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

Twenty-ninth session  
Doha, 13-15 December 2016

Item 13 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development in the Arab States**

**Methods and tools to support member States**

**(Ministerial panel 3)**

## **I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. The twenty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) offers an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Arab region, despite the complex political, economic, social and environmental challenges that it is currently facing. As the United Nations' regional arm, ESCWA will assist Arab States in tailoring the global vision formulated in the 2030 Agenda to their specific needs, ensuring that national and regional realities are carefully considered.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

2. This panel discussion is aimed at promoting the policy, research and capacity-building tools provided by ESCWA to help member States in determining development priorities and setting a path towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It also aims to consider the potential benefits of international support in implementing the Agenda, as well as opportunities to strengthen cooperation and coordination with United Nations organizations to support Arab countries over the period.

## **III. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

3. ESCWA has adapted its programme of normative, technical and advisory work to the regional context and priorities. Its mandate and interdisciplinary structure place it in a unique position to support the tailoring, implementation and monitoring of the new global Agenda and associated Goals and targets.

4. Development issues are interrelated, and addressing them requires integrating policies and programmes across different sectors. In this discussion panel, ESCWA will present its programmatic vision, priorities and framework, as well as the tools, methodologies and projects developed to meet the needs of member States.

5. The panel is particularly set to showcase the projects that are currently in the pipelines. In particular, it will outline:

(a) The latest research innovations, tools and activities designed to tackle the complex challenges of post-conflict development, social inclusion and regional integration;

(b) Specific initiatives designed to support member States in their sustainable development endeavours, including:

- (i) A nexus approach to development planning and monitoring;
- (ii) Economic models that can be used to simulate the effects of different policy options;
- (iii) Capacity-building and training programmes to support the adaptation of the SDGs to different national contexts.

## **VI. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

6. The suggested discussion questions are as follows:

- How can the programmatic vision and conceptual framework of ESCWA tackle the key challenges faced by member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda?
- How do ESCWA tools and projects help member States to address shared challenges more effectively? How do they complement the work of country-based United Nations entities?
- How can ESCWA contribute to the transfer of international experiences and expertise in adaptation and implementation of the SDGs?

- How can an integrated approach to planning yield an efficient allocation of resources?
- How can macroeconomic models inform policy choices?
- What capacity gaps can best be addressed using a regional approach?
- Are there any successful experiences of models/strategies adopted by member States that can be shared and perhaps transferred to others? How can ESCWA help in this effort?
- What capacity-building projects can be scaled up in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- What type of international support is needed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How can development partners support Arab States in the implementation process?

## V. PARTICIPANTS

7. High-level policymakers from member States and representatives from the ESCWA secretariat and the United Nations system will participate in the panel discussion.

## VI. LANGUAGES

8. The discussion will be conducted in Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpretation from and to these languages.

## VII. CONTACTS

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