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25 – 29 MARCH 2018

Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (ESCWA)



Conference B

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee Staff

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Director | Jakob Landwehr |
| Chair | Jonathan Stuppel |

Agenda

- I. Achieving the Arab Development Outlook
- II. Reducing the Occurrence of Gender-Based Violence
- III. Strengthening Arab Least Developed Countries

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

| Code | Topic | Vote |
|-----------|--|--|
| ESCWA/1/1 | Achieving the Arab Development Outlook | 13 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 0 abstentions |
| ESCWA/1/2 | Achieving the Arab Development Outlook | Adopted without a vote |
| ESCWA/1/3 | Achieving the Arab Development Outlook | 11 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 2 abstentions |
| ESCWA/1/4 | Achieving the Arab Development Outlook | 13 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 0 abstentions |

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Achieving the Arab Development Outlook
- II. Strengthening Arab Least Developed Countries
- III. Reducing the Occurrence of Gender-Based Violence

The session was attended by representatives of 15 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Achieving the Arab Development Outlook.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of subtopics including strengthening regional microfinance initiatives, developing infrastructure for education and finance, promoting post-conflict development, and suggesting best practices for sustainable and renewable energy policies, all in the framework of the five pillars of the *Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030*. From the outset of the meeting, delegates worked on developing appropriate regional solutions with a remarkable degree of cooperation and diligence.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including the need to strengthen regional data-sharing and microfinance, the utility of waste-energy conversion solutions, linkages between lack of education and terrorism, and the urgency of realizing transformational growth in the region. The committee is especially recognized for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and productive engagement throughout its work and deliberations.



Code: ESCWA/1/1

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

2
3 *Guided by Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), which highlights the importance to maintain peace*
4 *and international security as well as the respect for human rights whilst upholding state sovereignty,*

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6 *Believing in the rights of the individual, as outlined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) of*
7 *1948,*

8
9 *Affirming the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Statistical Committee,*
10 *established under ESCWA resolution 179/(XVI) (1992), to gather information on micro-financing strategies,*

11
12 *Desiring to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for*
13 *Sustainable Development” adopted in General Assembly resolution 70/1 in 2015, based on principles adopted in*
14 *General Assembly resolution 66/288 (2012) on “The future we want,”*

15
16 *Reaffirming the importance of the Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (Vision 2030) launched in 2015 as well*
17 *as the common goals of the Arab States to achieve political, social, and economic stability that are innately shared,*
18 *particularly by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Western Asia,*

19
20 *Re-emphasizing pillars 4, 5 and 6 of Vision 2030, focusing on Transformational Growth, Human Development and*
21 *Social Justice, and Regional Integration, with particular emphasis on the effects on LDCs,*

22
23 *Recalling further the work of the ESCWA Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization*
24 *and Financing for Development stressing the importance of ESCWA building capacity and strengthening its*
25 *working processes,*

26
27 *Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/166 of 2014 on “The right to privacy in the digital age” to ensure*
28 *the right to privacy as it pertains to the modern world, and understanding the developing challenges faced in the age*
29 *of technology,*

30
31 *Taking note of the necessity to share data among Member States as highlighted in the ESCWA Annual Report 2016*
32 *(E/ESCWA/OES/2017/1),*

33
34 *Taking into consideration the information gathered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2017, in which*
35 *Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Member States’ average growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)*
36 *decreased from 5.6 percent to 1.7 percent within one year,*

37
38 *Recognizing the role of regional conferences, such as the Middle Eastern and North Africa Summit in 2018, in*
39 *discussing concerns and essential needs related to issues of economic diversification and regional direct investment*
40 *between Member States,*

41
42 *Emphasizing the importance of regional governmental programs such as the Arab Gulf Program for Development*
43 *(AGFUND) for their role in supporting local development initiatives such as business and strategic planning, and*
44 *financial modeling,*

45
46 *Having considered the importance of regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Afif Charity*
47 *originating in Qatar, in contributing to significant job growth in the region,*

48

49 *Confident* that micro-finance institutions economically supported by regional governmental programs such as
50 AGFUND will be guided by consumer protection and responsibility codes covering disclosure, transparency, service
51 standards, and ethical practices,
52

53 *Deeply appreciative of* the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in 2011, which was an
54 important conference to help develop sustainable economic strategies, such as the *Programme of Action for the*
55 *Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*,
56

57 *Having considered further* the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 and outcomes
58 adopted in General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015) on “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International
59 Conference on Financing for Development,” and its emphasis on the need to address economic inequality between
60 Member States and calling to provide additional platforms to address the challenges of valuable countries,
61

62 1. *Suggests* all relevant ESCWA subsidiary committees, such as the Statistical Committee, the Technical
63 Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development and
64 Committee on Technology for Development, to collaborate more closely with regard to the sharing of statistical
65 data relevant to achieving the targets set in Vision 2030 by Member States and the UN Economic and Social
66 Council (ECOSOC), such as:
67

- 68 a. Collecting data for the purposes of human development and channeling of funds with special emphasis
69 on areas that need micro-financing and are deeply dependent on Official Development Aid (ODA);
70
- 71 b. Increasing efforts of data gathering in LDCs and conflict affected areas that severely lack data
72 gathering mechanisms and bureaus;
73
- 74 c. Gathering data on the progress of regional development institutions, such as the Arab Fund, the Kuwait
75 Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Saudi
76 Fund for Development (SFD), to be more open for public scrutiny for the projects they finance through
77 methods such as GeoMapping technology;
78

79 2. *Reaffirms its belief* in the importance of coordinating demographic data gathering and sharing between ESCWA
80 Member States and the lack thereof for certain ESCWA Member States, and encourages the sharing of
81 demographic data in accordance with the *ESCWA Annual Report (E/ESCWA/OES/2016/1)* of 2015 by:
82

- 83 a. Calling upon the ESCWA Secretariat to employ the ESCWA Statistical Committee to partner with
84 state-controlled data gathering bodies and UN recognized independent data gathering organizations,
85 such as Amnesty International, to collect data for regions that have an inadequate or non-existent
86 collection mechanisms;
87
- 88 b. Acting in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 68/167 of 2014 on “The right to privacy in
89 the digital age;”
90
- 91 c. Encouraging the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities to increase its focus on financial support
92 for data collection and analysis in all ESCWA Member States in order to continue to update strategies
93 aiming to increase socio-economic growth within individual states in the Western Asian region;
94

95 3. *Recommends* the ESCWA Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and
96 Financing for Development to supervise the establishment and operation of micro-financing schemes, if
97 applicable, within the economic landscapes of Member States with the aim of reducing poverty by increasing
98 job opportunities, the knowledge economy and innovation within each ESCWA Member State to achieve the
99 Vision 2030 by:
100

- 101 a. Mandating the Committee to provide advice for ESCWA Member States on the formation of
102 microfinance institutions, as defined in Secretary-General (SG) statement and message 10151-ECO/94
103 (2005) addressing the problem that financial services are often not accessible for low-income
104 households;

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- b. Further mandating the Committee to prepare a report to be presented to ESCWA in 2020 on the possible implementation of microfinance institutions for development with specific emphasis on:
 - i. Clear guidelines for registration and incorporation of microfinance institutions including annual auditing schemes and basic reporting requirements;
 - ii. Management criteria that encourage regional state investment in development programs;
 - 4. *Calls upon* greater collaboration between ESCWA subsidiary bodies, in particular the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development, and the governing bodies of all ESCWA Member States on micro-financing, to acknowledge the aforementioned report outcomes with particular regard to vulnerable groups including but not limited to women and youth;
 - 5. *Directs attention* to the economic and social benefits for ESCWA Member States to collaborate with regional governmental programs such as AGFUND to receive necessary financial resources to create micro-financing institutions and contribute to the achievement of Vision 2030 based on the consideration of previous successes in Jordan, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, and Egypt;
 - 6. *Expresses its support* of increased collaboration between Member States and private entities including, but not limited to, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) especially NGOs recognized by both Member States and the UN, UN bodies, and regional funds through:
 - a. Collaboration such as financial aid, campaign aid, with NGOs supported by ESCWA and within its Member States, to be:
 - i. Promoted by ESCWA in the form of increasing regional ties between ESCWA Member States, in accordance with the goal of regional coordination outlined in Vision 2030;
 - ii. Coordinated between techniques on the lines of the technical cooperation network page organized by ESCWA in Beirut for facilitating coordination;
 - b. Inviting UN bodies and funds like United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund for Middle Eastern and North African Countries (UNICEF MENA), for further input such as financial and campaign-related into the above development program as to its implementation within the Western Asian region;
 - c. Providing financial support to Arab LDCs, in accordance with appropriate international guidelines defined by monetary institutions such as the World Bank, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to:
 - i. Supplement state-endorsed programs for micro-financing such as the Bahrain Family Bank;
 - ii. Support non-governmental initiatives for financial aid by tangible means including but not limited to creating job opportunities, such as the Afif charity, a non-governmental organization in Qatar;
 - iii. Support also inter-state and intra-state collaboration between not only governments of states of ESCWA but also between governments at a secondary and tertiary levels;
 - 7. *Calls upon* the ESCWA Secretariat and all its relevant sub-committees to carry out a survey on forms, implementation challenges to identify, recommendations to:
 - a. Demarcate the role of finance including but not limited to macro- and micro-economic financial problems and economic self-sustainability between Member States in the Western Asian region;
 - b. Form analysis along with recommendations, that is to:
 - i. Be carried out in Member States for a duration of five years;

- 161 ii. Be funded by Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among
162 Developing Countries;
- 163 iii. Be carried out by the Ahmed Hussein Head Statistics Coordination Unit for Data Collection
164 and Population Analysis of ESCWA;
- 165
- 166 c. Be prepared and presented in 2022 elaborating actively on the role of finance, both on macro and
167 micro levels in the Western Asian region;
- 168
- 169 8. *Encourages* the formation of an international regional conference between Arab States which:
- 170
- 171 a. Will be located in Beirut, Lebanon;
- 172
- 173 b. Includes the participation of all ESCWA Member States and voluntary participants of the Arab
174 League;
- 175
- 176 c. Aims to increase attention to the development of Arab LDCs in order to better coordinate their
177 international standing, whilst addressing concerns of sustainable economic development including best
178 practices to address the goals of Social Justice in Vision 2030;
- 179
- 180 d. Recommends coordination between ESCWA LDCs, listed in the *United Nations Conference on Trade
181 and Developments' Least Developed Report (UNCTAD/LDC/2016)*;
- 182
- 183 e. Shall be held in 2020, and reconvene after 5 years, in order to review the internal application of
184 recommended policies;
- 185
- 186 f. Will include a review report in 2030 published by ESCWA and submitted to ECOSOC, following the
187 second conference, which shall consider:
- 188
- 189 i. Areas where recommendations from the conference have been successfully implemented into
190 policy;
- 191 ii. Areas where further monitoring is required in order for the policies mentioned above to be
192 eventually successfully implemented;
- 193 iii. Recommendations for further action to be taken before the next meeting.



Code: ESCWA/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

2
3 *Guided by the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) (1945), especially Article 1 which*
4 *calls for international coordination and cooperation in addressing global issues such as development,*

5
6 *Affirming the mandate of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), established by the United*
7 *Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1818/LV (1973), to be a regional body for addressing economic*
8 *and social development, regional cooperation and integration, and the exchange of experience and best practices,*

9
10 *Aware of the need to incentivize the adoption of renewable energy sources among public and private sectors, such as*
11 *solar energy and geothermal energy, as stated in the Pan Arab Energy Strategy 2030 (2013),*

12
13 *Emphasizing the concerns for transparency and accountability highlighted in United Nations General Assembly*
14 *resolutions 68/264 (2014), 69/272 (2015), 70/255 (2016), and 71/283 (2017), and the effectiveness of distributed*
15 *ledger technology in addressing these concerns as highlighted by the World Bank in the article entitled Blockchain*
16 *and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) (2018),*

17
18 *Further emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12, which*
19 *encourage the development of diverse and sustainable infrastructures and economies globally in addition to ensuring*
20 *the protection of citizens social rights and the environment with particular regard to the focus on the safe removal*
21 *and management of solid waste in SDG 11,*

22
23 *Recalling the need expressed by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing*
24 *for Development (2015) through goal 17 for “Protecting our ecosystems for all” that prioritizes establishing and*
25 *making available to all nations clean technologies and innovations that ensure the minimization of developmental*
26 *effects on the environment,*

27
28 *Fulfilling the objectives of the Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (Vision 2030) such as achieving*
29 *transformational growth through green energies and promoting regional integration which seeks to support Western*
30 *Asian member states’ implementation of the global goals identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable*
31 *Development adopted by UNGA resolution 70/1 in 2015,*

32
33 *Takes note of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change’s Marrakech Action Proclamation for our Climate*
34 *and Sustainable Development (2016), and its focus on combating climate change through increased regional*
35 *cooperation and capacity building for sustainable technology,*

36
37 *Deeply disturbed that up to 12.7 million metric tons of pollute the oceans in 2017, resulting in over \$8 billion of*
38 *ecosystem damages as reported by the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP),*

39
40 *Stressing the importance of the regional goals outlined by the five pillars of Vision 2030 and of taking concrete*
41 *actions towards its implementation in Western Asia in line with the third pillar Transformational Growth and the*
42 *fifth pillar Regional Integration which address environmentally sustainable developments and technology sharing*
43 *respectively, thus contributing to regional divergence from non-renewable based economies,*

44
45 *Praising many Member States’ immense successes in developing comprehensive national Vision 2030 action plans*
46 *and implementing many of the ambitious objectives of diversifying economies, pursuing renewable energies, and*
47 *furthering sustainable development across the region,*

48

49 *Fully aware of* the needs for local governments to reduce barriers to entry in the waste-to-energy industry,
50 specifically referring to the barriers of energy plant construction and overhead costs in order to enable all ESCWA
51 Member States to participate in the industry,
52

53 *Acknowledging* the successes of ESCWA's Statistical Committee in supporting and encouraging Member States to
54 develop more standardized, effective, and accurate statistical data as well as increasing their statistical capacity,
55 particularly noting the advancement in developing accurate energy data,
56

57 *Further acknowledging* the work done by ESCWA's Committee of Energy in connecting and engaging regional
58 stakeholders, experts, and Member State representatives with energy concerns and developmental knowledge,
59

60 *Alarmed by* statistics published by UN bodies such as the UNEP, revealing the detrimental effects of unsustainable
61 or undeveloped waste management systems, especially those that expose the frequency and volume of
62 eutrophication, pollution, and the consequential dangers posed to human health and ecosystem-based economies,
63

64 *Conscious of* the financial constraints that face developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that may hinder
65 their ability to adopt major sustainable waste management and energy systems, recognizing that ESCWA Member
66 States are listed as LDCs,
67

68 *Inspired by* the invention and prospect of sustainable waste management systems that convert waste into renewable
69 energy while protecting nation's ecosystems, especially those implemented in some ESCWA Member States, such
70 as Jordan's Waste-to-Energy plant project in the Greater Amman Municipality which aims to process waste at the
71 rate 2,000 tons per day,
72

73 *Recognizing* the volunteer donations of different countries and of funding programs such as the Arab Fund for
74 Economic and Social development, the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund), the Scaling Up
75 Renewable Energy Program, and other initiatives that donate capital to fund areas such as but not limited to waste
76 management and energy generation initiatives, and welcoming further investment into the program,
77

78 1. *Establishes* a subsidiary committee of the ESCWA named the Waste Trade Commission (WTC), in order to
79 address the need for sustainable waste management systems, green energies and promote sustainability among
80 ESCWA Members States, aiming to:
81

- 82 a. Reduce negative impacts on the environment;
- 83
- 84 b. Encourage increased employment within the sectors of waste management and energy generation;
- 85
- 86 c. Allocate resources towards sustainable energy development;
- 87
- 88 d. Increase cooperation between the Western Asia region resulting in the emergence of a waste trade
89 market;
- 90

91 2. *Decides* that the WTC shall oversee and standardize the sale of waste units in cooperation with the ESCWA
92 Committee on Energy by:
93

- 94 a. Setting regional standards for the trade, guided by classifications used by the International
95 Organization for Standardization, through:
96
- 97 i. Defining the waste unit as one metric ton of waste;
- 98 ii. Classifying Recyclable Waste (RW) as waste that can be recycled or reused, such as paper
99 materials and plastic, specifically with plastic types 1 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), 2
100 High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and 4 Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE);
- 101 iii. Characterizing Inorganic Waste (IW) as non-recyclable and non-compostable waste,
102 including plastic types 3 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), 5 Polypropylene (PP), 7 (BPA,
103 Polycarbonate and LEXAN) and 6 PS (Polystyrene) when recycling demand is met;

- 104 iv. Identifying Organic Waste (OW) as biodegradable waste that can be composted, such as food
105 matter and sewage;
106
- 107 b. Allowing waste units to be traded in metric tons, or any subdivision of the unit;
108
- 109 c. Defining the price for waste units within each category by the market, taking into consideration the
110 specific purposes of the different categories of waste units;
111
- 112 d. Consisting of up to two representatives from each ESCWA Member State;
113
- 114 e. Meeting bi-annually rotating among Member States, in Beirut, Lebanon;
115
- 116 f. Chairing these meetings in alphabetical order of all ESCWA Member States;
117
- 118 3. *Calls upon* the ESCWA Secretariat to work in partnership with the Statistical Committee of ESCWA to conduct
119 individual reports on waste-to-energy conversion opportunities if requested by ESCWA Member States,
120 specifically collecting data on trade volume potential, sustainable waste management capacities, potential
121 barriers to entry and recommendations to overcome such barriers, as well as the overall growth potential and
122 includes respective targets and outputs in the next ESCWA program of work for the biennium 2020-2021;
123
- 124 4. *Decides* that WTC shall prepare a report until 2023 on the feasibility for all waste storage and trade
125 organizations selling waste units to acquire a Waste Trade & Storage Accreditation provided by local
126 governments and guided by the WTC Best Practices of Trade and Storage, whereby this accreditation would
127 encourage:
128
- 129 a. Organizations to operate on a first-in first-out system (FIFO) for storing and selling waste units;
130
- 131 b. Organizations to store RW for indefinite periods;
132
- 133 c. Organizations not store IW for more than one week following the FIFO system;
134
- 135 d. Organizations not store OW for more than one week in environments of no more than zero-degree
136 Celsius conditions to avoid the release of methane and loss of potency of the organic matter for energy
137 generation by means of anaerobic digestion;
138
- 139 e. All organizations that store waste to keep accurate records of inventory and report inventories to the
140 local agencies as well as to the WTC;
141
- 142 f. All storage facilities containing combustible matter to contain appropriate ventilation or methane
143 collection systems to avoid combustion;
144
- 145 g. Local governments to conduct annual audits at random to assess adherence to regulation of inventories,
146 product quality, and building regulation adherence, seeking the consultation of the WTC in this process
147 if needed;
148
- 149 h. Organizations to coordinate all waste trades with a local accreditation agency, as well as the WTC,
150 communicating transportation schedules, types of waste being transported, and quantities (in mass) of
151 waste being transported;
152
- 153 i. Vehicles to be equipped with ventilation systems with local law enforcement notified, if required by
154 national or international safety standards, of the transportation schedule, if waste is combustible;
155
- 156 j. Drivers to receive specialized training for operating large vehicles and managing the risks of
157 transporting combustible material;
158

- 159 k. Local governments to conduct audits to assess adherence to regulation of transportation coordination
160 with relevant agencies and law enforcement, transportation vessel safety, and driver competence;
161
- 162 5. *Establishes* a Waste-to-Energy fund (WE Fund) based on the recommendations in the report mentioned below
163 to act as a regional fund to subsidize sustainable waste-to-energy initiatives for all ESCWA Member States, to
164 be a subsidiary fund of the WTC whereby the fund shall:
165
- 166 a. Be limited specifically to WTC initiatives;
167
- 168 b. Provide financial assistance for the construction of incineration plants, anaerobic digester plants, and
169 recycling plants to process waste units in developing Arab states where funding will be allocated by
170 the WTC based on an application process:
171
- 172 i. Reviewed bi-annually by the WTC with application and report deadlines set as the first day of
173 the month before these meetings;
174 ii. That includes a project proposal outlining blueprints, construction costs and timeline, resource
175 availability and utilization, and potential barriers to project implementation;
176 iii. With preference towards project proposals that include renewable and sustainable energy
177 structures, such as solar power and geothermal heating and cooling;
178
- 179 c. Provide this financial assistance for developing waste-to-energy and transportation infrastructure
180 through an incremental payment system of every 6-months post WTC review and approval of
181 mandatory bi-annual reports of the projects, which will:
182
- 183 i. Be composed by the project leaders and submitted to the WTC upon completion;
184 ii. Include description on the current progress of construction, including a flexible schedule
185 report, flexible budget report, and current challenges and challenge mitigation report;
186 iii. Be subject to evaluation as to whether or not the WE-Fund will continue funding specific
187 projects;
188
- 189 d. Be open to charitable donations by ESCWA Member States,
190
- 191 e. Be headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon;
192
- 193 6. *Directs* the ESCWA Secretariat to compile a report that will evaluate the amount of financial resources
194 necessary to efficiently and sustainability implement the WTC, whereby this report will:
195
- 196 a. Evaluate the funds needed for WTC administration and upkeep as well as funding for the WE Fund;
197
- 198 b. Discuss and evaluate funding opportunities from:
199
- 200 i. Voluntary private donations, including from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
201 ii. Public-private partnerships;
202 iii. The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa;
203 iv. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development;
204 v. The Arab Gulf Programme for Development;
205 vi. The Arab Development Fund;
206 vii. The SDG fund;
207 viii. The Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program;
208
- 209 c. Be presented in two years in Beirut, Lebanon at conference meeting for the Committee on Energy and
210 any interested ESCWA Member State prior to implementation of the WTC and Waste-To-Energy
211 Fund;
212

- 213 7. *Encourages* the financial institutions, such as banks, contributing to the WE Fund to manage financial assets
214 through using accountable, non-anonymous, DLT to verify accounts and spending as well as submit annual
215 audits to ESCWA, acknowledging that:
216
- 217 a. The purpose of DLTs is to allow for multiple decentralized verifications and to ensure accurate records
218 and transparency in the funding process;
 - 219 b. Tunisia will lead the software architecture design and implementation for DLT, with a key focus on
220 consistent reporting of information;
 - 221 c. Servers storing DLT information will be located in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia;
 - 222 d. Ledger transactions begin with the DLT in order to record the identity of the parties in transaction, and
223 the physical capital transfer will be made by financial institutions following this record;
 - 224
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 - 227
- 228 8. *Recommends* a local tax on the private sector trade of waste units to fund administrative costs for waste trading,
229 sorting, and processing for organizations where:
230
- 231 a. The tax and allocation shall be determined by individual Member States;
 - 232 b. The taxes shall not be imposed for plants for an extended period of time to encourage local
233 entrepreneurship;
 - 234 c. Tax revenue is encouraged to be allocated towards investment in waste processing plants such as
235 recycling plants, incineration plants, and anaerobic digester plants, emphasizing the need to subsidize
236 plant construction and administrative expenses per the discretion of each individual Member State;
 - 237
 - 238
 - 239
 - 240 d. Consultation with ESCWA and subsidiary ESCWA bodies in the formulation and implementation
241 processes of the local tax is highly encouraged;
 - 242
- 243 9. *Invites* Member States to implement energy sharing programs, with oversight from and reports by ESCWA's
244 Committee on Energy, to allow LDCs access to the necessary resources needed to establish or rebuild
245 renewable energy institutions within its government;
246
- 247 10. *Endorses* increased Member State contributions to sustainable energy funds, such as the Clean Technology
248 Fund, the Strategic Climate Fund, as well as the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program, to finance further
249 development of renewable energy sectors not only in Member States with established renewable energy
250 industries, but also in LDCs and developing countries who need the necessary technology to improve such
251 sectors.



Code: ESCWA/1/3

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

2
3 *Recognizing the importance of domestic jurisdiction, as per the Article 2, Paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United*
4 *Nations (UN) (1945), and its importance for independent development without interference from ulterior agendas,*

5
6 *Considering Article 62, Paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) which grants the Economic and*
7 *Social Council (ECOSOC) the ability to make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic,*
8 *social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters,*

9
10 *Approving the work of ESCWA in the area of promoting education and political participation among youth and its*
11 *impacts on promoting development reported on in the Promoting Participatory Democracy in the ESCWA Region*
12 *Technical Paper, in line with target 16.7 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, to ensure responsive, inclusive,*
13 *participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels,*

14
15 *Bearing in mind chapter 1-D of the Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (Vision 2030) of 2015 which illuminates*
16 *the lack of quality education and opportunity as a major obstacle to accomplishing the development in the Western*
17 *Asian region,*

18
19 *Reaffirming the commitment of ESCWA to the enjoyment of peace, stability, and prosperity through the goals set*
20 *forth in the Vision 2030 of 2015,*

21
22 *Also bearing in mind the success of partnerships in education between Member States and UN entities such as the*
23 *partnership between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Tunisian Ministry of Education campaign*
24 *from 2016 designed to provide second chance opportunities to students who have dropped out of school and are*
25 *susceptible to extreme radicalization,*

26
27 *Aware of the benefit of keeping children in school to focus on their education, as emphasized in the 2015 report of the*
28 *Secretary-General on the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), in partnership with the United*
29 *Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a means of increasing retention rates in order*
30 *to mitigate radicalization,*

31
32 *Cognizant of the use of social media as a method of extremism and terrorism recruitment portrayed in UNESCO's*
33 *report Youth and Violent Extremism on Social Media: Mapping the Research (2017),*

34
35 *Stressing once again the importance of transparency, accountability, and credibility in decision-making processes in*
36 *order to foster public confidence as highlighted by the 2017 Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*
37 *(ESCWA) Expert Group Meeting on Open Government: Emerging Technologies for Greater Government*
38 *Transparency and Accountability in the Arab Region,*

39
40 *Acknowledging the difficulties faced when attempting to effectively understand and combat terror in the region,*
41 *especially the lack of focus and specificity on Western Asia by the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee*
42 *(CTC),*

43
44 *Realizing the severe situation in Western Asia regarding peace and security, especially in relation to terrorism, and*
45 *the detrimental effects it has on Member States in the region, such as political, economic, and social instability,*

46
47 1. *Fully supports the use of education-based programs to prevent the radicalization of youth within all Member*
48 *States and encourage ESCWA to increase the focus to address this issue in future programs of work through:*

49

- 50 a. Strengthening collaboration between Member States in and out of conflict to share educational resources
51 and knowledge to fill each Member State's educational gaps such as improvement of educational
52 facilities and scarcity of teachers in conflict zones and maintain educational services through periods of
53 conflict;
54
- 55 b. Encouraging Member States to prioritize retention of students in educational institutions;
56
- 57 2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the inclusion of economically and socially vulnerable groups, such as but not
58 limited to women, children, people with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and people in
59 rural areas in all recommendations for the promotion of enhanced livelihoods adopted by ESCWA;
60
- 61 3. *Suggests* the voluntary national implementation of apprenticeships within ESCWA Member States in order to
62 provide opportunities for youth in different sectors to be determined by the Member State, such as Agriculture,
63 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (ASTEM) and other areas by:
64
- 65 a. Encouraging LDCs and More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) in Western Asia to
66 participate in exchanges to encourage youth to learn skills in respective critical sectors;
67
- 68 b. Increasing partnerships with local and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and
69 governmental organizations to find specific areas of need for youth development within Member States;
70
- 71 c. Providing a platform through ESCWA for cooperation between Member States to better facilitate these
72 apprenticeships;
73
- 74 4. *Calls upon* the Secretariat of ESCWA to conduct a follow-up report by 2025, evaluating the progress of Member
75 States and making recommendations to implement the suggestions presented in the 2017 Expert Group Meeting
76 on Open Government: Emerging Technologies for Greater Government Transparency and Accountability in the
77 Arab Region;
78
- 79 5. *Encourages* ECOSOC to advocate for an expansion of the UN Security Council's Tech Against Terrorism
80 Program focusing on radical ideologies promoted on social media;
81
- 82 6. *Decides* that the ESCWA Secretariat shall prepare a feasibility report to be presented in 2020 on the creation of a
83 subsidiary committee and database focused on combating and understanding terrorism specifically in Western
84 Asia, including:
85
- 86 a. Research on the most important data and reports on terror to be gathered in the region;
87
- 88 b. Suggesting options for potential membership in this committee, including but not limited to Member
89 States, Observer States, NGOs and Civil Society;
90
- 91 c. Recognizing potential funding provisions for initial implementation and continued support of the
92 subsidiary committee and database;
93
- 94 d. Determining potential goals and outputs for the database and subsidiary committee;
95
- 96 e. Exploring potential mechanisms for proliferation of information on the database and subsidiary
97 committee;
98
- 99 7. *Recommends* that the World Bank, Arab Development Fund, other relevant regional development banks expand
100 their interests to conflict-prone Member States within the Western Asian region for consideration of future
101 projects, to assist in the rebuilding of post-conflict areas through developing settlements for low income families
102 using sustainable methods such as:
103

- 104 a. Creating cost-efficient, sustainable housing using organic materials and modeling housing by mirroring
105 the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's Sustainable Housing for Sustainable Cities
106 Framework;
107
- 108 b. Promoting water security through collecting and filtering rainwater;
109
- 110 c. Producing clean, renewable energy through solar panel rooftops;
111
- 112 8. *Invites* the ESCWA Secretariat to prepare a report which gauges the availability and success of educational
113 opportunities such as internships, mentorships, scholarships, fellowships, and other programs aiming to promote
114 youth inclusion in government to expand civil involvement by:
115
- 116 a. Evaluating the success of existing programs, such as the United Nations Development Group Arab States
117 Middle East and North Africa Region: Strategic Action Plan on Young People, and elucidating how
118 other programs may be improved to increase youth involvement;
119
- 120 b. Recommending a quinquennial report to track the improvements of programs beginning in the year 2020.



Code: ESCWA/1/4

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

2
3 Bearing in mind Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) promoting economic and social cooperation
4 in order to improve the stability and well-being,

5
6 Keeping in mind Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) highlighting that everyone has the
7 right to education,

8
9 *Emphasizing* the regional AGA Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) (1967), in particular, highlighting
10 its active role as a development institution oriented towards social change,

11
12 *Recalling* the achievements of existing regional financial institutions such as the Arab Fund for Economic and
13 Social Development (1972), the Islamic Development Bank (1973) and The Arab Bank for Economic Development
14 in Africa established (1973) as regional financial institutions making significant contributions for the future
15 development of the region,

16
17 *Highlighting* the ESCWA Committee on Energy, established under resolution 204 (XVIII), of 25 May 1995, and its
18 function as a forum for coordinating energy issues and regional trade,

19
20 *Considering* the role of the Committee on Transport and Logistics, established under resolution 213 (XIX), of 7 May
21 1997, and its mission to progress regional avenues of trade, both in tangible and intangible capital,

22
23 *Expressing* its appreciation to the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization
24 and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, established under resolution 214 (XIX), of
25 7 May 1997, and its tireless efforts to unlock the potential of ESCWA's entrepreneurs, visionaries, youth, and shift
26 economic activities from the informal to the formal sector,

27
28 *Recalling* the contributions of the ESCWA Committee on Technology for Development, established under the
29 resolution 315 (XXVIII), of 18 September 2014 towards identifying opportunities for economic growth and
30 improving tacit capital,

31
32 *Recalling* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8, 9, and 11 and their focus on decent work and economic
33 growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure and sustainable cities and communities,

34
35 *Fulfilling* the objectives of Vision 2030 such as achieving transformational growth through green energies and
36 promoting regional integration which seeks to support Western Asian Member States' implementation of the global
37 goals identified in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly
38 (UNGA) resolution 70/1 in 2015,

39
40 *Stressing the importance* of the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of the Third International Conference on Financing for
41 Development (TICFD) (2015),

42
43 *Recognizing* resolution 71/251 adopted by the General Assembly (2016) on "Establishment of the Technology Bank
44 for Least Developed Countries" as a good example of a mechanism helping sharing scientific and technological
45 solutions against the obstacles of the SDGs,

46
47 *Affirming* the importance of the Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (Vision 2030) (2016) and its focus on
48 economic, human and socioeconomic development by promoting the regional integration and trade pillar of its five
49 pillars,

50

51 *Acknowledging* the achievements of existing business forum held by public and private sectors such as Arab
52 Foundations Forum and Arab Financial Forum by Middle East Consultants in terms of inviting more foreign
53 companies to invest in the region,
54

55 *Bearing in mind* the national successes such as of the Republic of Iraq has had in utilizing Public-Private
56 Partnerships (PPPs) and regional cooperation to increase productivity, and deliver improved infrastructure and
57 public utilities which bolster trade, such as the \$7.4 billion Grand Faw Port project or Iraq's purchasing-sharing-
58 agreements (PSAs) with international oil corporations,
59

60 *Believing* that the highly educated and high achieving foreign diasporas of ESCWA, who make a significant
61 economic impact in their host countries, can play a key role in developing value-added industries and rebuilding
62 efforts by utilizing their expertise, and that their economic impact is substantial and necessary to promote regional
63 development,
64

65 *Noting with satisfaction* the success of international funding conferences such as the International Conference for the
66 Reconstruction of the Republic of Iraq, hosted in Kuwait in February 2018, that raised the substantial sum of 30
67 billion USD for reconstruction purposes and was an exemplary conference in overcoming historical grievances to
68 build toward a better and more prosperous future,
69

70 *Desiring* all Member States forego historical grievances or political affiliation to see positive developments, and
71 increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation in order to accomplish our key objective of realizing a future that
72 provides decent employment in secure states,
73

74 *Recognizing* the successes in bi- and multilateral trade originating from bi- and multilateral agreements, as
75 evidenced in the recently created Basra-Aqaba pipeline (2018) between the Republic of Iraq, the Kingdom of Jordan
76 and the Arab Republic of Egypt to deliver oil and gas,
77

78 *Considering* the significance of Cash Transfer Programs which aim to increase investments in education and
79 positively impact school attendance and educational attainment,
80

81 *Noting* further the adoption of Geo-Mapping technology to visualize specific geographic locations and evaluate
82 whether aid and development programs are delivered to regions that are in dire need of such aid and programs,
83

84 1. *Recommends* Member States to implement strategies that incentivize and encourage the youth to pursue higher
85 education beyond that of primary schooling, in order to promote the human development agenda outlined in
86 Vision 2030, by:
87

88 a. *Promoting* the importance of secondary and university-level education prior to engaging in the
89 workforce via;
90

- 91 i. Scholarships;
- 92 ii. State-led advocacy campaigns;
- 93

94 b. Creating internship-based programs funded by governmental organizations that allow the youth to
95 engage in the workforce for short periods of time and thus, advance their motivation and provide them
96 with practical and useful knowledge in a professional environment;
97

98 c. Conducting annual reviews of Member States' schools, with a specific focus on the levels of
99 attendance, to determine where further aid as well as incentives, such as Cash Transfer Programs, are
100 needed;
101

102 2. *Further encourages* Member States to cooperate with the objective of reducing institutional barriers to
103 employment, and accomplish this by requesting an in-depth report from the Technical Committee on
104 Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development to analyze and
105 identify best practices and methods by;
106

- 107 a. Encouraging a relaxation of labor laws to aid our unemployed in finding work;
108
109 b. Encourage relaxing laws for businesses to register, with the objective of promoting a shift from the
110 informal to the formal sector, thereby causing a direct boost in recognized economic activity;
111
112 c. Encourage the adoption of mutually supportive regional trade, finance and legal frameworks in order
113 to improve Ease of Doing Business in the region by encouraging Member States by easing labor,
114 business and travel laws for local and regional initiatives;
115
116 d. Creating a platform between Member State to share the technology to transform them into industry of
117 high added value activities and best practices based on their own experiences;
118
119 e. Attracting investment from private enterprises to invest into Member States more;
120
121 f. Promoting existing private business forums for the purpose of attracting foreign companies to invest
122 more into the regions;
123
124 g. Encourages Member States to adhere to existing global administrative law international related to
125 copyrights and property rights;
126
- 127 3. *Encourages* Member States to focus on developing the foundations for Transformational Growth, comprised of
128 a mechanism for delivering funds by requesting cooperation among national and regional financial institutions
129 addressing development for the purpose of closing the gap between the demand of funds and actual funding
130 granted for new development projects, increased regional cohesion and trade, and improved infrastructure, in
131 order to achieve the Arab Development Outlook Vision 2030 via:
132
- 133 a. Increasing Member States capacity to deliver necessary utilities to improve productivity and stability
134 of supply chains by requesting a report from the secretariat aimed at identifying inefficiencies cause by
135 legal barriers and regulations with the intent of reducing costs and time in queueing, storage in
136 warehouses and ports, and travel time along the supply chain;
137
- 138 b. Encouraging the accomplishment of such objectives by:
139
- 140 i. Emphasizing the need for energy grids capable of providing constant energy year round
141 without interruption and increasing Member States' capacity to deliver necessary utilities;
142 ii. Strongly encouraging Member States to collaborate with the Union of Arab Banks in its
143 efforts to create a Arab Regional and Infrastructure Development Bank;
144 iii. Further strongly encourages Member States support the development of the equivalent of an
145 Arab Silk Road through investing in infrastructural development that may bolster regional
146 trade and use the knowledge of the Committee of Transport and Logistics to facilitate this
147 endeavor by offering itself as a neutral forum to tackle these issues;
148
- 149 c. Reaffirming its commitment to collaborate with regional and local actors such as the League of Arab
150 States, regional development banks, and ECOSOC in the framework of the regional cooperation
151 mechanism, which meets bi-annually, strongly encouraging collaboration directed at sharing best
152 practices and developing these competencies and the flow of funds by utilizing the Task Force on SDG
153 Data as well as the Statistical Committee with the objective to identify high-impact investments
154 targeted at industries critical for Transformational Growth;
155
- 156 d. Further reaffirming Member States' core belief that such efforts are strongly aided through the support
157 of Member States foreign diaspora of highly productive workers and declares its commitment to
158 attracting said human capital by incentivizing such returns;
159
- 160 4. *Further invites* Member States to attract investment from local and regional businesses oriented towards social
161 and human development to attain the goals of Transformational Growth in the ADO, through measures such as,
162 but not limited to:

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- a. Recommending that appropriate attention is given by policy-makers and public institutions to Small and Medium Impact Investment initiatives, and that there is no disproportionate large-scale investor bias;
- b. Encouraging investments with positive externalities so profit-oriented projects can also produce social and environmental benefits, such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Educational programs;
 - ii. Accessible basic services such as housing and health care;
- c. Helping with the networking of potential start-ups that are interested in development and social impact, with successful regional development institutions such as the AGA Khan Fund, so that start-ups can model after, and delineate from their framework.