Section III of this Bulletin, entitled "Marriages and Divorces", presents data on registered marriage and divorce in the ESCWA region from 2000 to the most recent year for which data are available. The mean age at first marriage estimated from the most recent population census and/or household survey is also provided.

Tables 64-65 present total numbers of marriage and divorce cases since 2000 in ESCWA member countries, in addition to the latest available data from family surveys and household censuses on mean age at first marriage by nationality and sex in ESCWA member countries.

Table 64 presents annual data on the number of registered marriages in ESCWA member countries during 2000-2010. The data show that the number of marriages increased in all ESCWA countries except for Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

As table 65 indicates, the number of divorces increased significantly by 35 per cent in Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar, to 48 per cent in the Syrian Arab Republic and doubled in Egypt from 2006 to 2010. The increase was the lowest (29 per cent) in the United Arab Emirates during the 2006-2010 period.

Table 66 presents recent data for age at first marriage from different data sources such as population census and statistical surveys in the ESCWA Arab countries. The highest mean age at first marriage for men was 29 years in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and the Syrian Arab Republic and for women, it ranged between 24 and 28 years in the majority of ESCWA member countries expect for Iraq and Palestine. The lowest mean age at marriage for men was 25 years in Palestine, and for women was 19 years in Palestine. Moreover,

data from five countries Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates show that there were variations between nationals (citizens) and non-nationals (non-citizens) mean age at marriage. Non-nationals married later than their nationals' counterparts. For example, in Qatar, mean age at marriage was 30 years for non Qatari men and 27 years for Qatari men; it was 26 years for non Qatari women and 24 years for Qatari women.

Finally, table 67 shows the distribution of population at the age of 10, 12 and 15 years and above according to marital status by sex from different data sources such as population census and statistical surveys in ESCWA Arab countries.

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