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**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007**

**Summary**

The present document contains the draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 that will be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and which was prepared by the secretariat.

The document comprises the following: (a) programme overview; (b) subprogramme objectives, including results-based logical frameworks; (c) strategies or orientation; (d) external factors; and (e) activities by subprogramme. The document does not provide information on resource requirements, as United Nations Headquarters has advised that only the Secretary-General, in his proposed programme budget, can issue such information.

The draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 reflects the new programme structure, as approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The Commission is invited to review the document with a view to endorsing it.

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## Introduction

1. The draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 has been formulated within the framework of programme 18 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Prog. 18)), which was approved by the General Assembly at its recently concluded fifty-ninth session and will be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Prior to the approval of the General Assembly, the strategic framework was reviewed by the Committee on Transport, at its fifth session in March 2004 and by ESCWA National Focal Points, and also by the Consultative Committee of Ambassadors in June 2004. Certain modifications were introduced by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), which is the global intergovernmental body responsible for reviewing the entire programme of the United Nations, in July 2004. The draft programme of work takes into account the mandates of legislative bodies, including those of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It also reflects those relevant policy directives of the Secretary-General that were endorsed by the General Assembly in the following resolutions dated 23 December 2004: 59/275 on programme planning and 59/278 on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007.

2. The draft programme of work is presented in a results-based framework, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000 on results-based budgeting. This approach, which has been gradually implemented in the United Nations system since the biennium 2002-2003, aims to provide a management tool that will enhance responsibility and accountability in the implementation of the programme of work. The concept of results-based budgeting, which is now expanded to results-based management, aims to improve programming and service delivery for programme clients and to meet the expectations of member countries. Results may relate to changing attitudes, for example, increasing awareness, knowledge and skills; behaviour, namely, adopting laws and policies; or conditions, for instance, improving the status of women. The logical framework and other related elements identify the following areas:

- (a) Programme/subprogramme objectives: What does this subprogramme intend to achieve?
- (b) Expected accomplishments: What should happen to meet the objective of the subprogramme?
- (c) Indicators of achievement, baseline data and targets: What will show us that the expected accomplishments have indeed occurred?
- (d) Strategy: How will we get there?
- (e) External factors: What events/and or conditions are beyond our control but have an influence on success or failure in terms of achieving expected accomplishments?
- (f) Outputs: What do we need to deliver to our programme clients to meet the objective and get the results?

3. The programmed outputs have been developed through ongoing consultations with member countries by means of intergovernmental and other meetings, and advisory services. In addition, consultations were held with other regional commissions, entities of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Group, and regional intergovernmental organizations, particularly the League of Arab States (LAS), as reflected in the various subprogrammes.

4. The main new features of the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 are detailed below:

- (a) Alignment of the expected accomplishments and outputs with the priorities of member countries, as reflected in the outcomes of key global conferences, in particular the Millennium Summit of 2000, the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development of 2002 and phase one of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) of 2003, and also major regional meetings;

(b) Introduction of a new subprogramme on advancement and empowerment of women, which promotes the capacity building of national mechanisms and the involvement of civil society institutions in policy dialogues, in response to Commission resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within ESCWA of a Committee on Women;

(c) Increased emphasis on activities that address emerging issues in the region and the needs of countries recovering from conflict within the programme of work of ESCWA, as mandated by Commission resolution 241 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the impact of the lack of stability in the Arab region on economic and social development;

(d) Enhanced synergy between analytical and operational work by increasing capacity building activities, particularly through the sharing of knowledge, to support policy advocacy and formulation by ESCWA;

(e) The establishment of an external peer review mechanism for the four flagship publications of ESCWA, namely, the annual Survey of Economic and Social Developments of the ESCWA Region; the biennial Millennium Development Goals Report; the biennial Integrated Social Policies Report; and the Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region.

5. The Commission is invited to review the draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 with a view to endorsing it. The Secretariat will transmit the outcome of the Commission's review to CPC and/or the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as appropriate. The outcomes of their reviews of the proposed programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2006-2007 will be communicated to member countries of the Commission through respective national focal points.

6. The Commission may wish to note that the outcomes of the forthcoming global meetings, particularly the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, which is scheduled to be held in September 2005, will have an impact on some of the proposed outputs. Adjustments necessitated by the new mandates of the General Assembly will also be communicated to ESCWA member countries through the respective national focal points.

### **Overall orientation**

7. The overall orientation of programme 18 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of ESCWA and other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

8. Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, establishing ESCWA and amending the terms of reference to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in ESCWA resolution 220 (XX) of 27 May 1999, on the adoption, by ESCWA member countries, of the Beirut Declaration, which envisioned an enhanced role for the Commission at the regional level; and, by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session (May 2001) that activities must focus on a limited number of priorities, on Arab regional integration and on the study of mechanisms that would activate such integration. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, dealing with such matters as trade, sustainable development, social development, finance, and information and communication technologies (ICTs), provide further policy direction to the programme.

9. In the biennium 2006-2007, ESCWA will reinforce the orientation set out in the reform and restructuring effort undertaken in 2002-2003 to achieve its full potential and reap the benefits in terms of improved programme outcomes. The key priority areas identified at that time—globalization and regional

integration, social policies, water and energy, and ICTs—remain valid and are reflected in the strategic framework. Attention must be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration and on reviewing the existing organizational structure of the secretariat in order best to serve Arab integration. These priorities are both an integral part of global agendas and are region-specific.

10. Overall, the programme seeks to promote successful outcomes in the countries of Western Asia in key areas of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. The programme is structured around seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, which, on the basis of core analytical and normative work and through regional coordination and cooperation, aim in particular, at the request of member countries, to enhance capacity development in order to assist in building consensus and negotiating agreements in global and regional forums and to assist in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies, strategies, programmes and measures, and establishing and managing related mechanisms. A salient feature of the strategy is to strengthen the capacity of member countries to prepare for, monitor and follow up progress towards internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 with a view to achieving agreed goals and targets. Other important elements are awareness-raising, policy dialogue, advocacy and advice, knowledge-sharing and networking, training and technical support and importantly, assisting member countries in coping with the multidimensional requirements of globalization by fostering competitiveness, based on economic efficiency and the acquisition of the requisite technological skills and advising them on the integration of the human and social dimension of development into their policies by focusing on capacity-building with regard to human resources and proposing mechanisms through which to identify the specifications and qualifications required of human resources that would enable member countries to become the driving force of social and economic development.

11. As the Western Asia region continues to be beset by instability and wanting for peace, ESCWA will continue to give special emphasis to countries emerging from conflict and the governance of recovery, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 241 (XXII). The recent evolving situation in the region requires flexibility to respond quickly to emerging issues, for example, youth employment.

12. To ensure system-wide coherence, ESCWA will undertake its work in close cooperation and coordination with other United Nations entities, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO). As an active member of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, ESCWA will devote attention to ensuring clarity in the roles and responsibilities of global and regional bodies with regard to follow-up on internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. ESCWA will continue to collaborate with regional and national organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

### **SUBPROGRAMME 1**

#### **INTEGRATED POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

##### **A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM**

13. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD). The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 1 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

14. The objective of this subprogramme is to improve the sustainable management and use of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy, environmental protection and the production sectors.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

15. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and adopt integrated environmentally sound policies and measures and introduce mechanisms to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the water, energy and production sectors	(a) (i) An increase in the number of countries formulating and adopting policies and measures and introducing mechanisms to improve sustainable resource use and management  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 3 countries Estimate for 2004-2005: 10 countries Target for 2006-2007: 18 countries  (ii) An increase in the number of policies adopted and implemented by countries in the region to protect the environment and decrease pollution  <i>Performance measures:</i>  Estimate for 2002-2003: 3 policies Estimate for 2004-2005: 10 policies Target for 2006-2007: 13 policies
(b) Improved performance and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises by networking and clustering and harnessing technology and innovation	(b) (i) An increase in the number of business associations that facilitate the development of clusters and networks of small and medium-sized enterprises  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 0 business associations Estimate for 2004-2005: 2 business associations Target for 2006-2007: 3 business associations  (ii) An increase in the number of measures adopted to improve the use of technology and innovation  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 1 measure Estimate for 2004-2005: 2 measures Target for 2006-2007: 14 measures
(c) Increased application of measures and approaches for integrated water resource management among member countries for the prevention of water and environment-related disputes	(c) An increase in the number of measures applied by member countries relating to integrated water resources management, shared water resources and environmental impacts

**Expected accomplishments**

**Indicators of achievement**

(d) Increased use by member countries of tools and techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors

*Performance measures:*

2002-2003: 0 measures applied  
Estimate for 2004-2005: 12 measures applied  
Target for 2006-2007: 16 measures applied

(d) The number of countries adopting innovative technology and management initiatives to enhance competitiveness and more sustainable and efficient use of such technology

*Performance measures:*

2002-2003: 1 innovative technology and management initiative

Estimate for 2004-2005: 2 innovative technology and management initiatives

Target for 2006-2007: 5 innovative technology and management initiatives

**C. STRATEGY**

16. The ESCWA region is suffering from a scarcity of water resources and their inefficient use. This is manifested in wasteful consumption patterns, particularly in the agricultural sector. The region also suffers from disputes over rights to shared water resources. However, the abundance of fossil-fuel energy, in some member countries has encouraged unsustainable production and consumption patterns that have an adverse impact on the environment. Despite the abundance of conventional and renewable energy resources, rural areas have limited access to energy services. The production sectors suffer from low productivity and weak competitiveness, which can largely be attributed to the inefficient use of resources, insufficient networking and clustering and poor use of technology. Costs of environmental protection have not yet been fully taken into consideration in the production process.

17. With this in mind, this subprogramme will concentrate on facilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes and on assisting member countries in their follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in achieving its targets, as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets, especially target 9, on integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reversing the loss of environmental resources; target 10, on sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and goal 7, on ensuring environmental sustainability. The subprogramme will continue to serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to reach common positions and enhance synergies among the countries of the region; facilitate regional cooperation, particularly in the management of shared water resources, and enhance negotiation skills to prevent disputes; support national and regional capacity-building in priority areas of sustainable development, especially in the fields of integrated management of water resources and energy efficiency; facilitate the establishment and coordination of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issues; and assist small and medium-sized enterprises through clustering, networking and improving their use of technology, as well as improve linkages between technology and sectoral development in order to harness the efforts of individual member countries to enhance competitiveness and turn innovations into an effective vehicle for development. Efforts will be made to assist member countries in filling the gaps in vertical chains and/or in the introduction of knowledge-based high-tech industries by promoting development of the production and service sectors in order to achieve maximum value added, competitiveness and sustainability to the economies of member countries in the region. Measures to



facilitate capacity-building will be identified to enhance productivity, competitiveness and environmental compatibility of services, industrial and agricultural outputs. This will be achieved by undertaking research and analytical studies, convening meetings and seminars, disseminating best practices and building capacity through workshops and advisory services on priority sustainable development issues related to water, energy, the environment and the production sectors.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

18. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achieved based on the assumption that:

- (a) ESCWA member countries are willing to cooperate and build strong partnerships;
- (b) Policy makers are willing to apply the sustainable development policies advocated by regional and global conferences, and by ESCWA;
- (c) Valid data and databases for sustainable development indicators are available;
- (d) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

##### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

- (a) *Substantive servicing of meetings*
  - (i) Substantive servicing of the sixth session of the Committee on Energy;
  - (ii) Substantive servicing of the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources.
- (b) *Parliamentary documentation*
  - (i) Report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Committee on Energy;
  - (ii) Report to the Commission on the seventh session of the Committee on Water Resources;
  - (iii) Five-year review report to the Committee on Energy on the energy sector achievements of ESCWA in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
  - (iv) Report to the Committee on Energy concerning Arab regional perspectives on energy for sustainable development;
  - (v) Five-year review report to the Committee on Water Resources on water sector achievements of ESCWA in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
  - (vi) Report to the Committee on Water Resources concerning policy options for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the national level.
- (c) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*
  - (i) Arab regional forum on energy for sustainable development: strategies, policies and plans;
  - (ii) Expert group meeting on enhancing regional cooperation in combating land degradation;

- (iii) Expert group meeting on the application of indicators and indices for water quality management in the ESCWA region;
  - (iv) Expert group meeting on harnessing technology for enhanced small and medium-sized enterprises profitability and innovative abilities;
  - (v) Expert group meeting on national institutional reforms for the implementation of IWRM in the ESCWA region.
- (d) *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives and rapporteurs*
- Substantive support to the executive secretariat of the ESCWA-United Nations Environment Programme-LAS Joint Committee on Environment and Development in Arab region (two).

## 2. *Other substantive activities*

- (a) *Recurrent publications*
- (i) ESCWA Water Development Report, No. 2;
  - (ii) Review of Productivity and Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region, No. 1.
- (b) *Non-recurrent publications*
- (i) Assessment of water quality management practices in the ESCWA region;
  - (ii) Energy conservation and efficiency in the upstream energy sectors in selected ESCWA member countries;
  - (iii) Guidelines for legislative and institutional reforms needed for the implementation of IWRM at the national level in the ESCWA region;
  - (iv) Impact of industrial policies on the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises;
  - (v) Land degradation assessment and prevention: selected case studies;
  - (vi) Follow-up report on the activities of the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development (RMDEUSD).
- (c) *Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*
- Development and maintenance of ESCWA web page on productivity and sustainable development, including a web page on the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) and RMDEUSD (continuous).

## 3. *Technical cooperation*

- (a) *Advisory services*
- Services related to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (nine).
- (b) *Field projects*
- (i) Capacity-building for sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater resources in the Mediterranean region (continuous);

- (ii) Capacity-building in trade and the environment (continuous);
- (iii) AWARENET (continuous);
- (iv) Baseline assessment and capacity-building for land degradation assessment and prevention;
- (v) Disseminating renewable energy services for poverty alleviation to the rural areas of ESCWA member countries (continuous);
- (vi) Sustainability impact assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade Area (continuous);
- (vii) Advisory services to the ESCWA region in the field of water resources funded by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Germany (BGR) and the German technical cooperation agency (GTZ) (continuous).

## SUBPROGRAMME 2

### INTEGRATED SOCIAL POLICIES

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

19. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Social Development Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 2 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

20. The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen coherent and integrated national social policies that are region-specific and culturally sensitive, and to strengthen also community development action towards reducing social inequity and enhancing social stability in the region.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

21. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishment</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Enhanced capacity of member States, upon their request, to formulate integrated social policies and programmes that are region-specific and culturally sensitive	(a) (i) An increase in the number of countries adopting an approach of integrated social policies and programmes  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 0 countries Estimate for 2004-2005: 0 countries Target for 2006-2007: 6 countries  (ii) An increase in the number of countries that formulate population and social policies aimed at vulnerable and disadvantaged groups  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 0 countries Estimate for 2004-2005: 3 countries Target for 2006-2007: 6 countries

<b>Expected accomplishment</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(b) Increased capacity of civil society institutions in implementing community development mechanisms	<p>(b) (i) An increase in the number of civil society institutions and local communities adopting the approach and mechanisms developed by ESCWA for social services at the local level</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 0 institutions/communities</p> <p>Estimate for 2004-2005: 5 institutions/communities</p> <p>Target for 2006-2007: 10 institutions/communities</p> <p>(ii) An increase in the number of networking mechanisms among civil society institutions and local communities</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 0 mechanisms</p> <p>Estimate for 2004-2005: 3 networking mechanisms</p> <p>Target for 2006-2007: 6 networking mechanisms</p>

### C. STRATEGY

22. The ESCWA member countries are confronted by political instability, an imbalance in the provision of basic social services between urban and rural areas and between the different social strata and widening disparities in income distribution, associated with increasing poverty and unemployment. National social policies are often conflicting and seldom harmonized and are frequently formulated and implemented, in some member countries, with little input from local communities or civil society institutions. They do not foster a rights-based approach to development. Development potential is further impeded by the failure to develop human capital, notably youth, women and vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups, for example, the disabled and victims of conflict.

23. In 2006-2007, the strategy of this subprogramme is to shift the focus from the sectoral approach of 2002-2003 and build on advocacy for integrated social policies as targeted in 2004-2005 by enhancing the capacity of member countries, at their request, to formulate integrated social policies. There will be increased emphasis on assisting member countries in the implementation of the plans of action of the global conferences and MDGs, namely, 1, 4, 5 and 8; supporting member countries in strengthening institutions and the capacity of national and regional mechanisms, leading to integrated regional responses and concerted actions; assisting member countries in formulating integrated policy action with particular regard to poverty and unemployment reduction, with a focus on youth, women and the disabled; supporting member countries and local authorities in formulating appropriate, innovative and integrated policies and programmes on population and development; improving the physical environment and advocating partnerships between governments and municipalities; increasing capacity for popular participation in urban development at the local level, particularly in cities and other urban areas; and assisting in post-conflict recovery measures. The subprogramme will continue to serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue and networking, increasing

popular participation and providing technical cooperation, including advisory services on various social issues and on the production and dissemination of gender-sensitive social statistics and indicators.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

24. It is anticipated that the objectives and accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achieved based on the assumption that:

- (a) Economic and social developments will not disrupt advances that have been made;
- (b) Up-to-date and valid data for social, population and urban indicators are available;
- (c) Member countries are willing to adopt social, population and urban development policies and measures recommended by international global conferences and by ESCWA and integrate them into their national plans and programmes;
- (d) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

##### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

- (a) *Substantive servicing of meetings*
  - (i) Substantive servicing of the Arab regional conference in preparation for the Habitat+10 conference;
  - (ii) Substantive servicing of the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development.
- (b) *Parliamentary documentation*
  - (i) Report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development;
  - (ii) Report to the Commission on the Arab regional conference in preparation for the Habitat+10 review;
  - (iii) Two reports to the Arab regional conference in preparation for the Habitat+10 review on (a) the regional campaign on secure housing and land tenure and good urban governance and (b) local urban observatories;
  - (iv) Report to the Committee on Social Development on issues related to the formulation and implementation of social policies;
  - (v) Report to the Committee on Social Development on issues related to the Arab Decade for People with Disabilities;
  - (vi) Report to the Committee on Social Development on selected key issues related to social development.
- (c) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*
  - (i) Expert group meeting on good urban governance and the implementation of target 11 of the MDGs: eradication of slums in the ESCWA region;

- (ii) Expert group meeting on models for integrating population variables in economic development;
- (iii) Expert group meeting on formulation of regional plan of action for integrated social policies;
- (iv) Expert group meeting to review the outline for the Integrated Social Policies Report, No. 2.

## 2. *Other substantive activities*

### (a) *Recurrent publications*

- (i) Demographic Profiles of the Arab Countries;
- (ii) ESCWA Population and Development Report, No. 3;
- (iii) Integrated Social Policies Report, No. 2.

### (b) *Non-recurrent publications*

Status and prospects of the Arab city.

### (c) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

Fact sheets on social policies in the ESCWA region (four).

### (d) *Special events*

Launching of the Integrated Social Policies Report.

### (e) *Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*

- (i) Country profiles on urbanization and housing policies in Oman and Qatar (two);
- (ii) Maintenance and regular updating of the United Nations Population Information Network web page and ESCWA web page on social policies and development, including pages related to disability and youth (continuous).

## 3. *Technical cooperation*

### (a) *Advisory services*

Enhancing the capacity of ESCWA member countries in sectoral social policies, including population and urban/rural development policies, and in terms of integrating social policies (ten).

### (b) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

- (i) Capacity-building: vocational training for young women in rural areas in selected countries (four);
- (ii) Human resources capacity-building in local community development (four).

### (c) *Field projects*

- (i) Capacity-building related to traditional skills in the West Asia region;
- (ii) Establishment of a centre for vocational training.

### SUBPROGRAMME 3

#### ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

25. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Economic Analysis Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 3 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

26. The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen macroeconomic policy-making for short-term economic growth and sustainable economic development in member countries, including those emerging from conflict.

##### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

27. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Increased understanding of the use of macroeconomic variables and indicators of performance for economic forecasting in policy-making and planning	(a) An increase in the percentage of target users of the flagship publications and other economic studies indicating their satisfaction with the information and advice contained therein  <i>Performance measures:</i>  For 2002-2003: Not available; Estimate for 2004-2005: 36 per cent; Target for 2006-2007: 43 per cent.
(b) Improved national capacity to formulate macroeconomic policy and development programmes	(b) An increase in the number of macroeconomic policies and development programmes formulated and tools developed by member countries, including those emerging from conflict  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: Not available Estimate for 2004-2005: Not available Target for 2006-2007: 5 policies, programmes and/or tools

##### C. STRATEGY

28. The region is suffering from low rates of economic growth and investment, resulting in high unemployment rates, particularly among youth. During the past quarter of a century, several countries in the region have experienced war and civil conflict, resulting in the destruction of physical productive capacities and infrastructure, as well as a significant weakening of institutional and human resource capacities. For other member countries, the prevailing atmosphere of great economic and political uncertainty within the region has undermined prospects for steadier development, high rates of investment and productivity growth.

As market size has been constricted and intraregional integration has faced obstacles, economic growth rates have remained low and obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system remain.

29. The strategy of this subprogramme includes two new elements, namely, advocacy for the coordination of macroeconomic policies among the countries of the region and the provision of assistance on macroeconomic issues and policies to countries emerging from conflict. Other elements of the strategy include (a) enhancing policy-making options through economic projections and forecasts; (b) in-depth analyses of economic developments and trends; (c) analysis of the main trends in the performance of production sectors; and (d) analysis of fiscal and monetary developments and policies, including trends in foreign and domestic debt and trends in the environment of increased competitiveness. A greater effort will be made to provide quality advisory services in economic policy to complement analytical work. The subprogramme will use quantitative techniques and produce impact analyses and continue to analyse issues of uncertainty and risk that affect investment, economic growth and unemployment.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

30. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of this subprogramme will be achieved based on the assumption that:

- (a) Economic and social developments will not disrupt advances that have been made;
- (b) Valid data and databases for economic statistics and indicators are available from national and international sources;
- (c) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

##### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

##### (a) *Parliamentary documentation*

- (i) Report to the Commission on emerging economic and social development issues;
- (ii) Report to the Commission on the progress towards the attainment of MDGs in the Arab region.

##### (b) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*

- (i) Expert group meeting on economic policy analysis and forecasting, incorporating an external peer review of the annual flagship publication, Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region (two);
- (ii) Expert group meeting on employment policies and economic development in countries including those emerging from conflict;
- (iii) Expert group meeting on the preparation of the Regional MDG Report, incorporating an external peer review of this flagship publication;
- (v) Expert group meeting on development in countries under crisis conditions;
- (vi) Expert group meeting on fostering partnerships between international and regional civil society institutions and their counterparts in countries in conflict situations.



## 2. *Other substantive activities*

- (a) *Recurrent publications*
  - (i) Analysis of Performances and Assessment of Growth and Productivity, Nos. 5 and 6 (2006 and 2007);
  - (ii) Economic Trends and Impacts, Nos. 4 and 5 (2006 and 2007);
  - (iii) Regional MDG Report;
  - (iv) Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 2005-2006 (2006);
  - (v) Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 2006-2007 (2007).
- (b) *Special events*
  - (i) Launch of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments of the ESCWA Region (two);
  - (ii) Launch of the Regional MDG Report.
- (c) *Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*
  - (i) Regional economic forecasts (continuous);
  - (ii) Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA web page on economic analysis and forecasting for regional development (two).

## 3. *Technical cooperation*

- (a) *Advisory services*

Formulation of and follow-up to Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework and national development plans (two).
- (b) *Field projects*

East Asia development model and Arab development and growth requirements.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 4**

### **REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION**

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

31. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the Globalization and Regional Integration Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 4 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

32. The objective of this subprogramme is to improve the management of challenges posed and opportunities offered by globalization, strengthen regional integration among member countries by facilitating transboundary flows of goods, information, services, persons and capital and mobilize sufficient financial resources for development.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

33. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Enhanced ability of member countries to implement policies and measures recommended by the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development	(a) An increase in the number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: Not available Estimate for 2004-2005: 3 policies/measures Target for 2006-2007: 7 policies/measures
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to implement and monitor Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM)	(b) An increase in the number of policy measures adopted by member countries to implement ITSAM  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 6 policy measures Estimate for 2004-2005: 15 policy measures Target for 2006-2007: 25 policy measures
(c) Greater participation in the multilateral trading system	(c) An increase in the number of rules, regulations and policies adopted by member countries in conformity with WTO provisions and regional agreements  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: Not available Estimate for 2004-2005: 5 laws, regulations and measures Target for 2006-2007: 10 laws, regulations and measures
(d) Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries	(d) The number of countries accepting and/or adopting harmonization schemes proposed by ESCWA in order to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, persons and capital  <i>Performance measures:</i>  2002-2003: 1 harmonization scheme Estimate 2004-2005: 1 harmonization scheme Target 2006-2007: 4 harmonization schemes

C. STRATEGY

34. Despite the various efforts made towards regional integration among member States since the 1950s, the basic requirements for achieving economic integration have not been established. In a world moving

increasingly towards the establishment of large economic blocs, regional economic integration becomes a matter of vital importance. Two major impediments to regional and international integration and to increased competitiveness are backwardness of the transport sector and obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system. Most ESCWA member countries were late-comers to the multilateral trading system and must adapt and cope with its requirements to avoid marginalization and increase their competitiveness. Furthermore, the region, in general, has not succeeded in mobilizing sufficient financial resources for development needs.

35. The strategy of this subprogramme will be to develop the mechanism for implementing the agreements on the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) and monitor their implementation. After developing the road and railway transport agreements, the subprogramme will endeavour to reach an agreement on maritime transport and facilitate measures for air transport in the region. Emphasis will also be placed on strengthening the negotiation skills of member countries in respect of the WTO negotiation process and continuing to increase their understanding of opportunities and challenges of WTO, as well as those of regional integration agreements, and on defining obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system and on organizing awareness drives on the role of the Arab free-trade area and other bilateral agreements. Furthermore, the subprogramme will continue to assist member countries, at their request, in implementing the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. Support will be provided in enhancing regional development by analysing existing credit and investment policies and formulating specific recommendations for the improvement of existing investment laws, regulations and incentives in order to increase significantly the attractiveness of member countries to domestic and foreign investors, with particular emphasis on intraregional capital flows and the return of capital invested outside the region. The subprogramme will facilitate dialogue among member countries as a means of reducing differences and reaching common positions; increase understanding by undertaking research and analytical studies, convening meetings and disseminating best practices; and build capacity through workshops and advisory services.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

36. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of this subprogramme will be based on the assumption that:

- (a) Economic and social developments will not disrupt advances that have been made;
- (b) Member countries are committed to the implementation of transport agreements and recommendations emanating from relevant international conferences;
- (c) Valid and accurate data and information are made available;
- (d) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

##### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

- (a) *Substantive servicing of meetings*
  - (i) Substantive servicing of the seventh session of the Committee on Transport (2006);
  - (ii) Substantive servicing of the eighth session of the Committee on Transport (2007);
  - (iii) Substantive servicing of the fifth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region.

(b) *Parliamentary documentation*

- (i) Report to the Commission on the seventh session of the Committee on Transport (2006);
- (ii) Report to the Commission on the eighth session of the Committee on Transport (2007);
- (iii) Report to the Commission on the fifth session of the Trade Liberalization and Economic Globalization Committee;
- (iv) Report to the Committee on Transport on the action plan for the implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq (2006);
- (v) Follow-up report to the Committee on Transport on the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq (2006);
- (vi) Report to the Committee on Transport on the action plan for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Cooperation in the field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq (2007);
- (vii) Report to the Committee on Transport on progress made in the establishment and implementation of National Committees for the Facilitation of Transport and Trade in the countries of the ESCWA region (2007);
- (viii) Report to the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region on progress related to the Doha negotiations;
- (ix) Report to the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region on progress in terms of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in ESCWA member countries.

(c) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*

- (i) Expert group meetings on the preparation of the Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA region (two);
- (ii) Expert group meeting on progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in ESCWA member countries;
- (iii) Expert group meeting on the follow-up to the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference;
- (iv) Expert group meeting on integrated transport in the ESCWA region;
- (v) Expert group meeting on regional integration in the Arab world;
- (vi) Expert group meeting transport facilitation for regional integration.

2. *Other substantive activities*

(a) *Recurrent publications*

- (i) Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, Nos. 5 and 6 (2006 and 2007);
- (ii) Methodological Framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM-FRAMEWORK);

(iii) Review of Progress made by the Republic of Yemen in the Implementation of the National Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries for the 1990s.

(b) *Non-recurrent publications*

- (i) International Civil Aviation Organization/ESCWA study on air transport in Western Asia;
- (ii) Good practices in ICT applications in seaports in ESCWA member countries;
- (iii) Monitoring report on road traffic safety in ESCWA member countries;
- (iv) Movement of natural persons: mode 4 in the General Agreement on Trade in Services;
- (v) Regional investment directory report: Western Asia.

(c) *Special events*

Launch of the Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, Nos. 5 and 6.

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

Booklet on FDI inflows in the ESCWA region.

(e) *Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*

- (i) Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA web page on regional integration and responding to globalization (two);
- (ii) Maintenance and upgrade of the geographic information system database on ITSAM (two);
- (iii) Networking of national focal points for ITSAM (two).

*3. Technical cooperation*

(a) *Advisory services*

- (i) ITSAM (two);
- (ii) World trade issues (four).

(b) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

- (i) Regional workshop on the implications of trade in services (mode 4) to Arab countries;
- (ii) Third forum for the Arab business community and WTO agreements;
- (iii) World Tourism Organization/ESCWA workshop on tourism services in the Arab countries.

(c) *Field projects*

Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine for growth through knowledge management and ICTs (continuous).

**SUBPROGRAMME 5**

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY  
FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

37. This subprogramme is the responsibility of the Information and Communication Technology Division. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 5 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

38. The objective of this subprogramme is to narrow the digital divide to build an inclusive development-oriented information society and knowledge-based economy.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

39. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Improved, enabling environment for the development of the information society and knowledge-based economy in the region through relevant instruments	<p>(a) (i) An increase in the number of member countries implementing strategies and plans of action for building the information society and knowledge-based economy, in line with regional and international agreements and recommendations</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Estimate for 2002-2003: 3 member countries Estimate for 2004-2005: 5 member countries Target for 2006-2007: 10 member countries</p> <p>(ii) Member countries show improvement in MDG indicators 47 and 48, related to goal 8, target 18, on ICT</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Estimate for 2002-2003: 6 member countries Estimate for 2004-2005: 8 member countries Target for 2006-2007: 11 member countries</p>
(b) Activated partnership for implementing ICT projects to achieve socio-economic development, with particular emphasis on MDGs	<p>(b) (i) An increase in the number of new partnerships between stakeholders of the information society, focused on development in the region</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Estimate 2002-2003: 0 partnerships Estimate 2004-2005: 5 partnerships Target 2006-2007: 10 partnerships</p> <p>(ii) An increase in the number of governmental institutions and national stakeholders participating in ICT partnerships and knowledge networks</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Estimate for 2002-2003: 0 institutions Estimate for 2004-2005: 10 institutions Target for 2006-2007: 30 institutions</p>

### C. STRATEGY

40. Western Asia suffers from a widening digital divide: at the internal level, between Gulf and other member countries, on the one hand, and between cities and rural areas, on the other; and externally, between the region and other regions of the world. Currently, ICT indicators for the region as a whole are lower than world averages. At the same time, the region has development potential that must be exploited in building the information society, particularly in terms of the common language and cultural heritage. Greater efforts must be deployed in increasing literacy and education levels and tapping human resources and talents, particularly among women and the growing youth population.

41. Through regional preparations for the second phase of WSIS, the subprogramme will serve as a forum for dialogue to adopt joint positions and formulate harmonized policies and strategies on ICT to enhance socio-economic development and increase regional integration among member States. It is imperative to raise awareness of the need to move towards a knowledge-based economy, as well as of the importance of regional collaboration and partnership in building the information society, institutional capacity-building in ICT, enhancing digital Arabic content and ICT sector development. The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms between regional players, both private and public, that are engaged in ICT development activities and to the creation of new partnerships. Research, analytical studies, meetings, knowledge networking and advisory services will contribute to this endeavour. Pilot projects for employment creation and poverty reduction through ICT will also be launched and their best practices disseminated in the region. Support will be provided to member countries in the context of a regional plan of action for building the information society that respects the particularities and linguistic and cultural priorities of the region.

### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

42. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achieved based on the assumption that:

- (a) Member countries are supportive of efforts to utilize ICTS for increasing competitiveness and productivity;
- (b) Member countries give due attention to relevant global and regional recommendations on ICTs;
- (c) Economic and social developments will not disrupt advances that have been made;
- (d) Sufficient extrabudgetary funds are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

### E. OUTPUTS

#### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

##### (a) *Parliamentary documentation*

Report to the Statistical Committee on issues related to ICT indicators.

##### (b) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*

- (i) Expert group meeting on the adoption of ICT indicators and data collection in national statistical offices;
- (ii) Expert group meeting on the formulation and implementation of ICT national plans of action;

- (iii) Expert group meeting on regional networking and partnership for information society development;
- (iv) Third meeting of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation.

## *2. Other substantive activities*

### *(a) Recurrent publications*

Review of ICT and Development, Nos. 5 and 6 (2006 and 2007).

### *(b) Non-recurrent publications*

- (i) Guidelines for information and communication technology policy and strategy formulation;
- (ii) Study on models for cyber legislation;
- (iii) Study on needs for building national and regional knowledge-based economies;
- (iv) Study on promoting ICT venture capital and entrepreneurship in the region.

### *(c) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

Guidelines on ICT indicators.

### *(d) Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*

- (i) Development and maintenance of a portal for ICT partnerships and networks (continuous);
- (ii) Development and maintenance of a Web-based platform for measuring the information society (continuous);
- (iii) Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA web page on ICT (continuous);
- (iv) Profile of ICT and the information society in ESCWA member countries.

## *3. Technical cooperation*

### *(a) Advisory services*

Follow-up to the outcome of the second phase of WSIS (four).

### *(b) Training courses, seminars and workshops*

Capacity-building workshops for the adoption of ICT indicators, data collection and analysis (three).

### *(c) Field projects*

- (i) Development of an Arabic domain name system;
- (ii) Establishment of ICT incubators;
- (iii) Promoting new technologies for employment in poverty alleviation in ESCWA member countries (continuous).



## SUBPROGRAMME 6

### COMPARABLE STATISTICS FOR IMPROVED PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING

#### A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM

43. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the Statistics Coordination Unit headed by the Deputy Executive Secretary. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 6 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

44. The objective of this subprogramme is to improve the production and use of harmonized and comparable economic, social and sectoral statistics, including gender-disaggregated statistics.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

45. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
<p>(a) Increased capacities of ESCWA member countries to produce harmonized macroeconomic, international trade and sectoral statistics</p>	<p>(a) (i) An increase in the number of countries implementing international standards in the production of trade and transport statistics, sectoral statistics and the 1993 System of National Accounts</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 5 countries            Estimate for 2004-2005: 9 countries            Target for 2006-2007: 13 countries</p> <p>(ii) Increased utilization of sectoral statistical indicators, especially with regard to regional integration among member States and indicators and statistics in new areas</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 15 indicators            Estimate for 2004-2005: 18 indicators            Target for 2006-2007: 20 indicators</p>
<p>(b) Strengthened skills of national statistical officials to produce gender-disaggregated social statistics and indicators in specialized areas such as population, education, unemployment, and other systems of statistics and data required to measure progress towards achieving MDGs and for monitoring the implementation of the outcomes of major global conferences</p>	<p>(b) (i) An increase in the number of national reports containing gender-disaggregated social statistics and indicators in other specialized areas</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 3 national reports            Estimate for 2004-2005: 5 national reports            Target for 2006-2007: 9 national reports</p> <p>(ii) An increase in the number of national statistical offices that provide data for measuring progress towards achieving MDGs and for monitoring the implantation of the outcomes of major global conferences</p>

**Expected accomplishments**

**Indicators of achievement**

*Performance measures:*

2002-2003: 4 national statistical offices

Estimate for 2004-2005: 9 national statistical offices

Target for 2006-2007: 13 national statistical offices

**C. STRATEGY**

46. ESCWA member countries are faced with the challenge of producing and disseminating data and statistics that are comparable and timely to respond to their national and the international development agendas. Better harmonization of statistics through the adoption of international standards and concepts is essential for enhancing the quality of these data and making them available for use by policy makers and analysts in member countries.

47. This subprogramme will be oriented towards assisting member countries, at their request, in implementing international standards and improving the consistency and reliability of national statistics. It will increase the capacity of member countries to produce gender-disaggregated statistics and indicators and monitor progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. It will also assist the countries of the region in adopting and applying the scientific standards employed internationally for amassing, analysing and disseminating statistical data and indicators, with a view to enabling those countries to formulate economic and social policies and monitor progress towards the achievement of national development objectives. A variety of modalities, including publications, meetings, workshops and advisory services, will be employed to build national capacities. Greater effort will be made to increase the electronic dissemination of statistics and indicators.

**D. EXTERNAL FACTORS**

48. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of this subprogramme will be based on the assumption that:

- (a) Member countries have the resources to implement recommendations and accord priority to implementing international standards;
- (b) Improvements are seen in the consistency and reliability of national statistics;
- (c) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

**E. OUTPUTS**

*1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(a) *Substantive servicing of meetings*

Substantive servicing of the seventh session of the Statistical Committee.

(b) *Parliamentary documentation*

- (i) Report to the Commission on the seventh session of the Statistical Committee;
- (ii) Five-year review report to the Statistical Committee on MDGs;

- (iii) Report to the Statistical Committee on a strategy of social statistics in the ESCWA region;
- (iv) Report to the Statistical Committee on a strategy of economic and sectoral statistics.

(c) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*

- (i) Expert group meeting on new techniques in conducting population and housing censuses;
- (ii) Expert group meeting on production of statistics on natural resources and the environment.

2. *Other substantive activities*

(a) *Recurrent publications*

- (i) Bulletin on Vital Statistics in ESCWA Member Countries (2006 and 2007);
- (ii) Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators, No. 3;
- (iii) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, Nos. 15 and 16 (2006 and 2007);
- (iv) National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, Bulletins Nos. 26 and 27 (2006 and 2007);
- (v) Statistical Abstract of ESCWA Region (2006 and 2007).

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

- (i) Booklet on MDGs and gender: Status and trends in the ESCWA region;
- (ii) Booklet on MDGs and health: Status and trends in the ESCWA region.

(c) *Technical material for outside users (including databases and software)*

- (i) Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA web page on statistics (continuous);
- (ii) Development and maintenance of ESCWA Statistical Information System (continuous).

3. *Technical cooperation*

(a) *Advisory services*

Promotion of dialogue between users and producers on harmonized and comparable statistics for informed policy decision-making (four).

(b) *Field projects*

- (i) Development of disability statistics in the ESCWA region (continuous);
- (ii) Development of national gender statistics programme in the Arab countries (continuous);
- (iii) The International Comparison Programme (continuous).

**SUBPROGRAMME 7**

**ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**A. ORIENTATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM**

49. The subprogramme is the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women. The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 7 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

50. The objective of this subprogramme is to increase the focus on women and gender issues with a view to reducing gender imbalances and empowering women.

## B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

51. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are listed below.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Strengthened capacity of national mechanisms for the empowerment and advancement of women to address gender imbalances and mainstream a gender perspective	<p>(a) (i) An increase in the number of gender units or autonomous or permanent national mechanisms for women established by member countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 4 units/machineries            Estimate for 2004-2005: 8 units/machineries            Target for 2006-2007: 11 units/machineries</p> <p>(ii) An increase in the number of countries adopting a gender-mainstreaming approach in national policies</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 3 countries            Estimate for 2004-2005: 5 countries            Target for 2006-2007: 8 countries</p>
(b) Increased civil society institution involvement in and contribution to policy dialogue with Governments on gender issues and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of global conferences	<p>(b) An increase in the number of NGOs involved in policy dialogue on gender issues and in monitoring the implementation of global conferences</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2002-2003: 4 NGO members of national mechanisms            Estimate for 2004-2005: 6 NGO members of national mechanisms            Target for 2006-2007: 8 NGO members of national mechanisms</p>

## C. STRATEGY

52. The region is characterized by low rates of women's participation in the economic, social and political domains, despite their increased educational levels. Although the constitutions of most ESCWA member countries recognize women's equal civil and political rights, this has not been translated in practice into women's full realization of their civic, legal and political rights. The political participation rate of women is one of the lowest in the world. The participation of civil society institutions in policy dialogue at the regional level, as well as their contribution to the implementation of recommendations of global conferences, and the monitoring thereof, is rather modest.

53. This subprogramme reflects the determination of ESCWA to increase its focus on women's issues and ameliorate the status and participation of women in the region, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of April 2003. The ESCWA Centre for Women, which serves as the secretariat of the Committee on Women,

will assume a major role in the region in assisting in gender mainstreaming, empowering women and promoting gender equality. It will also strive to promote partnerships between governments and civil society institutions.

54. This subprogramme will be oriented towards raising awareness and understanding of women's issues and of the vital role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in this respect; promoting dialogue on critical areas of concern for the advancement of women and for fostering partnerships between civil society institutions and Governments; facilitating the reaching of common regional positions with regard to women's issues; assisting member countries in formulating realistic action-oriented gender equality policies; and promoting gender mainstreaming. The subprogramme will also monitor developments with respect to the status of women and will evaluate indicators and statistics with a view to assisting member countries, at their request, to formulate an integrated policy for the advancement and empowerment of women in the region. This will be achieved by complementing normative activities with the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services, to member countries and civil society institutions.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

55. It is anticipated that the objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achieved based on the assumption that:

- (a) Economic and social developments will not disrupt advances that have been made;
- (b) Up-to-date and valid data and gender statistics and indicators are available;
- (c) Member countries are willing to adopt gender sensitive policies and measures to reduce gender imbalances in congruence with international conventions, for example, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and as recommended by international global conferences and by ESCWA;
- (d) Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are made available to the Commission in a timely manner for its operational activities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

##### 1. *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

- (a) *Substantive servicing of meetings*  
Substantive servicing of the third session of the Committee on Women.
- (b) *Parliamentary documentation*
  - (i) Report to the Commission on the third session of the Committee on Women;
  - (ii) Report to the Committee on Women on key developments concerning the situation of women in the region;
  - (iii) Report to the Committee on Women on the outcome of the Beijing+10 review and CEDAW.
- (c) *Other services provided (ad hoc expert group meetings)*
  - (i) Expert group meeting on the exchange of good practices among national machineries for women: Gender audits and gender mainstreaming methodology;

- (ii) Regional forum for NGOs on gender issues: enhancing synergy, networking and participatory role in policy-making.

## *2. Other substantive activities*

### (a) *Recurrent publications*

- (i) Status of Arab Women Report 2007;
- (ii) Studies on Arab Women and Development Series, No. 35.

### (b) *Non-recurrent publications*

- (i) Regional report on gender mainstreaming fact sheets and national sectoral policies for the empowerment of women and gender equality;
- (ii) Regional report of NGOs on the follow-up to the Beijing+10 review and the implementation of CEDAW.

### (c) *Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*

- (i) Maintenance and regular updating of ESCWA web page on women and development, and creation of an e-network for knowledge-sharing among national machineries for women (continuous);
- (ii) Media information kit on developments related to the situation of Arab women.

## *3. Technical cooperation*

### (a) *Advisory services*

Follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Beijing+10 review, CEDAW and MDGs (two).

### (b) *Training courses, seminars and workshops*

Workshop on capacity building of NGOs and national machineries to synergize and participate in monitoring the implementation of the Beijing+10 review and CEDAW.

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