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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT**EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON “MDGS AND CONFLICT”
BEIRUT, 27 SEPTEMBER 2011****Summary**

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) “Sustainable Development under Crisis Conditions: Conflict and the MDGs” (Beirut, 27 September 2011) aimed at bringing together experts in the field of conflict and development in order to make a significant contribution to the conflict-MDG nexus debate, particularly in the Middle East region. The meeting examined the relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) specifically and development more generally, including conflict onset, perpetuation and relapse.

Participants made a number of recommendations which are pertinent to member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region that are affected by conflict. In light of current changes and reforms in the region, participants underscored the need to look at both conflict and development as being mutually related, to aim for long term solutions such as macroeconomic stability and growth, raising employability and education quality, placing greater emphasis on economic and social equality, creating efficient fiscal space and MDG-friendly budgets, and to assure that development practitioners coordinate aid with national governments, while ensuring that indigenous governance practices are developed. Other recommendations included strengthening governmental efforts to preserve water resources, the drafting of National Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (NPRS) in a participatory manner, and moving towards multi-year budgeting.

This report summarizes the main debates and concerns raised by conflict and development experts in a variety of contexts. Although not comprehensive, it aims at conveying the abundance of strategies and recommendations advanced during the EGM for managing the challenges faced by conflict affected countries in achieving MDGs and emphasizes the need for further research in order to provide a strong theoretical foundation that can help address the complexity of the conflict MDG nexus.

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Introduction

1. The study titled “Trends and Impacts in Conflict Settings: Conflict and MDGs. Issue No. 2” in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region ascertains that the impact of conflict on development is a well studied relation but is one in need of revisiting, as the strength and direction of the relationship varies across countries and conflict types. The study revisits the literature within the prism of the ESCWA region, paying particular attention to Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, the Sudan, and Yemen. More specifically, the paper uses MDGs as a subset of the larger development agenda to better establish a framework for the conflict and development nexus, suggest methods of quantifying the economic and development costs of conflict, and how concepts such as fiscal space can be utilized to ameliorate the effects of conflict on MDG attainments.
2. The mentioned study was used as a discussion document for the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Conflict and MDGs, which concluded that “governments of the conflict affected countries are committed to achieving MDG targets but will fail to do so by the suggested 2015 end date”. However, participants explained that certain progress is expected owing to natural economic progress and that the process as a whole has improved the lives of millions of the poorest, which is more meaningful than achieving targets by a set date. Finally, the study provides a series of recommendations that conflict affected countries in the ESCWA region should consider in order to accelerate their progression towards meeting the MDGs.
3. ESCWA, through its regional role and diverse areas of expertise, is uniquely situated to examine the challenges involved in MDGs attainment under conflict conditions. ESCWA’s section for Emerging Conflicts and Related Issues (ECRI) hopes that this deliberative exercise will help advance the prospects for development in conflict, not only for planners and practitioners in the region but also in other post-war areas confronting similar challenges, or other similar conditions of political instability or socio-economic uncertainties.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The EGM concluded its deliberations with a number of recommendations for development practitioners, governments and the ESCWA Secretariat.
5. Set forth below are the principal recommendations adopted by the EGM’s participants at the conclusion of their deliberations:

A. PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND FISCAL SPACE

(a) Improve the efficiency of public investment and increase the ratio of private investment to public investment. Public investment, like all public expenditures, needs to be financed with distortionary taxes, which tends to hurt economic growth. When public investment projects in a country are predominantly unproductive, their overall effect is to reduce the growth rate. What matters for growth is not the overall level of investment but its quality and efficiency;

(b) Fiscal policy worldwide is characterized by a trade-off between reducing the provision of public goods and services and increasing the government’s ability to fund these provisions. This initiates the question of the concept of fiscal space, which can help to determine a government’s potential for resource mobilisation. This concept is created and analysed through the following fiscal instruments: external grants, domestic revenue mobilization, deficit financing (borrowing), and reprioritisation and efficiency of expenditures. Fiscal space is important for MDG achievement because the achievement of MDGs requires a significant scaling up of resources for public investment. The following is noteworthy specifically in relation to the above four mentioned instruments: first, external partners providing grants should be engaged and co-operative and not dictate to country authorities. Second, debt relief should provide one-off relief and should not be counted on for medium and long term planning. Third, overseas aid, primarily Overseas

Development Assistance (ODA), should be studied within the context of its volatility towards long-term planning, its conditionalities, and its effects in suppressing the need for building a domestic revenue base;

(c) Pertaining to resource mobilisation issues, it should be noted that tax base increases should occur without disproportionately harming economic growth and the poor, with less reliance on indirect taxation (which is regressive), more focus on progressive-styled income taxation (i.e. the rich pay more), and a consideration for introducing VAT alongside compensation for the poor. Further resource issues include investigating privatisation feasibility and its impact on MDG achievement. Finally, capital expenditure increases should be considered and the ratio of current/capital expenditures should be clearly demarcated in budgets.

B. EDUCATION

(a) Improve the quality of the education system, ensuring its development meets the employability needs of firms. The education system should be reformed in order to teach students to “learn how to learn” as future workers need to be able to adapt in changing technological and business environments;

(b) Strengthen human rights protection for children living in conflict situations, while ensuring education remains at the centre of a humanitarian response as a force for peace and as both a short and long term goal.

C. DEVELOPMENT COST OF CONFLICT

(a) Conflict has been a central factor in hindering human development throughout the region in Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Somalia, and the Sudan. However, there is no clear evidence that inequality is a cause or a result of conflict, or an explanation for the conflict trap;

(b) The ESCWA region does appear to show a higher cost (both in terms of GDP and MDG-related) to one year of civil conflict relative to the global average. One year of a civil conflict in the region is sufficient to cancel development progress made by an average ESCWA country in 5-10 years, amounts to nearly the average budget spent on education, and its opportunity cost is comparable to absorbing new entrants into the labour market (primarily youth and women);

(c) The potential presence of endogeneity suggests an existence of a ‘feedback-loop’, whereby the process of conflict and de-development feed on each other. In such instances, a ‘circuit-breaker’ is required to turn this symbiotic, vicious cycle into a virtuous cycle;

(d) To minimize the development cost of conflict, governments will have to focus on rebuilding institutions that are conducive to economic activity, promoting regional/international trade, and encouraging savings and investment:

- (i) Closer regional integration and better business environment can increase the peace dividend on these countries;
- (ii) Expansion of family programs, especially in rural areas to improve maternal health, the provision of education (with specific focus on girls’ education), and reduce fertility rates;
- (iii) Strengthen governments’ efforts to preserve water resources and increase their rational utilization;
- (iv) Agriculture in these countries is considered a low value-added activity and is mainly characterized by low productivity farming. It is therefore vital to increase efficiency in rain-fed agriculture and to promote market linkages;

- (v) National Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs) and Sector Wide Approach Programs SWAPs need to mainstream MDGs and be drafted in a participative manner;
- (vi) Donors need to move towards multi-year budgeting regarding assistance to relief agencies working in conflict-affected countries so that they can improve their planning and increase efficiency gains in their operations.

D. PALESTINIAN ISSUES

(a) Palestinian Authorities' efforts to adapt the MDGs to an occupation context should include reformulating MDG1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) to focus mainly on unemployment, adding a target and indicator to MDG3 (promote gender equality and empower women) on violence against women under occupation, and adding indicators on MDG7 (ensure environmental sustainability) on land under Palestinian control and sewage water disposal in Israeli settlement in the Palestinian territories;

(b) Introduce two main goals aiming to build the State and modernize public administration and to ensure domestic stability in Palestinian lands.

E. COUNTRY SPECIFIC: YEMEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

(a) Full achievement of all MDGs by 2015 is not realistic given Yemen's modern history and the drastic increase that would be required in MDG service provision and financing;

(b) Strong gains in MDG indicators in Yemen are possible if aid and/or government efficiency increase and the resulting fiscal space is used to expand MDG or infrastructure services;

(c) Owing to short-to-medium term macroeconomic trade-offs, in the short term Tunisia will have to rely on foreign resources to reconstruct its political system, spur economic growth and broaden the tax base in order to finance development goals. Aid inflow would need to be around 6 per cent of GDP over the next five years (or between US\$2.7 billion and US\$3.9 billion per annum), less than offered by G8;

(d) Resources usage in Tunisia should be based on those learned from the Marshall Plan, which include: a multi-year timeframe; no piecemeal aid, instead coordinated behind a national development strategy; a single conditionality of meeting targets of NDS; allowing for the gradual build-up of institutions and fiscal expansion during post-conflict reconstruction;

(e) Diversifying Tunisian growth through resolving existing labour market frictions and broadening complementary tax base policies are necessary as part of medium-term national development strategies.

II. DISCUSSIONS TOPICS

A. SESSION I: CONFLICT AND MDGs IN THE ESCWA REGIONS: WHERE DO THE CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES STAND RELATIVE TO OTHER ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES?

6. In the first session, panelists discussed conflict and MDGs in the ESCWA region and more specifically where conflict-affected countries stand relative to other ESCWA member countries.

7. There is a pervasive belief that conflict negatively affects MDG attainments. However, poor MDG attainments could also precipitate and perpetuate conflict. If so, we would expect that the ESCWA conflict-affected countries have lower MDG attainments compared to those member states not in conflict. The session debated whether this presumption is consistent with the evidence. The Chair began the session by

laying forth the structure of the EGM surrounding three main issues: an overview of regional trends with a focus on conflict affected countries, the relationship between MDGs and conflict, and their study in specific sectors.

8. The first panelist discussed economic growth in the Arab League countries. He gave a brief overview of the varieties of economic growth models, such as the neo-classical model. He further explained, based on findings from his current econometric study, that growth in the Arab world is not significantly related to measures of conflict and that growth is inversely proportional to government consumption. He concluded his presentation with recommendations pertaining to improving the quality of education, the efficiency of public investment, and increasing the ratio of private investment to public investment. He emphasized that what is significant for economic growth is not the overall level of investment, but its quality and efficiency.

9. The panelists described MDG attainment in conflict affected ESCWA member countries giving specific examples of the Sudan, Yemen, and Palestine. Challenges and causes of conflict and developmental priorities were overviewed and reforms to MDGs were suggested for more sustainable development. A panelist then studied the relationship between conflict and education, which was described as a “hidden crisis”. He stressed the necessity of human rights protection for children living in conflict situations and for putting education at the centre of humanitarian responses as a force for peace.

10. A panelist then presented a study on MDG achievements in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon based on results from the UNRWA-AUB socio-economic household survey. She presented the mythology used followed by the results related to poverty, employment, and food security (hunger). Education, gender equality, and non MDG targets were also covered to highlight that the study has its own limitations, such as non-reliable population data, little information among refugees, and a lack of explanation of the origins of poverty or reasons for its persistence.

11. During the discussion session, a panelist commented on the econometric study showcased suggesting including a governance variable showing the efficiency of public investment. Concerning the relationship between conflict and education, one participant claimed that the education system has failed to provide social cohesion and the production of citizens who can avoid conflict. Instead, the education system has continuously created citizens who are “ideal immigrants”. Moreover, one panelist suggested examining the relationship between the level of intensity of conflict and growth. A final comment in this session suggested adding an inequality coefficient to MDG indicators, stressing that poverty and MDG data were unreliable further suggesting the relationship between growth and conflict in a manner aside from regression analysis should be examined.

B. SESSION II: THE ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS OF CONFLICT

12. During this session, panelists explored the costs of conflict from both a social and economic perspective. Even though it was acknowledged that the costs of conflict are not always quantifiable, the fact remains that most studies into the cost of conflict attempt to find a dollar value of its costs, or at least figures alluding to developmental costs. Participants tried to measure these costs and examined if they suggest an “Arab exceptionalism”.

13. It was also mentioned that expatriating remittances should be viewed as a source of resilience in time of crisis since they have grown rapidly since 2001 and because the Arab world has unique migration terms, such as relying on foreign workers and export labour. For example, Lebanon is the biggest recipient of remittances in the Middle East and experienced a 5.9 per cent growth in remittances during the global financial crisis. Combining the GDP with diaspora remittances creates a gross national disposable income, which the panelist named the remittance effect. Taking Lebanon as an example, he went on to explain that the Lebanese economy benefited from the global financial crisis because of the continuous immigration of its working force and exchange rate effect (Pegged currency and stability). To conclude, he made clear that remittances cannot be a reliable source of income for Lebanon simply due to its political instability and foreign crisis, while suggesting that the authorities need to work on a local level to ensure the continuity of

such remittances. One of the recommendations was to find a link in order to make more efficient use of remittances, bearing in mind that the government cannot sway the population to spend money on development and not on consumption.

14. Concerning the development cost of conflict, there was wide agreement that conflict is a developmental curse but no consensual answer emerged regarding the central issue of an explanation concerning the costs of conflict, reflecting that very little is known on the relationship between the two. In this presentation, the panelist discussed concepts and stylized facts that negatively link conflict and development, such as a disrupted economic activity and an increase in military spending (crowding out effect on private investment). When methodological issues were stated, one panelist cautioned the meeting to study the correlation between conflict and development with care, as correlation is not synonymous with direct causality, especially if facing an omitted variable problem. Treating this relationship as an over-simplified technical issue would turn reform initiatives into “guides”, which jeopardizes the development of sustainable institutions as it only focuses attention on ‘day by day’ issues. In the final section, after disclosing some findings, the panelist gave numerous recommendations related to conflict avoidance and to minimizing its costs on development, while stressing that more research is necessary in order to provide a better theoretical foundation for the present findings.

15. Another panelist described the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region as a region characterized by political instability. He proceeded by examining the root of regional turmoil and focused on a five-cluster analysis by examining each country’s status, positive and negative drivers, risk, policy reforms, fiscal/external positions and socio-political indicators. Regarding reforms, he described MENA’s output loss and presented three scenarios for change along with their characteristics.

16. Inequalities in conflict settings in the ESCWA region was also an important topic. Since the Arab world is considered as conflict prone, an econometric study was conducted by one of the panelists to find out the reality of the current MDG situation and to compare it with the rest of the world. Conflict has been a central factor hampering human development throughout the region, in Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Somalia and the Sudan. The questions that our panelist aimed to answer focused on: “How much was this owing to conflict? How different does the Arab world’s performance on development look when we take into account inequality? And how much of this inequality is due to conflict?” It was also stated that inequality in the Arab region is considered moderate with relatively low levels believed to be an enduring legacy of the Arab social contract. Despite this popular belief, high levels of conflict and moderately low levels of inequality at the individual level suggest that inequality is not a principal cause of conflict. On the other hand, our panelist admitted the unavailability of data concerning the link between conflict in the ESCWA region and group inequality.

C. SESSION III: FISCAL SPACE, MDGs, AND CONFLICT IN ARAB COUNTRIES

17. This final session will overview the concept of fiscal space and present studies of Arab countries, extracting implications for policy making with or without conflict. Panelists discussed different solutions in order to create a pro-development climate. The presence of conflict should not be used as a reason to stop working towards MDG attainments. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that it would be exceedingly difficult to meet targets in the face of conflict and competing interests for limited budgetary resources. Fiscal space can be better utilized in order to ameliorate the effects of conflict on MDG attainments.

18. The issue of MDG budgeting was then discussed. Fiscal policy worldwide was characterized by unlimited requests and limited resources, with all governments aiming to expand their provision of public goods and services to satisfy different parts of society. The dilemma is to be able to satisfy the populations’ needs, without jeopardizing macroeconomic stability and development. In order to do so our panelist suggested the idea of fiscal space (both short and long term approaches). The useful instruments being: external grants, domestic revenue mobilization, deficit financing through borrowing, reprioritization and increased efficiency of expenditures. He then introduced an analysis method known as the fiscal space diamond and suggested analysing its four pillars to determine the potential of resource mobilization, while

advising how to achieve the best results. He also added that fiscal space is important for MDG achievement because it requires significant scaling up of resources for public investment and that its availability to governments determines their ability to mobilize resources.

19. Another panelist suggested a fiscal space for child protection. He proceeded by stating that a child's right to food, health, housing and education, among others, could be advanced through public finance by channeling the maximum available resources for children (Article IV of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and by building long-term institutions for child-friendly policies, as reflected in public sector budgets. A study showing the important factors driving change in different MENA countries was also presented. Since UNICEF is the major player in the domain, key principles for such an engagement could be described as improved equity, through emphasis on non-discrimination, social inclusion and a focus on power relations, and improved efficiency, by helping to achieve the best possible results by contributing to stability, helping to secure adequate resources to sustain investment in the social sectors, and through promoting social protection.

20. The notion of fiscal space creation was revisited by suggesting its creation through increased government receipts (taxes; grant aid; domestic and/or foreign borrowing, if consistent with debt sustainability; and/or increased efficiency in other areas of the government). The panelist introduced the Maquette for MDG simulation (MAMS), gave an overview of its method and data analysis capacity and compared it to other CGE models. He also observed MDG outcome determinants and created a base scenario for Yemen where each MDG has its own projection until 2015 and macroeconomic results for 2011 to 2015. The study concludes that full achievement of all MDGs by 2015 is not realistic given Yemen's history and the drastic increase that would be required in MDG service provision and financing. He further explained that MAMS provides a laboratory for testing the effects of alternative scenarios and integrating available data in a consistent framework based on standard economics.

21. A final presentation touched the current worldwide economic and financial conditions, questioning if we are on the verge of another recession. It claimed that countries with fiscal space conducting counter-cyclical policies have recovered faster and stated that the economic crisis has a lesser impact in countries where social protection and stronger priority human development programs are available. On the other hand, meeting the MDG targets in uncertain and volatile environments is particularly difficult, unless synergies can be found with the need to deal with food security and social inequality, and unless more can be done to build resilience against a volatile global economy. In addition, two interesting cases were discussed, both the Tunisian and the Egyptian revolutions. Tunisia, pre-revolution was one of the fastest growing economies in the MENA region with both pro-poor growth and robust social spending towards MDG achievement. Since one of the panelists negatively linked MDGs and development to conflict, the case appears to be a paradox, although explained as a relatively controlled situation that ran out of hand. A three baseline scenario was also generated for a pre-crisis/conflict, a countercyclical and a cyclical situation in order to demonstrate the achievements of MDG targets, concluding that the MDG strategy does not dynamize the economy in Tunisia and that the revolution inflicted heavy costs upon the economy. The presenting panelist also touched upon numbers related to the Egyptian economy and the impact of the revolution and concluded by giving recommendations in order to dynamize growth.

III. OBJECTIVES

22. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- (a) Examine the relationship between conflict, MDGs and development;
- (b) Propose practical approaches and applicable recommendations to strengthen state institutions and policies, prevent conflict and conflict relapse and in order to build long term sustainable development in the ESCWA region;
- (c) Engage experts in a discussion on the above-mentioned topics.

IV. ATTENDANCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

A. VENUE AND DATE

23. The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on MDGs and Conflict was held at ESCWA headquarters in Beirut on 27 September 2011.

B. ATTENDANCE

24. The EGM was attended by experts from the ESCWA region, Europe and the United States, with experience in MDGs and development in conflict affected countries, and by civil society actors (see annex I for full list of participants).

C. OPENING

25. The meeting opened with a speech by Mr. Tarek Alami, Chief at ESCWA's Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Section (ECRI). Mr. Alami alluded to the sessions' discussion on the need for the development of new paradigms to deal with new conflicts. He also underscored that ESCWA does not work in a vacuum but as the voice of those it represents, continually seeks to work with them in full partnership on setting priorities, through planning, implementing and evaluating activities so as to be a helpful support to them in the present and a solid partner to them in the future.

26. He noted that this EGM will be instrumental in directing the work of ESCWA in the period ahead in accordance with the priorities and concerns of member countries.

D. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

27. The EGM was organized along three panels of experts (see Annex II: Work Programme) that deliberated on the following themes:

Session I: Conflict and MDGs in the ESCWA Region: Where do the Conflict-Affected Countries Stand Relative to other ESCWA member countries?

Session II: The Economic and Development Costs of Conflict.

Session III: Fiscal Space, MDGs, and Conflict in Arab Countries.

28. Mr. Vito Intini (First Economic Officer, ECRI) chaired the first session of the EGM. Mr. Nadim Khouri (Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA) chaired the second session, followed by H.E. George Corm, (Former Lebanese Minister of Finance and Professor at L'Université Saint-Joseph) who chaired the third session. The final discussion and recommendation session was chaired by Mr. Vito Intini and Mr. Tarik Alami, which consisted of a discussion by a panel of experts and ESCWA staff members on the main conclusions and recommendations.

E. DOCUMENTS

29. A draft of the background paper "Trends and impacts in conflict settings: conflict and MDGs. Issue no. 2" was submitted to participants prior to the meeting. No official United Nations documents were submitted during the EGM. All the presentations presented during the EGM were circulated to all the participants.

Annex I*

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Annex II

WORK PROGRAMME

	Tuesday, September 27 2011
	<i>Expert Group Meeting on Conflict and MDGs</i>
8:45-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	<i>Opening Remarks:</i> Tarik Alami, ECRI
9:15-11:00	<p>Session I: Conflict and MDGs in the ESCWA Region: Where do the Conflict-Affected Countries Stand Relative to other ESCWA member Countries?</p> <p>There is an unspoken belief that conflict negatively affects MDG attainments. Poor MDG attainments could also precipitate and perpetuate conflict. If so, we would expect that conflict affected ESCWA member countries have lower MDG attainments compared to those not in conflict. This session will establish if this belief is consistent with the evidence.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Vito Intini, ECRI</p> <p>Economic growth in the Arab countries: A comparative analysis Amjad M. Toukan, Assistant professor, LAU</p> <p>Impact of Regional Trends on Conflict-affected Countries Marwan Barakat, Bank Audi</p> <p>Comparing MDG Attainments between Conflict-Affected ESCWA Member Countries and Member States at Peace: A Broad Overview Parvinder Kler, ECRI</p> <p>Zeina Abla, EDGD</p> <p>Achieving Education-related MDGs in Conflict Settings Idris Higazi, UNESCO</p> <p>MDG Achievement in Refugee Camps Karen Seyfert, University of London, Visiting researcher at AUB</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-13:00	<p>Session II: The Economic and Development Costs of Conflict</p> <p>Whilst acknowledging that the costs of conflict are not always quantifiable, the fact remains that most studies into the cost of conflict attempt to find a dollar value of its costs, or at least figures alluding to developmental costs. What are these costs, and do they suggest an ‘Arab exceptionalism?’</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Nadim Khouri, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA</p>

	Tuesday, September 27 2011 (continued)
	<p>The Cost of Intra-State and Inter-State Conflicts in the ESCWA Region and Beyond Vito Intini, ECRI</p> <p>Inequalities in conflict setting in the Arab region Nisreen Salti, Professor of Economics, AUB</p> <p>Remittances, conflict and development Nassib Ghobril , Chief Economist, Byblos Bank Group</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break (UN House Cafeteria, Ground Floor)
14:00-16:00	<p>Session III: Fiscal Space, MDGs, and Conflict in Arab Countries</p> <p>The presence of conflict should not be used as a reason to stop attempts at reaching MDG attainments. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that it would be exceedingly difficult to do so in the face of conflict and competing interests for limited budgetary resources. Fiscal space can be better utilized in order to ameliorate the effects of conflict on MDG attainments. This session will overview the concept of fiscal space and present studies of Arab countries, extracting implications for policy making in and out of conflict.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> George Corm, Former Minister of Finance, Lebanon</p> <p>Fiscal Space: An Overview Parvinder Kler, ECRI</p> <p>Roberto Benes, UNICEF</p> <p>Fiscal space to achieve the MDGs: lessons for Yemen Hans Lofgren, World Bank</p> <p>Fiscal space and macroeconomic constraints to achieve the MDGs in Tunisia and Egypt: implications for post-conflict policy making Rob Vos & Marco V. Sánchez, DESA</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16:00-16:30	<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Tarik Alami and Vito Intini, ECRI</p>