



**ESCWA**

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

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## Concept Paper for Workshop

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# “Leaving No-One Behind: Disability assessment and determination as a means for better inclusion of persons with disabilities in Arab countries”

**15-16 December 2019**  
**Semiramis hotel, Cairo, Egypt**

### 1. BACKGROUND

Disability policy is changing fast in Arab countries. Several countries have or are in the process of changing their disability laws, have already developed disability inclusion strategies or are in the process of doing so. Countries have also adjusted their institutional frameworks to conform with the requirements of the CRPD.

In this context, several countries are currently in the process of revising their disability assessment and determination procedures – away from medical models towards multi-dimensional assessments. Several approaches exist for such kind of multi-dimensional assessment, but no blueprint exists.

It is understood that better inclusion of persons with disabilities is a key enabler for countries to make better progress on achieving the SDGs. 11 SDG targets are explicitly mentioning persons with disabilities, and several additional targets either subsume persons with disabilities under ‘vulnerable groups’ and / or recommend disaggregation by disability status in the meta-data. ESCWA has compiled an Arab Disability Indicator Framework, which allows for better tracking disability status across SDPs. However, a majority of those indicators depend on better administrative data on disability, for which a revised assessment is required.

### 2. Objectives of the workshop

The workshop will bring together disability focal points from Ministries of Social Affairs, National Disability Councils and dedicated National Agencies across the Arab region. These focal points collectively form the Inter-Governmental Group of Experts on Disability Policy (IGED).

The workshop will provide an overview of international approaches to and tools for disability assessment and determination procedures. Participants will discuss existing assessment and determination procedures currently in place in member countries and ongoing change processes. In breakout groups participants will discuss the overall objectives of disability assessment, specific purposes such as work ability, disability pension, disability cards, learning support needs for children as well as long-term care needs.

### 3. Expected outputs of the workshop

The workshop is expected to support the reform of disability assessment and determination procedures in the Arab region through increased capacity of policy-makers as well as through regional exchange and cooperation among countries. Participants will engage in discussions, learn from each other as well as from external experts and agree on development priorities in the areas of disability assessment and determination procedures and establishment of related management information systems. The capacity of Arab countries to operationalize the 2030 Agenda and the CRPD and promote integrated approaches to SDG implementation will be strengthened.

### 5. DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1	
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Registration</i>
9:30 – 10:20	Opening and introduction Ashraf Marie, National Council for Persons with disabilities Egypt Dr. Nivine Kabbag, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Solidarity Gisela Nauk, Chief of Inclusive Social Development Section, ESCWA Round of introductions
10.20 – 10.30	<b>Short break</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Session 1: Disability assessment and determination: Main Challenges</b> <b>1. Current disability assessments and the changes required by the CRPD</b> Gisela Nauk, ESCWA <b>2. The ICF as a framework for disability assessment</b> Dr. Alaa El Sebeh, ESCWA <b>Moderated Discussion</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Gisela Nauk, Chief of Inclusive Social Development Section, ESCWA
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 2: Country presentations of new disability assessment procedures based on ICF:</b> <b>1. Egypt</b> <b>2. Oman</b> <b>3. Tunisia</b> 4. Morocco <b>Moderator:</b> Alaa Sebeh
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Session 3: Country presentations of disability assessment procedures, based on ICD</b> 1. Palestine 2. Sudan

	<p>3. Lebanon</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alaa Sebeh</p>
18.00 hrs – 20.00 hrs	Night trip on the Nile on the invitation of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities with dinner.
<b>DAY 2</b>	
9:00 - 10:00	<p><b>Session 4: Examples from other countries</b></p> <p><i>Approach to disability assessment and determination in Malta</i></p> <p>Presenter: Alistair de Gaitano, Malta</p> <p><b>Moderated discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Gisela Nauk</p>
10:00 - 11:00	<p><b>Examples from other countries (continued):</b></p> <p><i>Approach to disability assessment and determination in Armenia and Fiji</i></p> <p>Presenter: Alexandre Cote, ILO</p> <p><b>Moderated discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alaa Sebeh</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 - 12:30	<p><b>Session 5: Moderated group discussions on next steps</b></p> <p><b>1. Maghreb countries, moderated by Alaa Sebeh</b></p> <p><b>2. Mashreq and other countries, moderated by Gisela Nauk and Sumaya Almajdoub</b></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 6: Country updates on recent developments in disability policy</b></p> <p><b>1. Palestine, new disability law, Amin Inabi</b></p> <p><b>2. Round of updates</b></p>
15:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 7: Updates from ESCWA</b></p> <p><b>Follow up activities on disability assessment and determination</b></p> <p><b>Current ESCWA research</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Gisela Nauk (ESCWA)</p>