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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Statistical Committee
Tenth session
Cairo, 30-31 January 2013

INFORMATION NOTE**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Statistical Committee was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 179 (XVII) of 2 September 1996, concerning setting up a statistical committee within ESCWA, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993. The objectives of establishing the Committee included: following up progress achieved by member countries in the development of their statistical systems; providing technical advice, proposing training programmes and organizing workshops and seminars to enhance their statistical capacity; assisting member countries in standardizing national statistics to make them more comparable at the regional and international levels; coordinating the exchange of statistical data and information between member countries and the United Nations Statistical Commission; and coordinating the statistical programmes of member countries particularly in matters relating to surveys and censuses. The Statistical Committee holds its sessions on a biennial basis. It held its ninth session in Beirut, from 13 to 15 October 2010.

B. DATE AND VENUE OF THE TENTH SESSION

The tenth session of the Statistical Committee will be held at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo (Tahrir Square) from 30 to 31 January 2013. It will be followed by the thirty-seventh session of the Permanent Technical Committee on Statistics of the League of Arab States. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 30 January 2013, and the inaugural meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on the same day. The session will conclude in the afternoon of Thursday, 31 January 2013.

C. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

At its tenth session, the Statistical Committee aims to consolidate cooperation between member countries and with other regional and international organizations active in statistics. It will consider strategic and forward-looking issues related to official statistics in the region, including: implications of regional and global events for the statistical work in the region; capacity-building in statistics for evidence-based policymaking; and effective use of statistics in policymaking. The Committee will also review the projects and activities currently undertaken by the Statistics Division at ESCWA, as well as the future projects and initiatives in the field of statistics. It is invited to make comments on the progress achieved and current activities, and make recommendations on the future work in the field of statistics, with a view to strengthening the statistical capacity of member countries.

D. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The provisional agenda and annotations of the tenth session of the Statistical Committee are provided in document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/L.1. The proposed organization of work is contained in document E/ESCWA/SD/2012/IG.1/L.2.

E. PARTICIPANTS

The invitation has been extended to heads of national statistical offices in the ESCWA region, national technical focal points and those with expertise and interest in the topics of discussion. Representatives of regional and international organizations involved in statistical work are welcome to participate as observers.

In accordance with United Nations practice, Governments participating in the session are responsible for the travel and subsistence expenses of their delegates. Similarly, regional and international organizations participating as observers shall cover such expenses for their representatives.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

All session-related correspondence should be directed to:

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