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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT
OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION
BEIRUT, 14-16 OCTOBER 2008

Summary

The Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its eighth session at United Nations House in Beirut from 14 to 16 October 2008.

The agenda of this session contained several topics of priority, including: promotion of cooperation with other regional organizations on the latest regional initiatives in the field of statistics, revision of programmes and activities dealt with by the Statistical Division, and the formulation of recommendations on developing these programmes in order to enhance the statistical capacity of member countries. The agenda also included other topics important to the region such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), capacity-building in statistics for evidence-based policymaking and a report on the activities of the Regional Task Force on Population and Housing Censuses in the ESCWA Region. It also reviewed progress made in carrying out statistics-related activities and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of statistics.

The agenda also included items relating to the follow-up on the recommendations adopted by the Statistical Committee at its seventh session, progress in carrying out statistical activities between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee, and ESCWA's proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of statistics.

This report includes the recommendations issued by the Committee at the closing of its session.

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Introduction

1. The Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its eighth session, pursuant to resolution 179 (XVI) dated 2 September 1992, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2 dated 2 February 1993, concerning setting up a statistical committee within ESCWA, and in accordance with the recommendations issued at the closing of the seventh session of the Committee held in Beirut on 7-9 November 2006. These recommendations were adopted by member countries at the meetings of the twenty-fifth ESCWA session held in Sana'a on 26-29 May 2008.
2. This report includes the most important recommendations adopted by the Statistical Committee at its eighth session. The Committee adopted this report at its closing meeting on 16 October 2008.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

3. At the closing of its eighth session, the Committee issued a set of recommendations, broken down into those addressed to the member countries and those addressed to ESCWA.

A. ADDRESSED TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

- (1) Present the Executive Secretariat with a request for any technical advice needed;
- (2) Implement the decisions of the Ministerial Committee on Statistics and use them to strengthen national statistical systems of member countries;
- (3) Prepare regular national reports on progress made towards attaining development goals at the national level, through coordination among national bodies and United Nations organizations;
- (4) Finalize the formulation and implementation of national strategies for developing statistics;
- (5) Support the efforts of the Task Force on Population and Housing Censuses in the ESCWA region by making a greater effort to provide the funding required for its work.

B. ADDRESSED TO ESCWA

- (1) Respond, as resources allow, to the requests of member countries for advisory services;
- (2) Activate and accelerate the work of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division in order to improve the outcomes of ESCWA services;
- (3) Invite the heads of national statistical offices (NSOs) to attend the meetings of senior officials held prior to the convening of the Ministerial Committee whenever its agenda includes draft resolutions on statistical work;
- (4) Prepare a study on the status of gender statistics in the member countries and on member countries' statistical capacity and needs;
- (5) Create databases in order to constitute a gender observatory for monitoring gender statistics in the member countries;
- (6) Prepare a manual on the definitions, terms and methodologies used in gender statistics, in coordination with the national teams working in the member countries and the relevant regional agencies;
- (7) Convene, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, specialized workshops on the mechanisms for calculating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators according to the revised framework;

(8) Actively participate in the Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, by providing the resources necessary to prepare, in collaboration with the Steering Committee on Measuring the Progress of Arab Countries, a study on the development of indicators and a mechanism for measuring progress at the regional level, given that a paper on the progress made in this field will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting;

(9) Retain the publication on foreign trade while introducing the improvements recommended in the evaluation study presented during this session;

(10) Cooperate with the relevant international agencies on providing technical assistance to member countries to enhance their capacity for making use of modern techniques for statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX), and provide financial assistance to those countries willing to participate in relevant workshops;

(11) Pay heed to countries that have not fully applied the basic principles of formal statistics, provide them with the necessary technical assistance, and make use of best practice and of cooperation and twinning mechanisms for this purpose;

(12) Accelerate the process of recruiting for all vacant posts at the Statistical Division and nominate, as soon as possible, a regional advisor on social statistics so that this division can better fulfil its duties;

(13) Put forward, beginning of 2009, a working proposal for the International Comparison Programme (ICP), in preparation for the 2011 round of the programme, and submit it to member countries for discussion.

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

A. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL WORK CARRIED OUT SINCE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

4. Under this item, the Committee was presented with three documents. In the first of these (E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3(Part I)), the Committee took note of what had been accomplished by way of implementing the recommendations of its seventh session. In the second (E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3 (Part II)), the Committee reviewed the progress made in carrying out statistics-related activities between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee, including those financed from ESCWA's ordinary budget and those financed from extra-budgetary funds, including the Development Account. In the third document (E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3(Part III)), the Committee took note of the outcome of the twenty-fifth session of ESCWA in the field of statistics.

5. Discussions on this item were focused on the importance of activating the staff of the Statistical Committee office by fostering communication among Committee members and increasing their participation in the preparations for and organization of its meetings. The current office staff were asked to review the literature previously prepared on their terms of reference so as to present the Committee with an updated draft at its next meeting in 2009. The Committee invited ESCWA to pay more attention to the meetings of the Statistical Committee by raising the level of representation of the Executive Secretariat at its opening meetings, and through more active media coverage and the participation of public figures who might promote the work of the Committee. The discussions focused also on the importance of providing the financial and technical resources needed to develop statistical work in the region so that the statistical process keeps pace with the development process at both the national and regional levels. The Committee encouraged ESCWA to undertake early coordination with United Nations international and regional organizations in order to join efforts and avoid all inconsistencies resulting from the adoption of different methodologies. Participants stressed the importance of inviting the heads of NSOs to attend the ministerial meeting, especially when its agenda included draft resolutions on statistical work. The Committee invited ESCWA to accelerate the process of recruiting for all vacant posts in the Statistical Division so that this division can better fulfil its duties. The Committee requested the Secretariat to alter the mechanism adopted in representing the reports on the progress made so that they include three parts. The first part would cover

the achievements of the Secretariat, the second an evaluation of activities carried out, and the third an evaluation of how ESCWA's activities were reflected in member countries. The participants very much appreciated the activities carried out by ESCWA between the seventh and eighth sessions in organizing training courses for member countries. They also highly appreciated the key role ESCWA played in gender-related activities, the MDGs and the training of member countries on population projections and on mainstreaming gender in national strategies for developing statistics. The Committee praised the activities carried out by ESCWA in the field of national accounts and the environment, especially given the security conditions it faced in the country of its headquarters.

B. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

6. ESCWA submitted a document (E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/4) in which it laid out the recently revised framework for the MDGs, the main changes that were introduced to the framework in 2008 and the extent to which it contains national data. The study contains an assessment of the most important issues related to the availability of data and gaps in the indicators as well as mega-data on national health and their inconsistency with international sources. The study offered proposals at the national and regional levels for improving the statistical capabilities of member countries. Also explored were the strategic measures that need to be taken to enhance the capabilities of statistical systems in the region so that they could improve their monitoring and reporting of MDGs and publish accurate and transparent megadata. Discussion revolved around the discrepancies in the ways indicators were computed and the shortage of adequate data on health indicators. The member countries voiced their concern about data disparities as between national and international sources. The ESCWA member countries asked that a leaflet be prepared introducing both the indicators for the revised MDG framework and the gender indicators. Representatives of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) highlighted the continuing efforts to fill gaps and build capacity in this area by improving the statistical capacity for reviewing methodologies, by improving the reporting mechanisms that operate between the statistical systems and international agencies, and by designing and maintaining a central regional database. Member countries made clear their readiness to issue a new set of reports on the MDGs and to make available disaggregated data wherever possible. Member countries also cited the fact that the report contained precise comparisons which revealed weak points and computing methods. ESCWA stressed that it would continue to monitor the indicators and would report on the progress achieved in improving data at its future sessions. The representative from Lebanon recommended that United Nations agencies should be urged to coordinate with the NSOs and cooperate with them before considering any project or presenting it to Government administrations. The participating countries stressed the need to use the NSOs as the official source of data in any country.

C. STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

7. Two documents were presented on statistical capacity-building for evidence-based policymaking. The document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/5 contained an analysis of the progress NSOs had achieved in implementing their programme of work according to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and an assessment of three priority areas where improvements were needed: (a) providing policymakers with MDG indicators and good data; (b) member countries' commitment to applying the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2; and (c) application of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993. The study suggested the conditions necessary for improving the capabilities of the NSOs, as follows: commitment to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, especially the main topics and basic tables; completion of national strategies for developing statistics and mainstreaming a gender perspective into statistical processes and activities; and the publication of specially-designated results in which gender equality issues would be highlighted. Discussion revolved around the study's importance in clarifying needs and in creating a mechanism for ensuring best practice and for developing national strategies. Participants also noted the importance of following the SDMX system and the need for the cooperation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and ESCWA in fostering countries' capabilities in this regard. Participants also stressed the importance of taking advantage of bilateral, international and multilateral cooperation among international agencies and organizations in developing administrative records and in standardizing the

terminology, concepts and applications used when treating different statistical topics. They also highlighted the importance of coordinating with national partners.

8. A representative of the OECD reviewed the Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, explaining its background, offering suggestions to the Statistical Committee and ESCWA, and laying out a roadmap for cooperation in implementing the project in the region. Discussions focused on the importance of member country participation in this project, recognizing that work had been undertaken at the regional level since the Sana'a workshop, and that, in cooperation with ESCWA, a memorandum of understanding on measuring progress had been prepared in Istanbul. The steering committee prepared a draft which it presented to ESCWA in order to obtain financing for certain activities. Participants suggested to submit to the Statistical Committee in its next meeting a note on the progress made in this regard. Participants also noted the importance of finding aggregates and indicators appropriate to social conditions in the ESCWA member countries.

D. REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

9. With regard to this item, the Statistical Committee was presented with document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/6 which included proposals in 11 areas which were subsequently adopted. Discussion was organized around three main topics. On the first topic, ESCWA was requested to expedite, in coordination with UNSD, the translation of the first volume of the updated SNA and to provide technical assistance to member countries in applying the International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008 and the document on International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008. Participants inquired about the status of the International Comparison Programme and the extent of ESCWA's readiness to implement it in 2011. The second topic dealt with the two SDMX training sessions to be held in January 2009 in Paris as part of the second SDMX Global Conference, and in the Arab region, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, at some point in 2009. In this regard, it was proposed that ESCWA and UNSD might finance the participation of certain countries participating in these two sessions. It was also suggested that the number of participants from each country in the proposed training sessions should be increased. The third topic involved a presentation of the results and recommendations issued by the Brussels meeting held in May 2008. These highlighted the following needs: increase efforts to compile and publish national accounts; support efforts to carry out the housing and population censuses; gather statistics on monitoring the MDG indicators; and improve the process of coordination and capacity-building in the area of statistics. The UNSD undertook to continue its support and intensify its efforts in the area of national accounts. Likewise, ESCWA promised to try to obtain financial support for participants attending the two anticipated SDMX training sessions.

E. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES IN THE ESCWA REGION FOR 2010

10. The Secretariat presented a report on the activities of the Regional Task Force on Population and Housing Censuses in the ESCWA Region. The task force reviewed the financial difficulties it was experiencing in finalizing the two remaining workshops. These related to the provision by ESCWA and UNSD of the funds needed to hold the first meeting. Oman agreed to assume the cost of the second workshop, provided that each NSO funded its own participants at these meetings. There was also discussion about activating the use of the Census Net Forum on the ESCWA website and of e-mail as a way to communicate and exchange information.

F. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN OF THE ESCWA REGION

11. The Statistical Committee discussed this item based on document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/7 which presents the results of the self-assessment of the *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region*. The document discusses the importance of the bulletin and its use in light of the proposed assessment and recommendations. Participants noted that the assessment results failed to fully reflect the usefulness of the bulletin. In this regard, countries stressed the following: the useful information the bulletin contained on bilateral trade among the member countries; the need to find ways of improving its dissemination over the

Internet; the status of specialized databases; and the need to compile additional data on trade in services. Participants said it was important to take advantage of the assessments contained in this study and to strive to apply the improvements it proposed to other statistical publications.

G. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011 IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS

12. Participants requested that the translation of one sentence into Arabic be corrected so as to replace “accelerating the implementation of the data collection programme” with “programme for accelerating data collection”. Participants found the programme good, if very ambitious, but stressed the importance of clarifying ways and means for its implementation and funding in order to achieve the desired objective. Participants hoped that in future an explanation of the activities proposed in the programme of work would be added so that they could take the appropriate decision about whether to implement these activities or remove them from the programme. The participants requested that ESCWA ensure the provision of financial and technical assistance to member countries. The latter were unanimous on the removal of “the expert team meeting on the development of climate change indicators in the ESCWA region” from the proposed programme of work. The United Arab Emirates welcomed member countries’ participation in the workshop it will organize on climate change and environmental statistics. Kuwait suggested making use of the knowledge of an environment expert from the United Arab Emirates whose representative commended this suggestion. The United Arab Emirates suggested that the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), might organize a workshop on ICT indicators and statistics, where resources permit.

13. The Secretariat made it clear that the proposed programme is included within the ordinary budget of the United Nations, which concentrates mainly on printed materials and publications, while advisory and other activities aimed at capacity-building are included in the budget of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) and in the Development Account.

H. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

14. The ninth session of the Statistical Committee will be held in Beirut at some point between October and November 2010.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

15. The Statistical Committee discussed the important role assumed by the Bureau of the Statistical Committee in coordinating among the member countries and the importance of meeting annually to organize and coordinate the activities of the ESCWA member countries. Participants requested ESCWA to continue its work as secretariat of the Committee. Finally, participants agreed unanimously that the Regional Working Group of ESCWA’s Statistical Committee will hold its next Bureau sometime between January and February 2009, prior to the meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION

16. At its closing meeting, held on 16 October 2008, the Statistical Committee adopted the draft report, included in document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/9, on its eighth session.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

17. The Statistical Committee held its eighth session at United Nations House in Beirut from 14 to 16 October 2008.

B. THE OPENING OF THE SESSION

18. The session was opened by Mr. Abu Bakr Al-Jundi, representative of Egypt in his capacity as vice-chairman of the seventh session of the Statistical Committee and on behalf of the chairman of the seventh session of the Committee, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. At the beginning of his speech, Mr. Al-Jundi welcomed the participants before stating that current worldwide food crises, climate change, the new global economic situation and fluctuating prices all called for more serious statistical work in the region. This was necessary in order to improve statistical capacity, meet the growing needs of ongoing development programmes, address challenges and measure the progress of Arab societies. Mr. Al-Jundi asserted that the topics to be addressed by the Committee, were of particular importance for the region, including the proposed programme of work for the coming biennium, population and housing censuses, and the review of progress towards achieving the MDGs. He also urged the countries of the region to comply with FPOS as the cornerstone of evidence-based policymaking. At the end of his speech, Mr. Al-Jundi expressed his profound appreciation for ESCWA's efforts to enhance the statistical capacity of member countries and to promote cooperation in this field.

19. An address was then delivered by the Director of ESCWA's Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), Ms. Anhar Hijazi representing Mr. Bader Omar Al-Dafa, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA. She said that statistics provide the foundation for both social and economical analysis and for policymaking. It is highly important therefore to make available comprehensive, high-quality, independent, shared and accessible data on development variables and indicators in the societies of the ESCWA region so as to reach responsible decisions that can meet people's needs. Given the increasing importance of statistics in the ESCWA region, priorities must be properly identified and the financial and human resources necessary for the collection of statistical data must be provided at the national and regional levels. The representative added that while ESCWA had, in cooperation with member countries, achieved a lot in this regard, there was still a long road ahead. In the light of all above and recognizing the importance of statistics and the key role they played in the formulation of the region's economic and social agenda, ESCWA had reconstituted a full Statistical Division in January 2008. The SDPD representative referred to the most important achievements in the field of statistics, namely, the three main resolutions adopted by the member countries at the twenty-fifth ministerial session on important statistical issues for the region: resolution 283 (XXV) on ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems; resolution 286 (XXV) on gender statistics for equality and the empowerment of women; and resolution 287 (XXV) on strengthening statistical capacity for evidence-based policymaking. The Statistical Committee task force had developed a mechanism aimed at fostering regional deliberation among the heads of NSOs. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with ESCWA's partners, had organized a set of training courses which were attended by 720 officials in the field of statistics. New fields of cooperation with old and new partners inside and outside the United Nations system had been established.

C. PARTICIPANTS

20. Representatives of 13 countries members of ESCWA attended the session while apologies were received from the representative of Bahrain. Also attending were representatives of specialized United Nations programmes, agencies and organizations, in addition to those from a number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations and their agencies. The list of participants can be found in annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

21. In accordance with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, rule 18, "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United

Nations.”* Under this rule, the Sudan assumed the chairmanship of the session. Participants elected representatives of Oman and Iraq Vice-Chairmen, and of Egypt as Rapporteur.

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

22. At its first sitting the Statistical Committee adopted the agenda of its eighth session in essentially the form it appears in document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/L.1.

23. At the same sitting, the Committee agreed on the proposed organization of work presented to it in document E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/L.2.

24. The participants discussed setting out an official framework in order to unify positions on the statistical topics proposed with a view to presenting the framework to the United Nations Statistical Commission. The purpose of the meeting was: to enhance cooperation with other regional organizations on the latest statistical initiatives in the region; to review the programmes and activities being undertaken by ESCWA’s Statistics Division and to formulate recommendations for developing these programmes with the aim of improving statistical capabilities of member countries.

F. DOCUMENTS

25. A list of the documents that were presented to the Statistical Committee at its eighth session can be found in annex II of this report.

* The Arabic alphabetical order of ESCWA member countries is as follows: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, [Palestine], Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Egypt

Mr. Abu Bakr Al-Jundi
Head, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and
Statistics

Ms. Ghada Mustafa Abdallah
Director General, General Directorate for
International Cooperation
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and
Statistics

Mr. Mohamed Ammar Al-Faqih
Third Secretary
Embassy of Egypt

Iraq

Mr. Mahdi Mohssen Ismail
Director
Central Agency for Statistics and Information
Technology
Ministry of Development Planning and
Cooperation

Jordan

Mr. Kamal Sadki Ahmad Salah
Assistant Director General of Technical Affairs
Department of Statistics

Kuwait

Ms. Hessa Ibrahim Al Janahi
Acting Director
Central Statistical Office

Mr. Othman Abdulla Al Othman
Supervisor of Economic Research
Central Statistical Office

Lebanon

Ms. Maral Tutelian Guidanian
Director General
Council of Ministers
Central Administration for Statistics

Ms. Najwa Yaacoub
Statistician
Acting Head, National Coordination and
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Prime Ministry, Council of Ministers
Central Administration for Statistics

Ms. Lara Badr
Social Scientist
Central Administration for Statistics

Oman

Mr. Ali Bin Mahboub Al-Raisi
Director General
Social Statistics and Census Project
Ministry of National Economy

Palestine

Mr. Luay Shabanah
President
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Ms. Ula Aoud
Deputy Head
International Planning and Cooperation Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Qatar

Mr. Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Emadi
Director, Directorate of Economic Statistics
Qatar Statistics Authority

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdullah Al-Othaim
Director General
Central Department of Statistics
Ministry of Economy and Planning

Mr. Mohamad Bin Zeyd Aldaafas
Director
Management of Administrative Development
Central Department of Statistics
Ministry of Economy and Planning

Sudan

Mr. Yasin al-Hajj Abdine
Director General
Central Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of Council of Ministers

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Rashed Khamis Al Suwaidi
Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and
Statistics
Ministry of Planning
Central Statistical Department

United Arab Emirates (continued)

Mr. Majid Sultan Al Ali
Director
Ministry of Planning
Central Statistics Department

Mr. Ali Abdulla Al-Zaabi
Director, Population and Social Statistics
Section
Department of Planning and Economy

Yemen

Mr. Naji Mohamad Jubeir
Director General, Head Office
Central Statistical Organization

Mr. Hussein Abdelwasi' Al-Aryani
Advisor
Embassy of Yemen

B. UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
World Health Organization

Dr. Houssain Abouzaid
Representative in Lebanon

Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia (ESCWA)

Ms. Anhar Hijazi
Chief, Sustainable Development and Productivity
Division

Mr. Giovanni Savio
Acting Chief, Statistical Committee

Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn
Leader, Sectoral Statistics Team
Statistics Division

Ms. Fathia AbdelFadil
Team Leader, Statistics Division

Ms. Neda Jafar, Statistician
Statistics Division

Mr. Ismail Ibad, Statistician
Statistics Division

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Mr. Ronald Jansen
Chief, Capacity Development Section
Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Middle East Technical Assistance
Center (METAC)

Mr. Gillmore Hoefdraad
Statistics Adviser

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Rasha Tabbara
Regional Programme Unit

C. GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Institute for Training and Research in
Statistics (AITRS)

Mr. Khaled Zahdi Khawaji
Chief Expert

Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Imadi Dialo
Statistician

Safadi Foundation

Ms. Samira Baghdadi
Coordinator, Social Development Section
Lebanon

Center for Middle-Eastern Strategic Studies
(CESMO)

Mr. Mustapha Adib
General Director
Centre d'études stratégiques pour le Moyen-
Orient
Lebanon

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
Development (OECD)

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Paris 21 Secretariat

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Paris 21, Secretariat Management
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Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/L.1
Proposed organization of work		E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/L.2
Review of statistical work carried out since the seventh session of the Statistical Committee:	4	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3
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Progress made in carrying out statistics-related activities between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Statistical Committee	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3(Part II)
Outcome of the twenty-fifth session of ESCWA in the field of statistics	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/3(Part III)
Millennium Development Goals: Monitoring framework and proposals for improvements	5	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/4
Needs assessment for capacity-building of the national statistical offices in the ESCWA member countries: Progress achieved towards strengthening the national statistical capacities	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/5
Regional implications of the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission	7	E/ESCWA/SD/2008/IG.1/6
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