancing sustainable development nationally, subregionally and regionally. It will help member States design strategies for the integrated management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. It will support efforts towards an efficient use of natural resources, promote the application of appropriate green technologies, and facilitate regional cooperation and coordination to enhance food, water and energy security and alleviate rural poverty. ESCWA will also promote the design of inclusive economic policies employing multidimensional poverty approaches. It will facilitate dialogue on government budgets and fiscal policy, and build the capacity

of member States to conduct evidence-based policy forecasts and assessments. It will support them in mobilizing financial resources for development and in designing appropriate financing policies to address socioeconomic development gaps. In cooperation with regional and international partners, ESCWA will offer a comprehensive institutional framework to steer the regional statistical development agenda. It will support member States in collecting, analysing, harmonizing and disseminating statistical data for the implementation of the SDGs, and provide capacity-building to ensure the production of quality data by national statistical systems.

19.13 Throughout the biennium, ESCWA will seek to place social justice at the heart of development in the Arab region. It will promote a rights-based approach to inclusive social and economic policymaking, helping member States to mainstream key population and human development issues into national strategies and plans, with a focus on youth development, international migration and social protection. ESCWA will make use of its multidisciplinary structure to support member States in strengthening policy integration, including in the areas of economic and social inclusion of vulnerable groups through broad-based civic participation. It will also continue to promote the elimination of gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislation and programmes by intensifying its support to national and regional efforts to overcome all forms of discrimination against women and to secure their equal access to resources and participation in decision-making. Additionally, ESCWA will help member States to develop narratives that foment belonging, regional engagement and reconciliation in order to forge common understandings of development priorities and shared destinies. ESCWA will also help member States to address the spillover effects of conflict by establishing regional frameworks designed to enhance social cohesion and resilience. It will continue to monitor the effects of conflict and occupation, and their detrimental impact on the attainment of justice.

19.14 ESCWA recognizes the potential of greater regional integration to address key challenges effectively. National resilience to economic, social and political shocks is only possible within a regional framework that facilitates integration in global markets and progressive political structures. ESCWA will undertake rigorous quantitative analyses of the legal and institutional arrangements needed to achieve regional economic integration and developmental objectives. ESCWA will also promote improved coordination among member States in the area of cross-border infrastructure to facilitate transport and trade. It will help to advance regional approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to address climate change, including its impact on water resources and the consequent effects on the poor. ESCWA will serve as a forum for multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues to forge regional positions based on enhanced science-policy interface, coherence across different sectors and institution-building. It will continue to use its convening power to facilitate discussions and the adoption of coordinated solutions to address the root causes of instability, and its effects on people and their environment. Building on its special relationship with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will support the formulation of regional positions. It will also support the implementation of resolutions of high-level regional forums, mainly the Arab economic and social development summits.

19.15 In its programming, ESCWA has considered how consecutive strategic frameworks can build on each other to achieve long-term goals, in line with the 2030 Agenda, and has set intermediate goals for 2023. ESCWA has also adopted a conceptual framework to support Arab States and peoples in formulating a shared vision of their future in the context of the 2030 Agenda. ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in its programme of work and in non-programmatic activities. It will continue to lead the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN SWAP).

19.16 ESCWA will continue to expand its network of national, regional and international partners and will cooperate with intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations, donors, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member States, particularly in the field of statistics. It will help member States to collect, analyse, harmonize and disseminate data by enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

19.17 ESCWA will continue to convene the Regional Coordination Mechanism as a platform for United Nations entities and regional organizations to discuss regional policy priorities and coordinate support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In order to adequately disseminate and operationalize the findings and recommendations of its normative work and effectively respond to the requests of its member States, ESCWA will mobilize additional financial and in-kind contributions, leveraging the results and outputs of its regular programme of work and the strategic partnerships it builds across the region.

### **SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Objective:** To support the integrated management of natural resources leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into regional and national policy processes.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures		
		2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) Increased alignment of national plans with SDGs, drawing upon the nexus approach to water, energy and food	(a) (i) Increased number of multisectoral institutional mechanisms established to mainstream the SDGs into national development plans	Target	4	
		Estimate		3
		Actual		–
	(a) (ii) Increased number of strategies, plans and policies adopted by line ministries to support the integrated management of natural resources	Target	5	
		Estimate		3
		Actual		–
(b) Increased engagement by member States in regional and subregional processes in support of agreements, strategies and standards related to water, energy, food and the environment	(b) (i) Increased number of harmonized tools, techniques and guidelines implemented by member States to enhance food, water and energy security	Target	5	
		Estimate		3
		Actual		–
	(b) (ii) Increased number of joint initiatives and intergovernmental resolutions adopted to enhance regional cooperation on sustainability of natural resources	Target	23	
		Estimate		20
		Actual		15
(c) Strengthened resilience of member States and of vulnerable communities to climate change and natural disasters	(c) (i) Increased number of intergovernmental recommendations, resolutions and decrees adopted by member States across sectors to coordinate responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction	Target	16	
		Estimate		13
		Actual		10
	(c) (ii) Increased number of measures adopted by member States to mainstream the science-policy interface in relation to climate change	Target	2	
		Estimate		–
		Actual		–

### **Strategy**

19.18 The Sustainable Development Policies Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 1. The year 2015 has been marked as the year of sustainable development. It witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which constitutes a robust and transformative agenda that builds on the social, economic, environmental and governance pillars of sustainable development, and converges with global development processes, namely the Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement (COP 21).

19.19 Nonetheless, challenges persist in the Arab region: a rising demand for food, water and energy, which is taking an increasingly heavy toll on the scarce natural resources and the environment, and exacerbating food insecurity; unsustainable production and consumption patterns; inefficient energy production, distribution and consumption, adding to an already high volume of waste; and climate change and its impact. ESCWA is well positioned to assist countries in following a more sustainable development path that relies on policy coherence across the water, energy and food sectors (nexus approach), and policy dialogue across line ministries and stakeholders at national and regional levels.

19.20 Through the implementation of the subprogramme, ESCWA will assist member States in moving towards this sustainable development path by building strong and resilient institutions; supporting a more efficient and transparent management of natural resources through the adoption of a rights-based approach to resource governance; implementing the 2030 Agenda; facilitating policy dialogue for greater food, water and energy security; and developing mechanisms for coordinated responses to climate change and other natural crises.

19.21 In that context, ESCWA will:

(a) Advocate for and raise awareness of regional and global commitments, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals, the agenda adopted by the five United Nations regional commissions to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, and Arab strategies for the integrated management of natural resources, climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues towards forging regional positions based on enhanced science-policy interface, coherence across different sectors and institution-building;

(c) Support member States in their efforts to improve the efficient use of natural resources and adopt a rights-based approach by analysing performance in these sectors, providing policy recommendations, promoting the application of appropriate green technologies, and encouraging the integrated management of natural resources;

(d) Facilitate regional cooperation and coordination as a means to enhance food, water and energy security, alleviate poverty in rural areas and achieve social justice in terms of natural resources governance;

(e) Support the development of national or regional mechanisms, networks or green help desks for the integration of the different pillars of sustainable development;

(f) Foster regional approaches on climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to deal with climate change impacts, conduct impact and vulnerability assessments, and examine associated socioeconomic and environmental issues in order to inform policymaking processes and support member States in their negotiations.

19.22 This will be achieved through servicing intergovernmental bodies; conducting high-quality policy-oriented research and analytical work on the science-policy interface; organizing high-level and expert meetings; providing advisory services; implementing field projects; supporting dedicated knowledge platforms for professionals; and issuing technical materials to enhance capacity to address sustainable development issues and challenges.

19.23 Work under the subprogramme will strive to maximize synergies and strategic partnerships through cooperation with different United Nations agencies and regional commissions and organizations, and participation in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water and energy, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 1 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to giving due priority to sustainable development issues and adopt appropriate measures for enhancing food, energy and water security; (b) political stability is improved, leading to institution-building and enhanced governance and transparency; (c) line ministries in member States cooperate and work together on key strategic issues; and (d) member States are willing to establish mechanisms/platforms at interregional and interministerial levels to cooperate on sustainable development issues and incorporate the SDGs.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 1:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

- a. Report of the Committee on Energy on its eleventh session (1);
- b. Report of the Committee on Water Resources on its twelfth session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Water Resources*

- a. Substantive servicing of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources (4);
- b. Parliamentary documentation:
  - i. Linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Arab region (1);
  - ii. The water, energy and food (WEF) nexus in the Arab region (1);
  - iii. Follow-up on the water-related SDGs in the Arab region (1).

(iii) *Committee on Energy*

- a. Substantive servicing of the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy (4);
- b. Parliamentary documentation:
  - i. Energy market development in the Arab region (1);
  - ii. Intended nationally determined contributions and SDGs: exploring common aspects (1);
  - iii. Progress towards mainstreaming SDGs in national development plans (1).

(iv) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on operationalizing an institutional framework for follow-up on the water-related SDG indicators in the Arab region (1);



- b. Intersessional governmental consultative meetings in preparation for the High-level Political Forum and the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development – 2018 (1);
  - c. Intergovernmental consultative sessions in preparation for the United Nations Environment Assembly – 2019 (1);
  - d. Expert group meeting on gas flaring management in Arab countries (1);
  - e. Expert group meeting on knowledge-sharing to support the science-policy interface for climate change action (1);
  - f. Expert group meeting on energy productivity in Arab countries (1);
  - g. Expert group meeting on the WEF nexus (1);
  - h. Expert group meeting on shared water with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
  - i. Expert group meeting on food security with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
  - j. Expert group meeting on energy with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
  - k. Expert group meeting on climate change and economic development with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
  - l. Regional consultations: impact of climate change on implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region – 2018-2019 (2);
  - m. Expert group meeting on technology transfer and adaptation for sustainable consumption and production in the Arab countries: case studies on waste, water and energy (1);
  - n. Regional consultation on the alignment of national water, food and environment plans with the 2030 Agenda (1).
- (v) *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs under their established mandates*
- a. Support to the Executive Secretariat of the ESCWA-UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)-LAS (League of Arab States) Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab region (JCEDAR) and follow-up on resolutions taken by the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the environment – 2018-2019 (2);
  - b. Substantive contribution and support to the Arab Ministerial Water Council – 2018-2019 (2);
  - c. Substantive contribution and support to the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and technical committees on electricity and renewable energy/energy efficiency – 2018-2019 (2);
  - d. Substantive contribution and support to the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate – 2018-2019 (2).
- (b) *Other substantive activities*
- (i) *Recurrent publications*
- ESCWA Water Development Report No. 8: The water-related SDGs in the Arab region (1).
- (ii) *Non-recurrent publications*
- a. Tracking progress with regard to energy-related SDGs in the Arab region (1);
  - b. Addressing energy vulnerability in the Arab region (1);
  - c. Food security in the Arab region: monitoring and follow up (1);
  - d. Moving towards water security in the Arab region (1).

(iii) *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, documentary and feature programmes*

Electronic platform for providing tools, methodologies and guidance on water-related SDGs (1).

(iv) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

- a. Promotional material for World Environment Day, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought or World Agriculture Day – 2018-2019 (2);
- b. Fact sheet on renewable energy legislation in Arab countries (1);
- c. Promotional material for World Water Day – 2018-2019 (2);
- d. Fact sheet on food security in the Arab region (1);
- e. Promotional material on good agricultural practices (1);
- f. Booklet on electricity interconnections and natural gas interconnections in the Arab region (1);
- g. Fact sheet on stocktaking of the nationally determined contributions of the Arab States (1);
- h. Fact sheet on energy efficiency legislation in Arab countries (1);
- i. Booklet on waste to energy (1);
- j. Booklet on accessing the regional knowledge hub on climate and water for supporting the science-policy interface (1);
- k. Fact sheet on technologies for greenhouse gas mitigation in the transport sector (1);
- l. Booklet on technologies for creating value from CO<sub>2</sub> in Arab countries (1);
- m. Fact sheet on innovative technologies for improving the resilience of the agriculture sector to the impact of climate change (1).

(v) *Technical material*

- a. Working paper on green financing (1);
- b. Technical report on accessing the means of implementing the Paris Agreement in the Arab region (1);
- c. Guidelines for coordination between agriculture and water (1);
- d. Technical material on regionalizing the global water-related SDG indicator framework and methodology for the Arab region (1);
- e. Policy brief on best practices for the implementation of sustainable energy action plans (1);
- f. Technical material on the role of demand-side management in enhancing WEF security in the Arab region and improving the management of natural resources (1);
- g. Technical material on monitoring food security in the Arab region (1);
- h. Report on shared water with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- i. Report on food security with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- j. Report on climate change and economic development with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- k. Report on energy with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(vi) *Seminars organized by the secretariat for outside users*

Seminar on monitoring the implementation of the energy-related SDG indicators in the Arab region (1).

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

- (i) Substantive contribution to the United Nations coordination bodies on energy, water and environment – 2018-2019 (2);
- (ii) Substantive contribution to and support for Arab Water Week – 2019 (1);
- (iii) Technical contribution to Stockholm World Water Week – 2018-2019 (2);
- (iv) Substantive contribution and support to the Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ARFREE) – 2018 (1);
- (v) Substantive contribution and support to global and regional forums on energy, water and food – 2018-2019 (2);
- (vi) Substantive contribution to and support for Arab States in preparation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – 2018-2019 (2);
- (vii) Substantive contribution to and support for the High-level Political Forum – 2018-2019 (2);
- (viii) Substantive contribution to and support for the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) – 2018 (1);
- (ix) Substantive contribution by technical and policy briefs to the RCM meetings – 2018-2019 (2);
- (x) Substantive input to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development – 2018-2019 (2);
- (xi) Substantive input to the Arab Sustainable Development Report (1).

## SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Objective:** To support member States in adopting a rights-based approach to equitable, inclusive and participatory social development towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) Further development of rights-based social policies or programmes that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in member States, with a focus on social inclusion and social protection	(a) (i) Increased number of policies or programmes developed or enhanced to improve social protection and expand the provision of social services	Target	10		
		Estimate		8	
		Actual			6
	(a) (ii) Increased number of policies or programmes targeting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups	Target	37		
		Estimate		32	
		Actual			26

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(b) Increased engagement of member States in intraregional consultations towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration	(b) (i) Increased number of instances in which member States engage in regional policy dialogue on international migration, facilitated by ESCWA	Target	9		
		Estimate		6	
		Actual			3
	(b) (ii) Increased number of policies that reflect the awareness of member States of the development opportunities and challenges of international migration	Target	7		
		Estimate		5	–
		Actual			3
(c) Increased emphasis by member States on a social justice approach to development planning based on equality, equity and participation	(c) (i) Increased number of government and non-government institutions that apply ESCWA tools in policymaking towards fostering social justice for all	Target	24		
		Estimate		22	
		Actual			20
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations on key national and regional social development priorities facilitated by ESCWA	Target	7		
		Estimate		6	
		Actual			4
(d) Increased ability of member States to effectively respond to and engage with the 2030 Agenda	(d) (i) Increased number of national plans and strategies integrating the SDGs	Target	8		
		Estimate		–	
		Actual			–
	(d) (ii) Increased number of instances in which member States engage in regional dialogues on the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs	Target	10		
		Estimate		–	
		Actual			–

### Strategy

19.24 The Social Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 2. ESCWA is fully engaged with member States and supports their efforts to identify policy priorities in the field of social development, taking into account major regional trends and emerging issues. It pays particular attention to the impact of political instability and conflicts on the well-being of the region's population. It promotes a rights-based approach to inclusive social policymaking.

19.25 During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will build on the experience gained during the previous bienniums to support countries in the implementation of the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. It will pay specific attention to promoting and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and social protection; mainstreaming key population and human development issues into policymaking, focusing on youth development and international migration; and advocating the principles of social justice as a guiding framework for policymaking.

19.26 The adoption of equitable, inclusive and sustainable development policies is central to achieving social justice. ESCWA will give special attention to the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as youth, the elderly,

persons with disabilities, informal workers, migrants and the poor, including in the context of the support it provides for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

19.27 Given the matrix structure of the Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda's focus on social inclusion, ESCWA will make use of its multidisciplinary structure to support member States in strengthening policy integration, including in the areas of economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly youth, sustainable communal services and urban development. It will also assist them in improving the governance of social inclusion, including through broader-based civic participation.

19.28 ESCWA will conduct normative analysis to support social policy reform through regional consultations and technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, capacity-building workshops and field projects. It will continue to act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on key social development areas within and beyond the Arab region. It will further strengthen partnerships and cooperation with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 2 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda; (b) member States remain committed to promoting social justice through equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development; (c) Governments engage with other development stakeholders on key policy areas; (d) the data and information necessary for ESCWA to conduct its analytical work are made available; (e) the resources necessary for the implementation of planned extrabudgetary activities are provided; (f) collaboration with key partners is sustained; and (g) political stability is ensured to allow member States to engage and participate in planned national and regional activities.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 2:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Committee on Social Development on its eleventh session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Social Development*

a. Substantive servicing of the twelfth session of the Committee on Social Development (4);

b. Parliamentary documentation:

i. Report on population and development issues (1);

ii. Report on inclusive social/urban policy (1);

iii. Report on the proposed social justice framework (1).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

a. Expert group meeting on the draft report on social protection in Arab countries (1);

b. Expert group meeting on population and sustainable development (1);

c. Expert group meeting on ageing issues (1);

- d. Annual meeting of National Population Councils (intergovernmental meeting co-organized by the League of Arab State, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ESCWA) – 2018-2019 (2);
- e. Expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region (1);
- f. Expert group meeting to discuss findings of the Social Development Report No. 3 on the future of social justice in the Arab region (1);
- g. Civil society dialogue series/civil society consultative meeting on social justice issues in the Arab region – 2018-2019 (2);
- h. Expert group meeting on the inception of the regional development partnership mechanism (1);
- i. Expert group meeting on population dynamics with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- j. Expert group meeting on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- k. Expert group meeting on regional Follow-Up and Review (FUR) (1);
- l. Organization of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (2);
- m. RCM Thematic Working Group on the 2030 Agenda – 2018-2019 (2).

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Population and Development Report No. 9: Youth in the Arab region (1);
- b. Social Development Report No.3: The future of social justice in the Arab region (1);
- c. Arab Sustainable Development Report (1).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. Social protection in Arab countries (1);
- b. Situation Report on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region 2019 (1).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

- a. Pamphlet on the theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development – 2018 (1);
- b. National demographic profiles for 22 Arab countries (1);
- c. Pamphlet on the theme of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development – 2019 (1);
- d. Pamphlet on social justice for the World Day of Social Justice (1).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Technical paper on social protection in rural areas (1);
- b. Technical paper on youth issues (1);
- c. Technical paper on ageing issues (1);
- d. Social policy brief on ageing (1);
- e. Demographic profile of the Arab region (focus on youth) (1);

- f. Technical paper on disability policy (1);
- g. Technical paper on inclusive cities (1);
- h. Social policy brief on international migration (1);
- i. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues: Reaching the furthest behind: policy options for the achievement of socially just Arab societies (1);
- j. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues: Best practices on social justice and participation in the Arab region (1);
- k. Technical paper on the measurement of intergenerational justice in the Arab region (1);
- l. Technical paper on mainstreaming justice, equality and inclusion into the SDGs (1);
- m. Social development bulletin on a selected topic related to implementation of the SDGs (2);
- n. Social development bulletin on international migration and development (1);
- o. Social development bulletin on recapitulating main results of the regional development partnership mechanism (1);
- p. Technical papers on SDGs with cross-border or regional implications (4);
- q. Report on population dynamics with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- r. Report on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- s. Regional report on SDGs (based on national reports) (1).

(v) *Seminars organized by the secretariat for outside users*

Regional awareness-raising seminars on the adaptation and alignment of SDGs into national plans – 2018-2019 (2).

(vi) *Special events*

- a. Launch of the Population and Development Report 2019 (1);
- b. Launch of the Situation Report on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region 2019 (1);
- c. Tenth annual observance of the World Day of Social Justice (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNFPA & Friedrich Naumann Foundation) (1).

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

- (i) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: follow up on UN Habitat New Urban Agenda (1);
- (ii) Servicing the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (1);
- (iii) Substantive contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development – 2018-2019 (2).

(d) *Internal oversight services*

Evaluation of subprogramme 2 (1).

### SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

**Objective:** To achieve a basic standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained and more inclusive economic development within a more integrated region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures		
		2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) More effective responses by member States to reduce poverty by adopting and implementing multidimensional poverty approaches	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that agree on a regional action plan addressing multidimensional poverty	Target	2	
		Estimate		0
		Actual		0
	(a) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies to promote new methods for monitoring indicators related to multidimensional poverty and inequality	Target	2	
		Estimate		0
		Actual		0
	(a) (iii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement inclusive plans and policies to address multidimensional poverty and inequality	Target	2	
		Estimate		0
		Actual		0
(b) Increased effectiveness of member States in filling the financing gap and raising funds from traditional and innovative sources to implement the 2030 Agenda	(b) (i) Increased number of member States that implement measures to mobilize financial resources for development according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development	Target	2	
		Estimate		1
		Actual		0
	(b) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt regulatory reforms and legislation to enhance the business environment	Target	2	
		Estimate		1
		Actual		0
(c) Enhanced macroeconomic policy environment enabling regional integration, supported by policy assessment tools	(c) (i) Increased number of institutions that develop knowledge-based economic tools and strategies with the support of ESCWA	Target	3	
		Estimate		2
		Actual		1
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States that develop and implement policies using ESCWA forecasting tools	Target	2	
		Estimate		1
		Actual		0



Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(d) Increased application of principles of good economic governance to promote inclusive economic transformation and regional integration	(d) (i) Increased number of member States that use economic governance indicators to inform policymaking in the public and private sector	Target	2		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0
	(d) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies for economic transformation and improved economic governance to facilitate development of viable regional value chains and connectivity to global value chains	Target	3		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0
(e) Improved regional coordination among member States for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation	(e) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement regional and bilateral cross-border trade and trade facilitation agreements, such as the Arab Customs Union, to enhance intraregional and interregional trade	Target	3		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0
	(e) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement ESCWA recommendations to enhance the coordination of their macroeconomic and sectoral policies for trade promotion	Target	3		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0
	(e) (iii) Increased number of instances where member States adopt the agreements of the Integrated Transport System between Arab States and/or create national committees for transport and trade facilitation	Target	46		
		Estimate		45	
		Actual			44

### Strategy

19.29 The Economic Development and Integration Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 3. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and greater social justice. Using the tools that it has designed during the biennium 2016-2017 to monitor poverty, inequality and fiscal policy effectiveness, ESCWA will extend better advocacy and policy support services to member States. It will produce further evidence-based analytical reports and technical studies to identify gaps and solutions in those areas, with a view to achieving the SDGs, taking into account national and regional priorities. ESCWA will work in close collaboration with the League of Arab States to that end.

19.30 ESCWA will support member States to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It will focus on mobilizing financial resources and designing appropriate financing policies to address socioeconomic development gaps and implement the SDGs.

19.31 The lack of participation in policy dialogue, particularly on government budget and fiscal policy, remains one of the impediments to social justice in the region. Evidence-based policy assessments are needed in order to prepare constructive dialogue on these issues. ESCWA will support national policymaking institutions and other stakeholders in the development of policy assessment tools based on economic models, to create an enabling macroeconomic environment for regional integration and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19.32 ESCWA will carry out various types of activities aimed at promoting economic transformation and building the capacities of member States in that regard. It will work towards increased efficiency in the infrastructure and economic policy to facilitate the expansion of exports. This will help the private sector to enhance its competitiveness, produce higher-value goods and services, develop regional value chains and improve connectivity to global ones in areas where the region has comparative advantages, benefiting from its available natural, capital and human resources. In that context, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving higher complementarity by facilitating the exchange of production factors and coordination of economic policies.

19.33 In order to provide an evidence-based advocacy for regional economic integration and identify focus areas for the Arab region, ESCWA will undertake rigorous quantitative analyses of the legal and institutional arrangements that are necessary for creating an environment that fosters regional economic integration and the achievement of regional development objectives, including high and labour-intensive economic growth rates.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 3 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in budgetary funding; (c) the political and security situation in member States and the region allows the implementation of the workplan; (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available; and (e) Governments enjoy enough stability to pay due attention to such issues.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 3:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

- a. Report of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development on its eleventh session – focus on finance (1);
- b. Report of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development on its twelfth session – focus on trade (1);
- c. Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its eighteenth session– 2018 (1);
- d. Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its nineteenth session– 2019 (1).

(ii) *Committee on Liberalizing Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development*

- a. Substantive servicing of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development – focus on finance (follow-up on the implementation of the Addis AAA) (4);
- b. Substantive servicing of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development – focus on trade (4);

- c. Parliamentary documentation:
  - i. Impediments towards the full implementation of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA) – 2018 (1);
  - ii. Overlapping of free trade agreements in the Arab region: challenges and options for deeper economic integration into global value chains – 2018 (1);
  - iii. Trade logistics performance in the Arab region – 2018-2019 (2);
  - iv. From PAFTA to the Arab Customs Union (ACU): implementation issues – 2018 (1);
  - v. Progress made on financing for development (FfD) (1);
  - vi. Defining an intergovernmental process on development planning for ESCWA member States (1);
  - vii. Status of implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab region – 2019 (1).

(iii) *Committee on Transport and Logistics*

- a. Substantive servicing of the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (8);
- b. Parliamentary documentation:
  - i. Follow-up on the implementation of transport agreements involving Arab countries – 2018-2019 (2);
  - ii. Status of negotiations of new regional transport agreements involving Arab countries – 2018-2019 (2).

(iv) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on the Arab the Development Outlook – 2018-2019 (SDGs 1, 8, 10) (2);
- b. Expert group meeting on FfD thematic priorities (1);
- c. Expert group meeting on FfD and developmental regionalism – the Arab Citizens Common Economic Security Space (ACCESS) – 2019 (1);
- d. Peer review of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018 (1);
- e. Peer review of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2018-2019 (1);
- f. Annual expert group meeting on supporting Arab countries in transition (2);
- g. Expert group meeting on planning for sustainable development (2);
- h. Expert group meeting on online repository of national development plans of member States (1);
- i. Expert group meeting on the concept note of the third edition of the Assessing Arab Economic Integration Report (AAEIR) – 2018 (1);
- j. Expert group meeting on progress made by Arab countries in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (1).

(v) *Seminars organized by the secretariat for outside beneficiaries*

- Regional seminar on mobilizing domestic resources for development in the Arab countries (1).

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Regional strategy on achieving the SDGs: focus on economic growth, employment and poverty (SDGs 1, 8, 10) (1);
- b. Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018 (1);
- c. Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2018-2019 (1);
- d. Flagship publication: AAEIR: Towards Achieving Selected SDGs – 2019 (1).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

Trade promotion and technical measures: examples from the Arab region – 2018 (1).

(iii) *Technical material*

- a. Working paper on fiscal space, poverty and inequality reduction in Arab countries (SDGs 1, 8, 10, 17) – Contribution to the Arab Sustainable Development Report – 2018-2019 (1);
- b. Working paper on financial inclusion, diversification and inclusive growth (SDGs 1, 8, 10, 17) (1);
- c. Working paper on dynamics of multidimensional poverty and policy challenges in the Arab region – 2018 (SDG 1) (1);
- d. Working paper on multidimensional poverty in the Arab region (update) – 2019 (SDG 1) – Contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) 2019 (1);
- e. Background paper on human development challenges (update) (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 16) (1);
- f. Background paper on employment and unemployment policy in addressing poverty (SDG 8) – Contribution to AFSD 2019 (1);
- g. Compendium on the Arab Financing for Development Scorecard 2018-2019 (1);
- h. Technical paper on the sustainable development and FfD dimensions of the ESCWA vision 2030 (ACCESS) – 2019 (1);
- i. Technical paper on improving the business climate through good economic governance (SDG 16) (1);
- j. Technical paper on situation and prospects for regional development planning (1);
- k. Technical material on assessing the role of trade policy in foreign direct investment inflows – 2018 (1);
- l. Contribution to the surveys of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on aid for trade – 2018-2019 (2);
- m. Technical material on assessing the connectivity of selected Arab countries in global value chains: trends and recent changes – 2018 (1);
- n. Technical material on techniques of defining appropriate rules of origin in preferential trade agreements – 2019 (1);
- o. Technical material on assessing sectoral policy convergence in the Arab region: water (1);
- p. Technical material on assessing sectoral policy convergence in the Arab region: energy (1);

- q. Technical material on assessing fiscal policy coordination in the Arab region: indirect taxes – 2019 (1);
  - r. Technical material on assessing changes in trade costs in the Arab region – 2019 (1);
  - s. Introducing household heterogeneity in the regional computable general equilibrium (CGE) model (1);
  - t. Introducing foreign direct investment in the regional CGE model (1);
  - u. Trade policy overview – fact sheets for 18 member States – 2019 (18);
  - v. Study on remittances and development in Palestine (1);
  - w. Study on the impact of illicit financial outflows on Arab economies (1).
- (iv) *Special events*
- a. Launch of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region – 2018-2019 (2);
  - b. Launch of the flagship publication – 2019 (1).
- (c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*
- (i) Regional inputs to the annual publication of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: World Economic Situation and Prospects – 2019 and 2020 (2);
  - (ii) League of Arab States high-level meeting on the Arab poverty and inequality reduction strategy (1);
  - (iii) League of Arab States ministerial meeting on the Arab poverty and inequality reduction strategy (1);
  - (iv) Preparation of a chapter for the Arab Governance Report on the link between effective competition policy and governance or the link between effective planning and governance (1);
  - (v) Working paper series on Economic issues in the region (1).

#### SUBPROGRAMME 4. TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**Objective:** To promote the development, transfer, dissemination and use of technology towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement		Performance measures		
				2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a)	Strengthened national institutional frameworks on technology for development and innovation	(a) (i)	Increased number of policies, strategies and plans issued on technology for development and innovation	Target	17	
				Estimate		15
				Actual		
		(a) (ii)	Increased number of policies revised to foster technology for development and innovation	Target	11	
				Estimate		9
				Actual		

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(b) Increased regional cooperation to promote technology and innovation for sustainable development	(b) (i) Increased number of established or reinforced institutional bodies and networks aimed at strengthening regional integration and streamlining technological cooperation	Target	10		
		Estimate		7	
		Actual			4
	(b) (ii) Increased number of regional initiatives that promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation	Target	7		
		Estimate		5	
		Actual			3
(c) Strengthened national institutional frameworks to facilitate technology transfer	(c) (i) Increased number of member States that participate in initiatives to transfer technology for development and innovation	Target	17		
		Estimate		16	
		Actual			15
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States that develop cross-sectoral plans for the transfer of technology for more competitive economies	Target	3		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0

### Strategy

19.34 The Technology for Development Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 4. Technology and knowledge play a major role in the move towards a productive knowledge society. Recent technological advancements have modified the principles of economic growth and affected all economic sectors. The capacity of member States to adapt and contribute to ever-accelerating changes in technology and knowledge varies significantly. With the continued monitoring and implementation of activities pertaining to various sustainable development initiatives, such as the outcome of Rio+20, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), WSIS+10, the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society and the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, work under the subprogramme will harness the power of technology to help and guide member States in their transitions towards information societies and knowledge-based economies.

19.35 To meet the development needs of member States, ESCWA will prepare analytical studies with policy recommendations, convene meetings, provide advisory services and implement development projects in partnership with national and regional stakeholders. ESCWA will endeavour to enhance regional collaboration and foster partnerships aimed at harnessing research and development in technology and innovation for socioeconomic development. The various activities undertaken will serve as catalysts for change in national and regional policymaking and will help member States to devise result-driven strategies. They will promote the adoption of comprehensive sets of measurements and indicators aimed at informing strategic decision-making and identifying priority areas of policy action. ESCWA will also rely on feedback from member States and on regional and global benchmarking exercises to assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress and evaluate the impact of technology on national and regional economies. To help the human resources of the region reap the benefits of technology and knowledge advancement, ESCWA will undertake field projects that incorporate a social dimension, seek the active involvement of local communities, pay special attention to the employment needs of young people and advocate the empowerment of women.

19.36 More specifically, the work of ESCWA under the subprogramme will leverage technology to smooth the transition of Arab countries towards the knowledge economy and information society. It will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of technological sectors, creating enabling environments, promoting the development of innovative e-services and advocating the adoption and implementation of new trends in e-government, with a special emphasis on open government initiatives. The ESCWA Technology Centre (Amman) will assist production sectors, universities and research centres in member States to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to adapt and develop suitable technologies that are critical to solving sustainability challenges. To make information and communications technology (ICT) accessible to all segments of the region's population, ESCWA will work to enhance the ICT infrastructure in member States, implement a regional backbone and promote cheaper access rates to broadband and mobile services.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 4 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) the political situation in the region is conducive to socioeconomic development; (b) the security environment does not deteriorate; (c) member States have the capacity and commitment to reorient their economic and social structures and policies; (d) national institutions are willing to provide relevant and timely information; and (e) member States are committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 4:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Committee on Technology for Development on its first session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Technology for Development*

a. Substantive servicing of the second session of the Committee on Technology for Development (4);

b. Parliamentary documentation:

Progress in implementing the Arab Internet Governance Forum (AIGF) process and the Arab Internet Governance Road Map 2018-2019 (1).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

a. Expert group meeting on strategies for the implementation of intellectual property rights to promote innovation in the Arab region (1);

b. Expert group meeting on the competitive advantage of information and communications technology (ICT) sectors in Arab countries for digital economy growth and regional integration (1);

c. Expert group meeting on the impact of artificial intelligence and the latest technological revolution (Internet of Things) on production functions, economic structures, productivity in manufacturing and other sectors (2);

d. Expert group meeting on technology and innovation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);

e. Regional conference on technologies for the achievement of SDGs (1).

- (iv) *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs under their established mandates*

Assistance to the League of Arab States on Internet governance, automated digital network systems, the digital economy, innovation policies, enhanced ICT cooperation, ICT strategy, science, technology and innovation (STI) and ICTs for the SDGs, digital Arabic content and entrepreneurship – 2018-2019 (2).

- (b) *Other substantive activities*

- (i) *Recurrent publications*

ESCWA technology bulletin – 2018-2019 (2).

- (ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. Enhancing productivity and achieving economic growth using technology in the Arab region (1);
- b. Strategies for the implementation of intellectual property rights for public research and technology to promote innovation in the Arab region (1);
- c. Promoting the role of innovation for the realization of SDGs in the Arab countries (1);
- d. Competitive advantage of ICT sectors in Arab countries for digital economy growth and regional integration (1);
- e. Promoting institutional frameworks towards smart sectors and industries for sustainable development – 2018 (1);
- f. Policy advice to promote the transformation towards the digital economy and smart society (1).

- (iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

- a. Reference guide on strategies for the implementation of intellectual property rights on public research and technology in the Arab region (1);
- b. Brochure on the Information Society and Digital Economy Hub for the Arab Region (ISDEHAR) programme and partnership schemes (1);
- c. Flyer on Arab Internet Governance Road Map 2.0 and Forum 2.0 (1);
- d. Leaflet on the Arab Digital Agenda (1);
- e. Brochure: open government in the Arab region (1);
- f. Wall chart: open government in the Arab region (1).

- (iv) *Technical material*

- a. Technology entrepreneurship: opportunities and constraints for Arab youth and women (1);
- b. Study on ICTs, digital economy, STI and SDGs (1);
- c. Report on technology and innovation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1);
- d. Practical guidelines, media programmes (video) and infographics to raise awareness about the role of innovation in the realization of SDGs (1).



(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

- (i) Contribution to the outputs and activities of the Inter-Agency Task Team on STI (1);
- (ii) Contribution to the Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) (1);
- (iii) Substantive contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development – 2018-2019 (2);
- (iv) Substantive contribution to the ESCWA Centre for Women non-recurrent publication on gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men (1);
- (v) Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team on STI for SDGs (1).

**SUBPROGRAMME 5. STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING**

**Objective:** To transform the regional statistical system into a well-coordinated and functional system of national and regional statistics producing and sharing statistical data in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) Improved coordination within the regional statistical system supporting data-sharing and joint statistical capacity development	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt agreements and guidelines for a regional statistical system	Target	18		
		Estimate		15	
		Actual			12
	(a) (ii) Increased number of harmonized databases, joint questionnaires and joint data products	Target	30		
		Estimate		21	
		Actual			15
(b) Increased availability of statistics for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda through implementation of statistical standards, guidelines and recommendations	(b) (i) Increased proportion of sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation produced at the national level	Target	80%		
		Estimate		50%	
		Actual			30%
	(b) (ii) Increased number of member States that provide at least 60 per cent of core socioeconomic indicators for the core data sets	Target	18		
		Estimate		16	
		Actual			14
(c) Increased availability of statistical data about the region, based on data produced and disseminated by member States to achieve national and regional goals	(c) (i) Increased number of statistical methodologies, indexes and data sets developed and adopted in the framework of the ESCWA Statistical Committee	Target	8		
		Estimate		6	
		Actual			4
	(c) (ii) Increased number of initiatives developed using statistical methodologies, indexes and data sets	Target	27		
		Estimate		9	
		Actual			4

## Strategy

19.37 The Statistics Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 5. There is a continued need to improve the quality, relevance, availability and comparability of statistics in the region. Those improvements must be made primarily within the national statistical systems of member States.

19.38 In that context, ESCWA will offer a comprehensive institutional framework to steer the regional statistical development agenda, in cooperation with regional and international partners. It will provide capacity development to member States in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Data and statistical enhancements will be critical for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

19.39 Institutional development to improve official statistics will therefore remain the first priority, in order to enable member States to produce quality statistics that meet international standards and recommendations. ESCWA will support member States in improving their institutional set-up and official statistics framework in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. It will also assist them in assessing national statistical systems to define strategies for the development of statistics. This will include developing the technical capacity and skills needed to conduct statistical surveys and censuses, as well as promoting the exchange of knowledge and good practices between member States.

19.40 In the light of the 2030 Agenda and a needs analysis for the development of official statistics in the region, the following thematic areas will be addressed: civil registration and vital statistics; multidimensional poverty; population and housing censuses (2020 round); statistical business registers; national accounts; statistics on trade in services; price statistics; environment statistics; and key development indicators.

19.41 Currently, official statistics do not sufficiently cover the areas of governance and security, statistics in conflict, human rights and well-being. Taking into consideration that the ESCWA technical and resource capacity may not be sufficient to incorporate those new thematic areas, a broader partnership incorporating academia and civil society organizations may be necessary.

19.42 ESCWA will also work with regional and global partners, including the League of Arab States, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Centre (GCC-STAT), the regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO). The partnerships will also involve parties in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, such as the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

19.43 ESCWA is mandated to provide data and analytical services to stakeholders in member States, in partner organizations and within ESCWA, primarily on the basis of data produced by national statistical systems. It will conduct user-needs surveys and satisfaction surveys periodically to assess the impact of the data disseminated and adjust the data collection and dissemination programme accordingly.

19.44 The Statistics Division is primarily responsible for the quality of data collected and released by ESCWA. It will prepare annual data collection plans to coordinate requests by all ESCWA divisions. Other ESCWA divisions will continue to collect specific statistical data for their analysis and studies.

19.45 ESCWA will work towards formulating consensus-based agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics, under the auspices of the ESCWA Statistical Committee. This work will be delegated to advisory groups established for specific priority areas. ESCWA will then work

with national statistical systems to implement the new methodologies and guidelines developed through these advisory groups.

19.46 To enhance coherence among regional and international statistical agencies, ESCWA will play an active role in the cooperation and coordination initiatives taken by regional and global statistical systems.

19.47 ESCWA will act as a centre of excellence and a forum for the exchange of views on statistical issues; provide training at the national, subregional and regional levels; work on data quality assurance, estimation techniques and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations in cooperation with national statistical offices; respond to requests for technical assistance; and assist in the exchange of expertise between member States.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 5 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States authorize their institutions to request and use the capacity-building and other resources put at their disposal by ESCWA; (b) there is political acceptance of specific international statistical standards; (c) data are made available from national sources for specific countries/indicators; (d) appropriate technological and publishing tools are available; (e) particular statistical subject matter areas are not affected by large gaps between more and less statistically advanced countries; and (f) regional and international partners remain committed to a coordinated approach to statistical capacity-building and to collecting and sharing statistical data.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 5:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Statistical Committee on its twelfth session (1).

(ii) *Statistical Committee*

- a. Substantive servicing of the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee (4);
- b. Servicing of the sixth meeting of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee (1);
- c. Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Statistical Committee on its thirteenth session (1).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Technical advisory group on economic statistics – 2018-2019 (2);
- b. Technical advisory group on demographic and social statistics –2018-2019 (2);
- c. Expert group meeting on demographic and social statistics (1);
- d. Expert group meeting on SDGs (1);
- e. Expert group meeting on emerging issues of official statistics (1);
- f. Meeting of the working group of the Statistical Committee – 2018-2019 (2).

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Arab Society – Compendium on Social Indicators (1);
- b. Statistical report on SDGs (1);
- c. e-Bulletin on industrial statistics in the Arab region (1);
- d. e-Bulletin on external trade statistics in the Arab region (1);
- e. e-Bulletin on national accounts studies in the Arab region (1);
- f. e-Bulletin on gender in figures in the Arab region (1).

(ii) *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, documentary and feature programmes*

Statistical data portal (1).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

- a. Statistical newsletter – 2018-2019 (2);
- b. Ensaf – gender statistics newsletter – 2018-2019 (2);
- c. Country profiles – 2018-2019 (2).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Study on refugee statistics (1);
- b. Background and discussion documents and presentations for global statistical events (1);
- c. Background and discussion documents and presentations for regional statistical events (1);
- d. Methodological study on economic statistics – 2019 (1);
- e. Methodological study on demographic and social statistics – 2019 (1);
- f. Glossary of statistical terms on selected statistical subject-matter areas (1);
- g. Quarterly inflation outlook – 2018-2019 (2);
- h. Technical material on gender statistics (1);
- i. Technical material on disability statistics (1);
- j. Data compilation for ESCWA: covering recurrent data products and specific needs of other subprogrammes – 2018-2019 (2);
- k. Developing and testing a methodology to identify clear and accurate baselines for national targets and relevant indicators (1).

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

- (i) Inter-agency and expert group on gender statistics (1);
- (ii) RCM taskforce meeting on statistics – 2018-2019 (2).

(d) *Internal oversight services*

Evaluation of subprogramme 5 (1).

### SUBPROGRAMME 6. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

**Objective:** To reduce gender imbalances and promote the empowerment of women, in line with international conventions and outcomes of conferences.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures		
		2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) Strengthened national institutional and legal frameworks to promote gender equality and gender justice, including the elimination of violence against women	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt strategies and plans promoting gender equality and gender justice	Target	6	
		Estimate		3
		Actual		2
	(a) (ii) Increased number of legislative reforms aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women, gender inequality and/or violence against women	Target	11	
		Estimate		9
		Actual		7
(b) Increased gender mainstreaming in national policies	(b) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt policies and plans to mainstream gender	Target	10	
		Estimate		8
		Actual		6
(c) Increased monitoring and evaluation by member States of regional and institutional obligations on gender equality	(c) (i) Increased number of member States that submit reports on their implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and responding to the observations of the CEDAW Committee	Target	8	
		Estimate		6
		Actual		5
	(c) (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt national plans to implement and report on the achievement of Goal 5 and gender-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Target	6	
		Estimate		3
		Actual		0

#### Strategy

19.48 The ESCWA Centre for Women is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 6. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will continue to work with member States to reduce gender imbalances, increase the respect of the rights of women and encourage the exchange of lessons learned, pursuing the ultimate goals of promoting regional integration, implementing the 2030 Agenda, and achieving inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region. To do so, ESCWA will work closely with national machineries for the advancement of women, national stakeholders, United Nations agencies and regional organizations to facilitate change by filling the knowledge gap and equipping member States with relevant tools to achieve gender equality and the advancement of women at all social, economic and institutional levels.

19.49 With respect to regional integration, ESCWA will build on the shared characteristics and challenges in order to create a platform for the adoption of regional measures in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It will seek to coordinate a regional position and enhance regional synergies by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms and strategies in line with the international obligations of Arab States. ESCWA will give particular attention to subregions currently in or emerging from conflict.

19.50 ESCWA will also support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the provision of tools, advisory services and programmes to strengthen the capacity of national institutions, especially national machineries for the advancement of women, to develop and implement gender-sensitive and gender-specific strategies and action plans, particularly in the area of violence against women, ending harmful practices, and ensuring women's full and effective participation in public life.

19.51 ESCWA will foster inclusive growth and social justice in the Arab region by enhancing the knowledge and institutional capacities of member States to comply with their international obligations. It will assist them in identifying and overcoming gaps in the implementation of regional and international instruments, in particular concerning social, economic and governance issues.

19.52 In order to reach those objectives, ESCWA will conduct evidence-based research and prepare high-quality knowledge products, including in-depth studies, situation analyses and policy briefs. It will design and deliver tailor-made capacity-building programmes and tools, including training modules, based on international standards and responding to the needs of the region. It will partner with national and regional stakeholders and implement joint activities, including expert group meetings, workshops, thematic conferences and awareness-raising events on women's rights and gender equality.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 6 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is a political will for enhancing the role of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and strengthening dialogue with civil society; (b) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; and (c) current political changes in the region do not reverse acquired gains in gender equality.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 6:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

Report of the Committee on Women on its eighth session (1).

(ii) *Committee on Women*

Substantive servicing of the ninth session of the Committee on Women (4).

(iii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on gender justice and intersecting inequalities (1);
- b. Expert group meeting on the gender justice strategy (1);
- c. Expert group meeting on Horizon 2030: what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the SDGs (1);
- d. Expert group meeting on gender equality in recovery from war to work for all women and men (1);
- e. Expert group meeting on the Status of Arab Women Report on Violence against Women: Cultural and Political Dynamics (1);
- f. Expert group meeting on women's advancement with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(b) *Other substantive activities*(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Gender justice and intersecting inequalities (1);
- b. Status of Arab Women Report on Violence against Women: Cultural and Political Dynamics (1).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. Horizon 2030: what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the SDGs (1);
- b. Gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men (1);
- c. Survey on national women's machineries (1).

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

Poster and info kit on gender justice (1).

(iv) *Technical material*

- a. Policy brief on gender justice and its links with SDGs, or on member States' experiences in promoting gender justice (1);
- b. Policy brief on gender and SDGs (1 of 2) (1);
- c. Policy brief on gender and SDGs (2 of 2) (1);
- d. Policy brief on gender equality in post-conflict recovery settings (1);
- e. Policy brief on combating violence against women in the Arab region using the estimation of its cost as a tool (1);
- f. Report on the Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Women and Girls (1);
- g. Gender and SDGs: the reporting process (1);
- h. Report on the advancement of women with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(v) *Special events*

- a. International Women's Day 2018 (focus on gender justice) (1);
- b. International Women's Day 2019 (focus on women, peace and security) (1);
- c. Gender discussion series: selected topic on gender justice and SDGs (1 of 4) (1);
- d. Gender discussion series: gender and the SDGs (2 of 4) (1);
- e. Gender discussion series: gender equality in post-conflict recovery (3 of 4) (1);
- f. Gender discussion series: combating violence against women in the Arab region (4 of 4) (1);
- g. Annual advocacy events on prevention of violence against women – 2018-2019 (including 16 days of activism against gender-based violence) (2).

## SUBPROGRAMME 7. CONFLICT MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Objective:** To mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address the development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
			2018-2019	2016-2017	2014-2015
(a) More effective responses by member States to address the root causes and impact of conflict and to mitigate its spillover effects	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt strategies and measures to address the root causes and impact of conflict and the potential relapse into conflict	Target	2		
		Estimate		1	
		Actual			0
	(a) (ii) Increased number of member States that seek and receive technical assistance on effectively responding to the impact of conflict and crises, addressing their root causes and mitigating their spillover effects	Target	4		
		Estimate		2	
		Actual			0
(b) Further developed national and regional institutions to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region, and to advance efforts to assist the Palestinian people in securing their inalienable rights and enhancing their resilience	(b) (i) Increased number of national and regional institutions that utilize ESCWA analysis and policy recommendations on the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region	Target	2		
		Estimate		0	
		Actual			0
	(b) (ii) Increased number of national and regional institutions that receive technical assistance in capacity-building for mitigating the impact of the Israeli occupation	Target	5		
		Estimate		3	
		Actual			0
(c) Strengthened resilience of public institutions in member States, including least developed countries, to develop governance strategies responding to the institutional and development challenges associated with social and economic transformations in the region	(c) (i) Increased number of member States, including least developed countries, that develop cross-sectoral policies to respond to challenges associated with social and economic transformations in the region	Target	3		
		Estimate		2	
		Actual			1
	(c) (ii) Increased number of partnerships between least developed countries and development partners towards the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020	Target	2		
		Estimate		0	
		Actual			0



## **Strategy**

19.53 The Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 7. Conflict, occupation and their spillover effects have greatly impeded development in the Arab region. They have placed enormous strain on public institutions, which will hinder their ability to lead in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the attainment of inclusive growth, social justice and peaceful and inclusive societies.

19.54 A number of member States are experiencing conflict or are directly threatened by it. The Israeli occupation in Palestine and of other Arab lands continues. Underperforming economies and the accumulation of institutional challenges in conflict-stricken countries have been coupled with fragmentation, the mushrooming of armed non-State actors, the spread of radical exclusivist ideologies, massive human rights violations and direct foreign military intervention. These have yielded great human suffering, including hundreds of thousands of fatalities, millions of displaced and capital destruction estimated in billions of United States dollars. Conflicting domestic and foreign interests have served to prolong conflict and challenge resolution efforts. Protracted conflict has posed unprecedented development and institutional challenges not only to ESCWA member States but also to countries beyond the Arab region. These challenges bear serious immediate and generational development costs that are presently unknown and require urgent articulation of appropriate policies and programmes.

19.55 To achieve the expected accomplishments of subprogramme 7, ESCWA will focus on: (a) enhancing the capacity of member States to address the root causes of conflict, analyse its impact on development and mitigate its spillover effects; (b) strengthening local and regional capacities to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region, and assist the Palestinian people in securing their inalienable rights and enhancing their resilience; and (c) supporting member States, including least developed countries, in formulating nationally led and owned strategies to respond to institutional and development challenges associated with transformations in the region.

19.56 ESCWA will support member States in understanding and responding to conflict through high-quality research and analysis, including on the origins, proximate causes and dynamics of conflict at the country and regional levels. Through policy-oriented research, ESCWA will identify the immediate and the generational repercussions of conflict on development, including on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in member States and the region. ESCWA will also identify the monitoring and analytical needs of member States to enhance their capacity in those areas and consequently in the formulation of mitigation policies and programmes.

19.57 ESCWA will undertake analytical and programmatic activities, in consultation with Palestinian institutions, to: (a) raise awareness of and concern on the impact and cost of occupation on development in Palestine and the region; (b) enhance the capacity of public and civic institutions to mitigate the negative impact of occupation on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; (c) support institutions seeking to advocate Palestinian rights, attain justice and implement international law; and (d) mobilize resources to assist the Palestinian people and their institutions. ESCWA will also solicit regional and international expertise and cooperate with national, regional and international entities, while ensuring Palestinian ownership throughout the process.

19.58 Through analytical work, ESCWA will promote reconciliation and will help to identify the critical set of institutions and sequencing of reforms needed in countries in transition or phasing to transition out of conflict. It will assist them in achieving peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies, providing justice for all and building accountable institutions, which are key prerequisites for progress in all other SDGs. To this end, ESCWA will foster impartial “spaces” of dialogue and will design and implement training modules to enhance the capacity of public institutions in essential service delivery. It will also assist the Arab least developed countries in formulating national development plans that reflect the priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action, designing risk assessment methodologies to foster resilience towards external and internal shocks, and

maximizing synergies for the implementation of SDGs. Support to least developed countries will be provided in close cooperation with national institutions, other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the region, and through South-South cooperation activities with other conflict-affected least developed countries in Africa and Asia.

### **External factors**

Subprogramme 7 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is no sudden shortfall in funding; (b) the political environment in some member States remains conducive to institutional capacity-building based on good governance practices; and (c) State institutions are not reluctant to introducing participatory approaches in planning processes.

### **Outputs**

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered under subprogramme 7:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (thirtieth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

- a. Impact of conflict on development in the Arab region (1);
- b. Report on the socioeconomic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (1);
- c. Report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan – 2018-2019 (2).

(ii) *Ad hoc expert meetings*

- a. Expert group meeting on mitigating the ramifications of conflict through development (1);
- b. Round table on SDG 16: strengthening conflict prevention capacities through early warning systems (1);
- c. Expert group meeting on measuring and analysing the cost of the Israeli occupation (1);
- d. Expert group meeting on monitoring governance progress (1);
- e. Expert group meeting on building institutions in conflict-affected countries (1);
- f. Joint League of Arab States/Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO)/ESCWA Annual Conference December – 2018-2019 (2);
- g. Policy dialogue on the problematic of methodologies and data in conflict analysis (1);
- h. Round table on the plight of the Palestinian refugees: impact and opportunities (1);
- i. Expert group meeting on conflict, crisis and occupation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Trends and Impacts in Conflict Settings, Issue No. 6 – 2018 (1);
- b. Arab Governance Report IV (1);
- c. Palestine and the Israeli occupation, No. 2 (1).

- (ii) *Non-recurrent publications*
  - The challenges to development in current conflict settings (1).
- (iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*
  - a. Wall chart on the impact of conflict and occupation on the socioeconomic development of the Palestinian people – 2018-2019 (2);
  - b. Booklet on the impact of conflict in the Arab region – 2018-2019 (2);
  - c. Booklet on the impact of occupation – 2018-2019 (2);
  - d. The repercussions of Israeli occupation on development outcomes – 2018-2019 (2).
- (iv) *Technical material*
  - a. The role of education, skills and employment in competitiveness in a conflict or fragile setting (1);
  - b. Understanding risks of violent conflict: evidence from the Arab region (1);
  - c. Working paper: monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action – 2018-2019 (2);
  - d. Changing nature of conflict dynamics and the need for a regional approach (1);
  - e. The socioeconomic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (1);
  - f. The cumulative and comprehensive cost of occupation (1);
  - g. Local governance in fragile contexts (1);
  - h. Institutional development: socioeconomic transformation for recovery and conflict relapse prevention (1);
  - i. The impact of protracted displacement of Palestinians on their human development (1);
  - j. Post-conflict economic governance reform (1);
  - k. Report on conflict, crisis and occupation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda (1).
- (v) *Special events*
  - a. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – 2018-2019 (2);
  - b. Side event to the Economic and Social Council meeting – 2018-2019 (2).
- (c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*
  - (i) Contribution to the Annual Conference of the Governance Institutes Forum for Training in the Middle East and North Africa Network/Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance/ECRI – 2018-2019 (2);
  - (ii) Contribution to the work of the United Nations Country Teams and Regional United Nations entities in conflict-affected countries – 2018-2019 (2);
  - (iii) Contribution to the United Nations Public Administration Network website with ESCWA publications and training modules on governance – 2018-2019 (2);
  - (iv) Contribution to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region (2);
  - (v) Contribution to a publication on competitiveness in conflict settings (1).

Annex

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

*General mandates*

*General Assembly resolutions*

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 68/196 | United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development   |
| 68/210 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development |
| 68/224 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries   |
| 68/241 | United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region  |
| 68/309 | Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288   |
| 69/214 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development |
| 69/230 | Culture and sustainable development  |
| 69/239 | South-South cooperation  |
| 69/244 | Organization of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda   |
| 69/277 | Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations   |
| 69/307 | Cross-cutting issues   |
| 69/315 | Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda   |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1818 (LV) | Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia   |
| 1985/69   | Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission          |
| 1998/46   | Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields |
| 2014/9    | Report of the Committee for Development Policy   |

- 2014/36 Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the Executive Committee and amendment of its terms of reference
- 2015/11 Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session
- 2015/15 Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- 2015/26 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2015/30 Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda
- 2015/32 Admission of Mauritania as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 314 (XXVIII) The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
- 315 (XXVIII) Establishing an intergovernmental committee on technology for development
- 316 (XXVIII) Support for the Palestinian people
- 317 (XXVIII) Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017
- 318 (XXVIII) Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 319 (XXVIII) Adoption of the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015
- 320 (XXVIII) Redesignating the Technical Committee as the “Executive Committee” and amending its terms of reference
- 321 (XXVIII) Redesignating the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the “Economic and Social Commission for Arab States”
- (No number) Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region

**Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources  
for sustainable development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/206 Oil slick on Lebanese shores
- 68/208 Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea
- 68/209 Agricultural technology for development

- 68/211 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 68/212 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- 68/213 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- 68/214 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
- 68/215 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 68/217 Sustainable mountain development
- 68/233 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
- 69/215 International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources
- 69/220 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- 69/221 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- 69/222 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
- 69/225 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 69/240 Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
- 69/245 Oceans and law of the sea
- 69/292 Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2012/27 Human settlements

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 281 (XXV) Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region
- 305 (XXVII) Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference

## **Subprogramme 2. Social development**

### *General Assembly resolutions*

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 68/130 | Policies and programmes involving youth  |
| 68/131 | Promoting social integration through social inclusion  |
| 68/133 | Cooperatives in social development   |
| 68/137 | Violence against women migrant workers   |
| 68/143 | Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa  |
| 68/181 | Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders |
| 69/142 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond  |
| 69/143 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly  |
| 69/229 | International migration and development  |

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2014/3  | Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development  |
| 2014/4  | Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development   |
| 2014/5  | Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all        |
| 2014/6  | Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda)                     |
| 2015/3  | Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development   |
| 2015/4  | Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda |
| 2015/10 | 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme  |

### *ESCWA resolutions*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 295 (XXVI)  | Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An opportunity for Development |
| 304 (XXVII) | The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development  |

### **Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

68/199	International trade and development
68/200	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
68/201	International financial system and development
68/202	External debt sustainability and development
68/204	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
68/222	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
68/269	Improving global road safety
68/279	Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development
69/205	International trade and development
69/207	External debt sustainability and development
69/208	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
69/227	Towards a New International Economic Order
69/235	Industrial development cooperation
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2014/5	Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
2014/11	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

#### *ESCWA resolutions*

296 (XXVI)	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
303 (XXVII)	Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries
313 (XXVII)	Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region



#### **Subprogramme 4. Technology for development and regional integration**

##### *General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/198 Information and communications technologies for development
- 68/209 Agricultural technology for development
- 68/220 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 68/302 Modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 68/310 Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies
- 69/204 Information and communications technologies for development

##### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/27 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- 2014/28 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 2014/35 Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- 2015/27 Science, technology and innovation for development

##### *ESCWA resolutions*

- 294 (XXVI) Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre
- 306 (XXVII) Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

#### **Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

##### *General Assembly resolution*

- 68/261 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

##### *Economic and Social Council resolution*

- 2014/31 A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

##### *ESCWA resolutions*

- 276 (XXIV) Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region

- 283 (XXV) ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
- 286 (XXV) Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
- 287 (XXV) Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking
- 297 (XXVI) Arab MDG monitor for societal progress

**Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/137 Violence against women migrant workers
- 68/138 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 68/139 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
- 68/140 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 68/181 Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders
- 68/191 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
- 68/227 Women in development
- 69/147 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
- 69/149 Trafficking in women and girls
- 69/150 Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations
- 69/151 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
- 69/236 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/1 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2014/2 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2015/6 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
- 2015/12 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

- 2015/13            Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2015/21            Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

**Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/211            International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- 68/235            Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources
- 68/278            Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- 68/303            Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution
- 69/291            Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- 69/327            Promoting inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/1            Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- 2014/26            Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 271 (XXIV)        Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development
- 282 (XXV)        Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries
- 292 (XXVI)        Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings
- 296 (XXVI)        Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals

*Security Council resolution*

- 1947 (2010)        Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

-----