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Management issues

**Proposed amendments to the programme of work
for the biennium 2016-2017**

Summary

This document presents amendments to the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2016-2017, proposed by the ESCWA secretariat. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 at the first Executive Committee meeting (Amman, June 2015).

The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

Introduction

1. This document presents amendments proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the adoption by the Commission of its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 at the first Executive Committee meeting (Amman, June 2015).
2. The secretariat is proposing these changes with the aim of aligning the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 with the strategic pillars determined for the biennium 2018-2019, in order to ensure programme continuity. The changes are also intended to make an optimal use of the resources available while enhancing the quality, relevance and impact of the services provided to member States.
3. The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

4. The following matrix provides the proposed amendments itemized by subprogramme.

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Subprogramme 1					
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Joint session with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) at the Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC-6): Renewable innovations towards sustainable energy		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Electrical and natural gas interconnections in the Arab region			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes <u>New title:</u> The third Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ARFREE): Towards Competitive Sustainable Energy Market/Side Event on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Shared Water: Horizon 2030			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the eleventh session of the Committee on Water Resources (Amman, March 2015) to build capacity on climate change issues <u>New title:</u> Arab Climate Change Assessment Report

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<i>Technical material</i>					
The role of super energy service companies in implementing energy efficiency programmes in the Arab region		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
<i>Other publications</i>					
Fact sheet: Successful experiences using carbon financing mechanisms, including nationally appropriate mitigation actions, within the Arab region		1			Added at the request of member States during the tenth session of the Committee on Energy (Amman, March 2015)
<i>Field projects</i>					
Assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources and socioeconomic vulnerability in the Arab region		1			Added as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Adaptation to climate change in the water sector in the Middle East and North Africa region		1			Added as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Establishing a regional mechanism for improved monitoring and reporting on access to water supply and sanitation services in the Arab region: the MDG+ Initiative		1			Added as an extrabudgetary project continuing from the previous biennium
Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET)		1			Added as a project continuing from the previous biennium
Total for subprogramme 1	0	7	2	0	
Subprogramme 2					
Social development					
<i>Parliamentary documentation</i>					
Key issues to promote participation and citizenship in the Arab region			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice <u>New title:</u> Key issues to promote social justice in the Arab region
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Outline of the Social Development Report, No. 2			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice <u>New title:</u> Equality for the promotion of social justice in the Arab region

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Civil society dialogue series: exploring new frontiers			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the tenth session of the Committee on Social Development (Rabat, September 2015) to focus on social justice <u>New title:</u> Civil society dialogue series: social justice in the Arab region
Arab region report to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)		1			Added pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/216 para. 11, 68/239 para. 9, and 69/226 para. 13; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 para. 11; and resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2016		1			Added pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 para. 13 and 70/1 para. 81
<i>Technical material</i>					
Arab region report to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)		1			Added pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/216 para. 11, 68/239 para. 9, and 69/226 para. 13; Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 para. 11; and resolution 24/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council
Social impacts of energy subsidy reform in the Arab region		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Role of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		1			Added pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/201 para. 10
The Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan		1			Added pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/201 para. 10
<i>Special events</i>					
Side event at the seventeenth General Conference of the Arab Towns Organization: Promoting knowledge and innovation for inclusive and sustainable urban development in the Arab region		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
<i>Field projects</i>					
Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region		1			Added as a United Nations Development Account (DA) project
Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia		1			Added as a DA project

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Time for equality: strengthening the institutional framework of social policies		1			Added as a DA project
<i>Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings</i>					
Support to the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Substantive support to the Habitat III process		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 2	0	12	3	0	
Subprogramme 3 Economic development and integration					
<i>Parliamentary documentation</i>					
Policy options for reducing trade costs in the Arab region		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes (omitted inadvertently from the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017)
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Multi-dimensional poverty in the least developed countries			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes <u>New title:</u> Arab Development Outlook 2017
Total for subprogramme 3	0	1	1	0	
Subprogramme 4 Information and communications technology for regional integration					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Meeting of Arab e-government directors		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Arab digital agenda and plan of action 2025		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Implementation of the ESCWA-League of Arab States initiative for Internet governance		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
<i>Recurrent publications</i>					
Review of Technology for Development 2016			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Review of Technology for Development 2017			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<i>Non-recurrent publications</i>					
Science, Technology and Innovation: Horizon 2030		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Innovation for Knowledge-based Economies in the Arab Region: Enhancing the Innovation Framework			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes <u>New title:</u> Innovation Policy for Inclusive Sustainable Development
<i>Technical material</i>					
Working paper on innovation and entrepreneurship for Arab youth		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Arab digital agenda and plan of action 2025: an updated Arab information and communications technology strategy		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Global and regional best practices on knowledge stations		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Lebanon: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Egypt: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Tunisia: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Morocco: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Technology transfer in Oman: mapping, analysis and perspectives		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Legislative framework for facilitating technology transfer in Arab countries		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 4	0	13	3	0	
Subprogramme 5					
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking					
<i>Parliamentary documentation</i>					
Progress reports on statistical activities		1			Added by the secretariat (omitted inadvertently from the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017)

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<i>Technical material</i>					
Public release calendar for ESCWA data		1			Added in response to the request of member States
Total for subprogramme 5	0	2	0	0	
Subprogramme 6 Advancement of women					
<i>Technical material</i>					
Gender policy brief: Arab women, leadership and political participation			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes <u>New title:</u> Leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve gender justice by 2030
Women in the Arab region: Horizon 2030		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Total for subprogramme 6	0	1	1	0	
Subprogramme 7 Conflict mitigation and development					
<i>Ad hoc expert group meetings</i>					
Joint League of Arab States, Arab Administrative Development Organization and ESCWA 2017 Conference		1			Added in response to a request by the League of Arab States
<i>Technical material</i>					
Contribution to the Arab Development Outlook		1			Added for programmatic purposes , upon the request of the Economic Development and Integration Division (EDID)
Contribution to the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2015-2016		1			Added for programmatic purposes , upon the request of EDID
<i>Other publications</i>					
Communication strategy to support the Palestinian people		1			Added at the request of member States during the second meeting of the Executive Committee (Amman, December 2015), which asked the ESCWA secretariat to develop its proposed communications strategy outline aimed at supporting the Palestinian people and raising awareness of the Israeli violations of their rights

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
<i>Special events</i>					
Annual Conference of the GIFT-MENA (Governance Institutes Forum for Training-Middle East and North Africa) Network on Governance, Fragility and Sustainable Development		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
Towards an integrated approach to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action: perspectives from African and Arab least developed countries (as part of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action)		1			Added by the secretariat for programmatic purposes
<i>Field projects</i>					
Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia		1			Added as a DA project
Total for subprogramme 7	0	7	0	0	
Grand total for ESCWA	0	43	10	0	
