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# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA BACKGROUND GUIDE 2015

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# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2015 National Model United Nations Conference in New York (NMUN•NY)! This year's Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) staff is: Directors Hope Berndt (Conference A) and Aly El Salmi (Conference B). Hope graduated with her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus and currently is a National Organizer with the American Federation of Government Employees. She is excited to return for her fourth year on staff at NMUN•NY. Aly graduated from the American University in Cairo, Egypt with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in International Relations. He is currently pursuing his Master's in Economics in International Development and is Assistant Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility at Nestlé USA. This is his second year on staff at NMUN•NY.

The topics under discussion for ESCWA are:

- I. Social and Economic Implications of Refugee Influx in the ESCWA Region
- II. Meeting Growing Energy Demands
- III. Countering Radicalization through Social and Economic Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is a regional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which provides a Middle Eastern and Northern African perspective on issues facing regional development. As a regional commission, ESCWA may foster regional cooperation amongst Member States, civil society, and non-governmental organizations; address issues to regional economic and social development; and make recommendations to ECOSOC for future actions for the ESCWA region. When addressing economic and social issues, ESCWA's mandate promotes solutions that include sustainable development.

This Background Guide is a tool to introduce you to the topics for this Commission. The topic overviews, Annotated Bibliography, and Bibliography are starting points for your independent research into your Member State's policies and further research into developments on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, awards philosophy and evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Commission or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Department, Ardis Smith (Conference A) and Monika Milinauskyte (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: [usg.ecosoc@nmun.org](mailto:usg.ecosoc@nmun.org).

We wish you all the best for your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

**Conference A**

Hope Berndt, *Director*

**Conference B**

Aly El Salmi, *Director*



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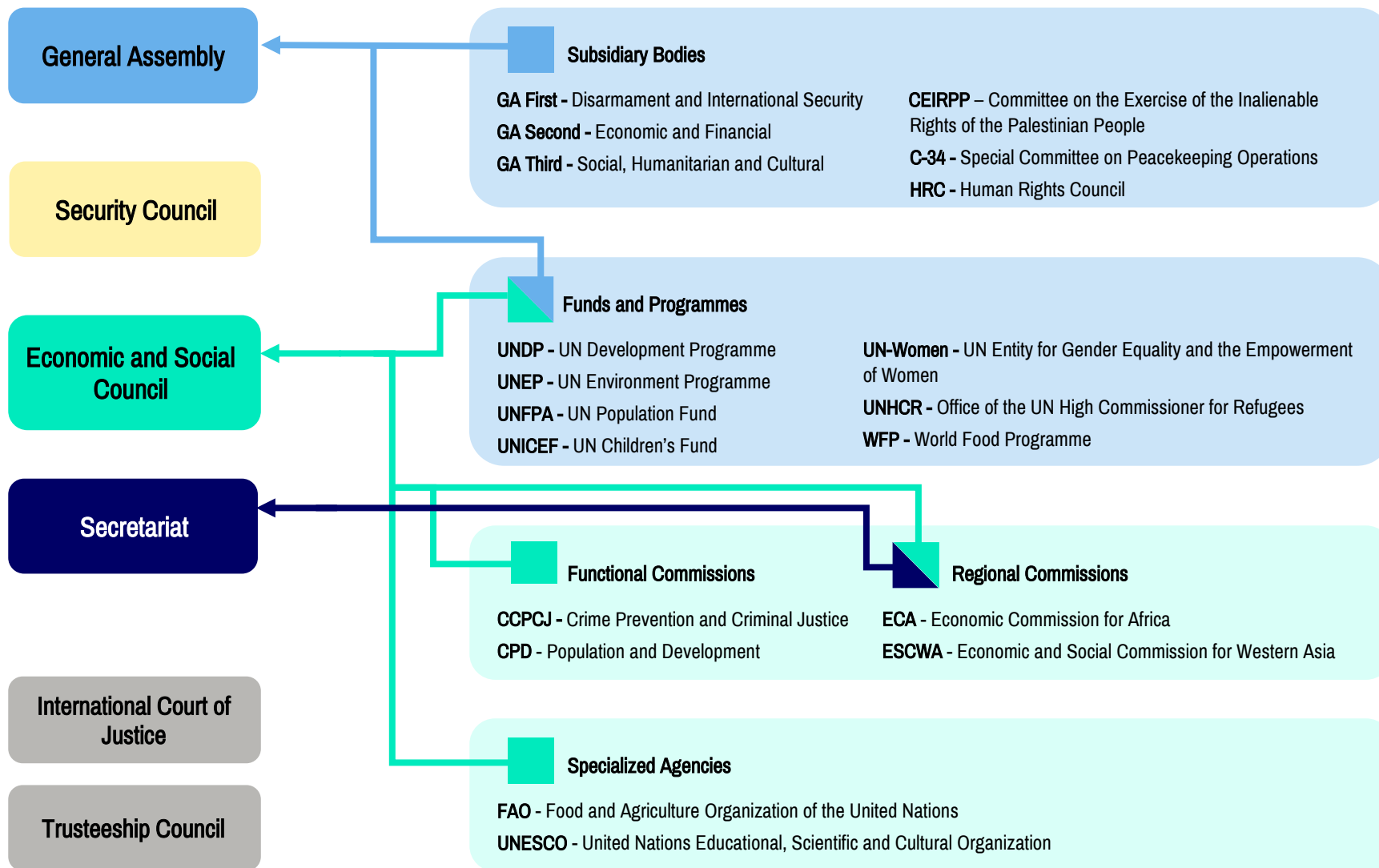


## Abbreviations

<b>AMPTC</b>	Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CTC</b>	Counter-Terrorism Committee
<b>CTITF</b>	Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>ECRI</b>	Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues
<b>ECWA</b>	Economic Commission for Western Asia
<b>EE</b>	Energy Efficiency
<b>EITI</b>	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
<b>ESCWA</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>IEA</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>IEF</b>	International Energy Forum
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
<b>ISIL</b>	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
<b>KISR</b>	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and Northern Africa
<b>MOSA</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>NGO</b>	Non-government organization
<b>NRGI</b>	National Resource Governance Institute
<b>OAPEC</b>	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
<b>OIC</b>	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
<b>OPEC</b>	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
<b>PAIMAN</b>	Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns
<b>RC</b>	Regional commissions
<b>RE</b>	Renewable energy
<b>RIM</b>	Regional Implementation Meeting
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SHARP</b>	Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan
<b>SHEILD</b>	Social, Humanitarian, Economic Intervention for Local Development
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium enterprises
<b>SPCP</b>	Strengthening Protection Capacity Project
<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDG</b>	United Nations Development Group
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Programme
<b>UNESOB</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNSMIS</b>	United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>APICORP</b>	Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation
<b>ESWCA</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>IRP</b>	Immediate Response Plan
<b>UNTT</b>	United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN development agenda

## United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose and powers within the UN System.





## Committee Overview

### Introduction

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), was originally established as the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), pursuant to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1818 (LV) on 9 August 1973.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General at that time, Dr. Kurt Waldheim inaugurated the first session on 3 June 1974.<sup>2</sup> On 24 April 1985 ECWA adopted resolution 133 (XII), “recognizing the extreme importance of social development in the context of the overall development of the economies of the members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.”<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, on 26 July 1985, ECOSOC resolution 69/1985 re-designated ECWA as the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and entrusted it with additional responsibilities.<sup>4</sup> ESCWA’s key priorities are water and energy, technology, globalization and social development.<sup>5</sup> Statistics, gender issues, and conflict-related issues are factored into each priority.<sup>6</sup>

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is a regional commission, reporting to the Economic and Social Council.

### History

ESCWA was the fifth in a line of regional commissions created to act under the auspices of ECOSOC, serving Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa.<sup>7</sup> It was formed as the countries that were covered by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (UNESOB) in Lebanon did not enjoy membership in any regional commission at that time.<sup>8</sup> These commissions were formed to fulfill the economic and social goals set forth in the *Charter of the United Nations*, by promoting inter-regional cooperation and integration between the UN Member States.<sup>9</sup> Recessionary forces, coupled with the growing neoliberal influence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, pushed the Commission’s policies from planning and public spending to promoting privatization and integration in the global economy in the nineties.<sup>10</sup>

ESCWA was the first regional commission to elevate water scarcity to priority status and prove its commitment by offering support for institutional development in the field of water resource development.<sup>11</sup> Rapid population growth is also another issue that ESCWA has shed light on; the region’s inhabitants more than doubled from 76 million to 160 million in the first 25 years of the Commission’s lifetime.<sup>12</sup> However, thanks in part to ESCWA’s contribution, fertility rates have nearly halved in the same period.<sup>13</sup> ESCWA also took the lead in collecting data on the effects of war and occupation on the people of Palestine, a practice that it continues to the present day.<sup>14</sup> This has strengthened its relationship with its members and also contributed to a greater understanding of the role the region can play in addressing socio-economic issues facing the occupied Palestinian Territories.<sup>15</sup> ESCWA has also developed three transport agreements that have been adopted by its Member States, which have led to the facilitation of stronger transport and trade policies at the national-level.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973; UN ESCWA, *Terms of Reference & Rules of Procedure of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> UN ESCWA, *Designation of The Economic Commission for Western Asia 133 XII*, 1985.

<sup>4</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Amendment of The Terms of Reference of The Economic Commission for Western Asia: Change of Name of The Commission (1085/69)*, 1985.

<sup>5</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA In Brief*, 2009, p. 10.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> UN ESCWA, *Terms of Reference & Rules of Procedure of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>9</sup> *Charter of The United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>10</sup> Jolly & Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA In Brief*, 2009.

## ***Mandate***

ECOSOC resolution 1818 (LV) lays out that ESCWA is mandated to participate “in the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia,” raise the “level of economic activity in Western Asia,” and strengthen “economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world.”<sup>17</sup> The mandate was expanded to include social issues as per Member States’ request, and as a reflection of their growing prominence.<sup>18</sup> Labor market, changing population and refugee issues were constantly on the Commission’s agenda.<sup>19</sup> It performs this function via investigations and studies into economic and technological problems and developments concerning the region.<sup>20</sup> As such, the commission is responsible for collecting, evaluating and disseminating data and information to supplement said studies.<sup>21</sup> This ultimately percolates into providing advisory services, and technical assistance where needed, to its Member States.<sup>22</sup> In addition to identifying and highlighting development issues, ESCWA is also an exemplary conduit for global UN ideas and regional feedback in the Western Asia region, and provides a “coping” mechanism for delivering global policy guidelines, instead of Member States immediately adopting them without attuning them to their particular needs.<sup>23</sup> ESCWA serves as an invaluable forum for academics, technical experts, and high-level Member State officials via its thematic and periodic meetings.<sup>24</sup>

## ***Governance, Structure and Membership***

ESCWA consists of 17 Member States.<sup>25</sup> The members are disparate in geographical size and population, and also highly economically unequal.<sup>26</sup> ESCWA’s membership was initially limited to the countries being served by UNESOB.<sup>27</sup> However, ESCWA’s Terms of Reference do not proscribe membership based on geographic location or concurrent membership in another regional commission.<sup>28</sup> This is, in part, the reason the Commission has called for its name to be changed to the “United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Arab Region” in its most recent annual session.<sup>29</sup> The proposal is being reviewed and will be put forward over the next few years.<sup>30</sup> Membership requests are decided by ECOSOC upon the Commission’s recommendation.<sup>31</sup>

The Executive Secretary is appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, and acts on the Secretary-General’s behalf.<sup>32</sup> The current Executive Secretary is Ms. Rima Khalaf of Jordan, appointed in 2010.<sup>33</sup> ESCWA also has an Advisory Committee comprising of heads of diplomatic missions of ESCWA Member States; it was established under the resolution 175 (XV) on the 18 May 1989, and by the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit.<sup>34</sup> The goal of the Committee is to improve regional cooperation and further promote ESCWA’s work.<sup>35</sup>

ECOSOC resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 empowered ESCWA to establish subsidiary bodies as deemed necessary, after discussion with relevant actors, such as ECOSOC and any specialized agencies.<sup>36</sup> To this end, ESCWA has established seven specialized subsidiary intergovernmental bodies: Statistical Committee, Committee

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<sup>17</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>18</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2009.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Jolly & Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 4.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>25</sup> New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 166.

<sup>26</sup> Jolly & Emmerij, *UN Regional Contributions: Western Asia*, 2010, p. 2.

<sup>27</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>28</sup> UN ESCWA, *Terms of Reference & Rules of Procedure of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003.

<sup>29</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report On the 27<sup>th</sup> Session (E/ESCWA/27/9)*, 2012, p.4.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>32</sup> UN ESCWA, *Terms of Reference & Rules of Procedure of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p.10.

<sup>33</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2009.

<sup>34</sup> UN ECOSOC, UN ESCWA, *Strengthening of The Role & Performance of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (135 XV)*, 1989.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

on Social Development, Committee on Energy, Committee on Water Resources, Committee on Transport, Technical Committee on Trade and Finance and the Committee on Women.<sup>37</sup> Each committee is comprised of relevant experts based on thematic area of work of each committee and the meetings are held biennially.<sup>38</sup>

Further, in order to fulfill its objectives, ESCWA has established seven subprograms. They include: (1) integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development; (2) integrated social policies; (3) economic development and integration; (4) information and communications technology for regional integration; (5) statistics for evidence based policymaking; (6) advancement of women; and (7) conflict mitigation and development.<sup>39</sup> Whereas the subcommittees are intergovernmental by nature, and bring together varied perspectives and experiences, the subprograms represent the research and data efforts of ESCWA; the subprograms therefore brief and take direction from the subcommittees.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Functions and Powers***

ESCWA operates within the framework of the UN system, under the supervision of ECOSOC.<sup>41</sup> As such, it provides annual reports of its activities, in addition to adopting resolutions.<sup>42</sup> Resolutions adopted by ESCWA affirm the collective position of its members, underline their individual commitments, and assign the ESCWA secretariat various responsibilities and functions.<sup>43</sup> For example, in ESCWA resolution 292 (XXVI), the commission “declares its commitment to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.”<sup>44</sup> The resolution also calls upon Member States to “continue to seek the achievement of peace and stability in the region” and to “to enhance development efforts, in particular in countries affected by conflict and occupation.”<sup>45</sup> Finally, it requests from the secretariat to provide the necessary financial and human resources support for ESCWA.<sup>46</sup> As ESCWA meets biennially it informs ECOSOC about Member States’ views on the key issues faced by the region.<sup>47</sup> Moreover, ECOSOC’s regional commissions are encouraged to set their own priorities, cooperate with each other and other UN agencies in the region on common issues.<sup>48</sup> They are encouraged to share best practices, achievements and experiences.<sup>49</sup> For that reason, ESCWA’s Executive Secretary is a member of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and a member of the UN Development Group (UNDG).<sup>50</sup>

Member States both drive the policymaking and norm-setting in ESCWA as well as benefit from its policies and programs.<sup>51</sup> ESCWA also offers advisory services through training workshops, seminars, study tours and on-the-job trainings.<sup>52</sup> For example, it conducted a workshop on oil and gas pricing parameters and their effect on renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, in partnership with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in 2013.<sup>53</sup>

While the UN provides ESCWA’s administrative budget, it derives funds for programs and projects from other

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<sup>37</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2009.

<sup>38</sup> UN ECOSOC, *The Establishment Within The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia of A Committee for Women (240 XXII)*, 2003.

<sup>39</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA In Brief*, 2009.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)*, 1973.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> UN ESCWA, *Upgrading The Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues To The Level of A Division and Establishing A Governmental Committee On Emerging Issues and Development In Conflict Settings (292 XXVI)*, 2010.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013, p. 166.

<sup>48</sup> UN ECOSOC, *Further Measures for the Restructuring & Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social & Related Fields (1998/46)*, 1998.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., p. 230.

<sup>51</sup> UN ECOSOC, UN ESCWA, *Strengthening of The Role & Performance of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (135 XV)*, 1989.

<sup>52</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA In Brief*, 2009, p. 8.

<sup>53</sup> UN ESCWA, *Regional Workshop on Oil and Gas Pricing Parameters Influencing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Activities (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/WG.7)*, 2013, p. 2.



donors such as government agencies and private companies.<sup>54</sup> Moreover, it provides an environment to discuss the progress towards the implementation of the *Monterrey Consensus*, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other develop frameworks.<sup>55</sup> Another example of ESCWA's work is in the field of statistics and research. For example, the commission recently provided statistical assistance to the governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in the field of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).<sup>56</sup>

### ***Current Priorities***

ESCWA's current priorities are provided for, per subprogram, in its *Proposed Strategic Framework for 2014-2015* as submitted to the UN General Assembly.<sup>57</sup> ECOSOC resolution 2005/50 of 27 July 2005 requested that ESCWA support its Member States' objective of attaining the MDGs.<sup>58</sup> The Commission's three strategic pillars to fast-track countries' commitments are equitable growth and sustainability; regional integration; and good governance and resilience.<sup>59</sup> The three pillars are interdependent and feature in each subprogram's actionable goals.<sup>60</sup> The twelve priority areas outlined in the framework are:

- equity, inclusion and employment;
- competitive knowledge-based economies;
- sustainable natural resource management;
- knowledge and technology management;
- sustainable infrastructure;
- socio-economic policy coordination;
- food, water and energy security;
- gender-sensitive policies and integration;
- participation and citizenship;
- social and economic impacts of conflict and occupation and institutional development; and
- resilience to natural and human-made crises.<sup>61</sup>

ESCWA has also been focusing on social development and inclusion issues, producing a study focused on "Arab integration," in 2014.<sup>62</sup> This report is the result of combined efforts in research, analysis and review led by Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary of ESCWA.<sup>63</sup> An advisory board of Arab thinkers contributed to setting its methodological framework and enriched its material with their valuable inputs.<sup>64</sup> Arab experts participated in drafting the report, and ESCWA staff assisted in providing substantive research, statistics and economic models, as well as in the coordination and support.<sup>65</sup> The report outlines how through a combination of foreign intervention and regressive policy choices, the socio-economic and political development outlook for the Arab world is grim.<sup>66</sup> As such, integration is both a means and end to the endemic problems the region faces.<sup>67</sup> The report proposes three areas of integration, each with varying degrees of complexity and achievability, but all equally important.<sup>68</sup> They are: (1) political integration, by forming a cohesive bloc on the international stage to protect and promote Arab rights and interests, (2) economic integration, by implementing

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<sup>54</sup> UN ESCWA, *Terms of Reference & Rules of Procedure of The Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2003, p.10.

<sup>55</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA In Brief*, 2009, p. 8.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>57</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2014-2015: Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan: Programme 19: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia (A/67/6 (Prog. 19))*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>58</sup> UN ECOSOC, *The Damascus Declaration and The Role of The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia In The Achievement of The Internationally Agreed Development Goals, Including Those Contained In The Millennium Declaration (E/ECOSOC/RES 2005/50 (2005))*, 2005.

<sup>59</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2014-2015: Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan: Programme 19: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia (A/67/6 (Prog. 19))*, 2012, p. 3.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2014-2015: Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan: Programme 19: Economic and Social Development in Western Asia (A/67/6 (Prog. 19))*, 2012, p. 8.

<sup>62</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative*, 2014.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

existing agreements and realizing the dream of economic union, and (3) cultural and economic integration, by re-empowering the Arab people and calling upon their shared heritage as a strength in all walks of life.<sup>69</sup>

ESCWA has substantially contributed to the global conversation on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, across several levels and with different actors.<sup>70</sup> On a global level, it provided inputs to the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN development agenda (UNTT) and the High-Level Panel on Sustainable Development's reports to the UN Secretary-General.<sup>71</sup> On an inter-regional level, it was jointly responsible with other ECOSOC regional commissions for the report: "A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda".<sup>72</sup> Finally, on the Arab level, ESCWA participated in the Regional Consultative meeting with Arab Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Rio+20 Arab Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM).<sup>73</sup> Across all levels, the emphasis was on delivering several concise messages: (1) the need to address regional specificities, such as employment generation, in the global agenda; (2) the importance of focusing on how to, and who should, achieve the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals, and (3) common but differentiated responsibilities among developed and developing UN Member States.<sup>74</sup>

### **Recent Sessions**

ESCWA held its twenty-seventh session in Beirut in 2012.<sup>75</sup> The conference was held in two segments, one for ESCWA senior officials and one for ministers.<sup>76</sup> For the first segment, the Commission adopted resolution 302 (XXVII) calling upon ECOSOC to approve the membership requests of Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.<sup>77</sup> Also, it called for bringing the following to the Council's attention: enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries, strengthening social justice in achieving sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference, among other issues.<sup>78</sup> In the second segment, there were three high-level roundtables, concerning: (1) the role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable and balanced development; (2) preparations for Rio+20 Conference in the Arab region; and (3) the current situation and future prospects for inclusive financing in the ESCWA region.<sup>79</sup>

ESCWA held its twenty-eighth and most recent biennial session in Tunis on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014.<sup>80</sup> Ministers from Member States, in addition to senior regional and foreign officials and representatives of international and CSOs, attended the event.<sup>81</sup> The theme of the sessions was social justice and its strong roots in Arab and Islamic culture.<sup>82</sup> Participants came out of with the Tunis Declaration as the outcome document.<sup>83</sup> It strongly condemned the Israeli offensive on Gaza of July and August 2014.<sup>84</sup> It also condemned the exclusionary nature of the Israeli state and extremist groups in the region.<sup>85</sup> Participants also called upon ESCWA to incorporate elements of social justice in its work on the post-2015 development agenda, particularly youth and women empowerment.<sup>86</sup> They also called upon the formulation of tools to track progress in achieving social justice in the region, plus the establishment of an Arab bank for development and reconstruction.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21st Century Development Imperative*, 2014.

<sup>70</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: ESCWA's Contribution to Global and Regional Initiatives*, 2014, p. 2.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 12-14.

<sup>75</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report On The 27<sup>th</sup> Session (E/ESCWA/27/9)*, 2012. p.1.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-8.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 18-22.

<sup>80</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA 28th Ministerial Session wraps up with "Tunis Declaration", Noteworthy Outcome*.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

### ***Conclusion***

The most recent ministerial session marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission's founding.<sup>88</sup> It continues to be true to its mandate of fostering regional economic and social development – the underlying message of the last session was how to achieve social justice, termed as the equitable distribution of the fruits of economic labor.<sup>89</sup> As such, sustainable development, divided alongside four main pillars, features highly on the agenda. These four pillars are inclusive economic development, inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security.<sup>90</sup> ESCWA's intergovernmental program-based makeup leads to the collection and high-level dissemination of impactful information and tools to achieving greater prosperity for its Member States.

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<sup>88</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA 28th Ministerial Session wraps up with "Tunis Declaration", Noteworthy Outcome*.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: ESCWA's Contribution to Global and Regional Initiatives*, 2014, pp. 12-14.

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*Offering an introspective and unbiased look at ESCWA, this brief does more than cover the history and main influencers in ESCWA's strategic direction. It also places them in the context of the region's turbulent recent history. Delegates who process this source will have an excellent starting point regarding actors in the international system, economic trends, and cultural markers that have shaped ESCWA and continue to this day.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2014). *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative* [Report]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/main/ai14/Summary-Eng.pdf>

*This source provides a timely yet timeless insight into a historical concept, that of greater Arab economic and social integration. The report steers clear of romantic causes for integration, focusing on the need for the sake of development. This is in line with ESCWA's results-based approach. Delegates will have the opportunity to view this through ESCWA's lens, which offers novel and interesting possibilities of how the commission can help realize that dream.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2012). *Report on the 27<sup>th</sup> Session (E/ESCWA/27/9/Report)*. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/sessions/editor/Download.asp?table\\_name=sess26\\_menu&field\\_name=ID&FileID=167](http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/sessions/editor/Download.asp?table_name=sess26_menu&field_name=ID&FileID=167)

*ESCWA conducts biannual high-level ministerial meetings that showcase the periodical achievements of the body as well as evaluates ESCWA's activities, and the strategy for the next two years. In addition to being the most recent complete picture of ESCWA activities, it provides a good source for several things the evaluation mechanism for ESCWA activities, and the inner workings of the commission among others. This will assist delegates in tracing the different inputs that form ESCWA's official discussions.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2003). *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/TERMSENG.pdf>

*This source provides the essential background information regarding the organization of ESCWA, its mandate, functions and powers, and last but not, least, its rules of procedure. This is probably the most essential source pertaining to delegates regarding introduction to ESCWA's working methods. This should be the starting point for delegates' research as this document contains the key information on the main operating procedures of the Commission.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (1973). *Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia (1818 LV)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/about/resolution.htm>

*The last in a line of regional commissions created under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Western Asia was established on 9 August 1973. This source outlines the mandate and objectives of the Commission, and as a founding document, captures the spirit in which the commission was created. This provides delegates with both a legal guide to the Commission, and a constant reminder of its mandate.*

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## I. Social and Economic Implications of Refugee Influx in the ESCWA Region

### *Introduction*

The Member States that compose the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) host a large amount of forcibly displaced persons from the ESCWA region.<sup>91</sup> Forcibly displaced persons, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are persons fleeing their homes due to armed conflict and seeking safety in another location either within or outside their home country.<sup>92</sup> By the end of 2014, there will be an estimated 3.59 million refugees as a result of the Syrian civil war.<sup>93</sup> In comparison, at the end of 2013, there were an estimated 2.47 million Syrian refugees, and roughly 4 million IDPs.<sup>94</sup> Furthermore, current UN predictions indicate that neighboring countries to Syria are to receive 1.1 million additional refugees by June 2015, if the civil war continues, and more refugees will continue to arrive throughout the region.<sup>95</sup> In addition to the Syrian refugees, there are an estimated 1.2 million Iraqi IDPs and 850,000 refugees due to the growing conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).<sup>96</sup> The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that by the end of 2013, Yemen hosted an estimated 500,000 refugees from Somalia, 344,000 Yemeni IDPs, and 649,300 refugees from Sudan.<sup>97</sup> Additionally, there are the 58 recognized Palestinian refugee camps and an estimated 5 million registered Palestinian refugees throughout the ESCWA region.<sup>98</sup>

The increasing amount of refugees within the ESCWA region is a concern for the economic and social development for all ESCWA Member States.<sup>99</sup> As refugees move into host countries, they compete with citizens for resources, public services, and jobs; this can hinder economic and social progress.<sup>100</sup> Additionally, Member States in conflict areas, such as Syria, also experience social and economic consequences of refugees leaving the country.<sup>101</sup> Meanwhile, refugees and IDPs are victims of conflict, and lose opportunities and access in relation to economic and social development.<sup>102</sup> As the purpose of ESCWA is to promote regional support in order to achieve sustainable economic and social development, it is up to the members of ESCWA to find solutions to address the influx of refugees for Member States and solutions for the economic and social needs of the refugees.<sup>103</sup>

### *International and Regional Framework*

Article 14 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) states that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” and that “this right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.”<sup>104</sup> This became the basis for the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, which defines refugees as those with a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside of the country of

<sup>91</sup> UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*, 2014; UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Strategic Overview: Mid-Year Update*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>92</sup> UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons*, 2014.

<sup>93</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Strategic Overview: Mid-Year Update*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>94</sup> Refugees International, *Helpful Facts & Figures*, 2014; UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

<sup>95</sup> Khraiche, *Arab League to assess refugees plight after Lebanon plea for help*, 2014; UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

<sup>96</sup> *Syria Iraq: The Islamic State Militant Group*, BBC News, 2014; International Rescue Committee, *Yazidi Iraqi refugees arrive dehydrated in Syria after week stranded in Sinjar mountains*, 2014.

<sup>97</sup> UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014; UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*, 2014.

<sup>98</sup> UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, *Palestine Refugees*, 2014.

<sup>99</sup> UN ESCWA, *Weekly News: Implications of Syrian Crisis on Lebanon and Jordan Proven Link of Social and Economic Repercussions*, 2013.

<sup>100</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 24.

<sup>101</sup> Syrian Economic Forum, *ESCWA: Syrian Labor Increases Unemployment And Growth in Lebanon*, 2014.

<sup>102</sup> UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

<sup>103</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2014; UN ESCWA, *Press Release: Syrian Experts Urge Geneva II Parties to Seize Historic Opportunity*, 2014.

<sup>104</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 (III))*, 1948.

his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”<sup>105</sup> The 1951 Convention gave legitimacy and legality to the status of refugees; expanded the mandate of UNHCR, which was founded the year prior; and empowered the UNHCR to determine who was allowed to receive refugee status.<sup>106</sup> As the 1951 Convention pertained to refugees in Europe resulting from the Second World War, the 1967 *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* widened the geographical scope of persons eligible to receive refugee status and expanded the Convention’s mandate and definitions to be applicable to qualified refugees.<sup>107</sup> In 2001, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the 1951 Convention, the General Assembly (GA) created World Refugee Day in resolution 55/76 in order to bring awareness to the increasing numbers of refugees each year and to acknowledge the continued efforts of the UNHCR.<sup>108</sup> Additionally, in 2004, the GA expanded the continuation of the UNHCR in resolution 58/153 “until the refugee problem is solved.”<sup>109</sup>

Refugees continue to remain an issue of international concern, as evident by resolutions and reports produced by various UN agencies. As indicated in GA resolution 66/176, the growing number of Syrian refugees and IDPs and the continuing Syrian conflict threatens the peace and security, as well as regional development, of the ESCWA region, due to human rights violations.<sup>110</sup> With regards to the recent Syrian refugees, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2043 in April 2012, establishing the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), which is mandated “to monitor a cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties” and promote the agreed upon six-point plan from the Security Council.<sup>111</sup> The six-point plan includes finding solutions to end hostilities in Syria, overseeing humanitarian assistance in Syria, and promoting freedom and protection for journalists within Syria.<sup>112</sup> In 2014, Security Council resolution 2165 allowed UN and non-government organizations (NGOs) into Syria for 180 days to provide humanitarian aid for remaining IDPs and monitor the humanitarian situation within the conflict zones of Syria.<sup>113</sup> As a result of the Security Council resolution 2165, the Council received a humanitarian report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which included updates on the treatment of IDPs and refugees in conflict areas leaving Syria.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is the main UN agency dedicated to assisting refugees. Other UN entities can also become involved in this topic, especially when the cause for the refugees is brought about by a threat to international peace and security, and when the economic and social burden of sudden and numerous refugees is a threat to regional development.<sup>115</sup> UNHCR is tasked to monitor and coordinate efforts to protect refugees and their rights, and to solve issues that arise for and because of refugees.<sup>116</sup> On the ground, UNHCR coordinates among UN agencies, NGOs, and hosting Member States to provide assistance to refugees, including temporary shelter in camps and providing needs such as access to food, water, and medical care.<sup>117</sup> UNHCR also provides assistance with the

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<sup>105</sup> UNHCR, *The 1951 Refugee Convention*, 2014; UNHCR, *Convention And Protocol relating To The Status Of Refugees*, 2011, p.14.

<sup>106</sup> UNHCR, *History of UNHCR*, 2014.

<sup>107</sup> UNHCR, *The 1951 Refugee Convention*, 2014; UNHCR, *Convention And Protocol relating To The Status Of Refugees*, 2011, pp. 46-50.

<sup>108</sup> UN General Assembly, *Fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)*, 2001.

<sup>109</sup> UN General Assembly, *Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate (A/RES/58/153)*, 2004.

<sup>110</sup> UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2011 (A/RES/66/176)*, 2012.

<sup>111</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2043 (S/RES/2043)*, 2012; UN Supervision Mission in Syria, *UNSMIS Mandate*, 2012; UN Security Council, *Annex to S/RES/2042 Six-Point Proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States*, 2012.

<sup>112</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2043 (S/RES/2043)*, 2012; UN Supervision Mission in Syria, *UNSMIS Mandate*, 2012; UN Security Council, *Annex to S/RES/2042 Six-Point Proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States*, 2012.

<sup>113</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2165 (S/RES/2165 (2014))*, 2014.

<sup>114</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/525)*, 2014 pp. 11-15.

<sup>115</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2165 (S/RES/2165 (2014))*, 2014; UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013.

<sup>116</sup> UNHCR, *About Us*, 2014.

<sup>117</sup> UNHCR, *Protection*, 2014.



asylum application and refugee registration processes and coordinates programs to aid in returning persons to their country of origin.<sup>118</sup> With regards to the Syrian refugee crisis, UNHCR is overseeing the coordinated efforts for individual refugee camps and urban integration sites throughout Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.<sup>119</sup>

In response to the continued civil war, the UNHCR formed the first Syrian Regional Response Plan in 2012, which had a six-month mandate.<sup>120</sup> However, considering the continuation of the civil war, the growing number of refugees, and amount of recovery time needed once hostilities cease, the length of the mandate was increased to encompass a full year with mid-year updates; currently, the sixth Regional Response Plan (RRP6) is in place.<sup>121</sup> UNHCR spearheaded the Syrian Regional Response Plan to develop comprehensive strategies through Member State and UN agency coordination to address issues facing refugees such as temporary housing, access to resources, and funding to provide services for the refugees.<sup>122</sup> RRP6 brings together over 100 UN agencies, international and regional NGOs, and governmental agencies from the Member States affected by the increase of Syrian refugees.<sup>123</sup> The RRP6 report for 2014 focuses on the issues surrounding the living situations of refugees in the region and provides suggestions for Member States and UN agencies on courses of action to alleviate the situation.<sup>124</sup> Additionally, the RRP6 report for 2014 discusses the coordinated assistance for refugees from UN agencies, NGOs, and Member States in 2013, and estimates the funding needed for Syrian refugees for 2014.<sup>125</sup> The report combines the international and regional efforts to mitigate the burden on host Member States by the growing numbers of Syrian refugees and to ensure that refugees receive humanitarian aid.<sup>126</sup> UNHCR has also developed the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) as a means to assist IDPs within Syria.<sup>127</sup>

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, composed of Member States from the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), supports the economic and social development of Western Asia.<sup>128</sup> In response to the continuing Syrian conflict, ESCWA created the National Agenda for the Future of Syria in 2012, which through coordinated efforts of ESCWA, neighboring Member States, the Syrian government, and the Syrian people, finds solutions to end the civil war and create short-and long-term reconstruction plans.<sup>129</sup> Also in 2012, ESCWA, in collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), introduced a workshop for representatives from various ESCWA Member States about implementation of sustainable development guidelines in conflict-afflicted countries.<sup>130</sup> UNHCR has a capacity-building program called Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP) that was tested in Yemen in 2008.<sup>131</sup> The SPCP looks at areas in which needs and safety have not yet been accomplished, coordinates with host governments and international partners to measure gaps, and develops a multi-year plan to improve the conditions of both the host countries and the refugee camps.<sup>132</sup> SPCP has not yet been implemented as a standard method with regard to the Syrian refugee crisis.<sup>133</sup>

In 2013, ESCWA conducted an investigation on the impact of the influx of Syrian refugees on Lebanese economic and social development.<sup>134</sup> Additionally, ESCWA met with Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian experts in an Expert Group Meeting at ESCWA headquarters in 2013 to discuss the economic and social links among Syria, Lebanon,

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<sup>118</sup> UNHCR, *Assistance*, 2014.

<sup>119</sup> UNHCR, *Syria Regional Refugee Response: Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal*, 2014.

<sup>120</sup> UNHCR, *Syria Regional Response Plan*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>121</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014, pp. 6-7; UN Security Council, *Security Council Adopts Resolutions 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria (SC/11520)*, 2014.

<sup>122</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014, pp. 6-7; UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*, 2014.

<sup>123</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Organizations in the Response*, 2014, pp. 1-4.

<sup>124</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014, p. 7.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014.

<sup>127</sup> UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

<sup>128</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2014.

<sup>129</sup> UN ESCWA, *Programme: The National Agenda for the Future of Syria*, 2013.

<sup>130</sup> UN ESCWA, *Weekly News: Sustainable Development in Conflict Afflicted Countries*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>131</sup> UNHCR, *Strengthening Protection Capacity*, 2014.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>134</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013.

and Jordan, and the socio-economic implications of the influx of Syrian refugees.<sup>135</sup> The Expert Group Meeting also discussed the impact of social and economic consequences in the event of either a sudden end to the conflict or a long continuation of the conflict.<sup>136</sup> Also, during the twenty-eighth session of ESCWA in September 2014, a three-part report titled “Syrian Conflict Impact on Macro-economy and Millennium Development Goals” was established; the report expanded upon the status of each Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for Syria, highlighted the governance situation and the implications of the lack of governance throughout Syria, and calls upon ESCWA to coordinate efforts regionally and within the UN system to find an end to the Syrian civil war.<sup>137</sup>

Regional efforts in relation to refugees in the ESCWA region include the Arab League’s action plan for Syria, which condemned the Syrian government’s disproportionate actions in the civil war and suspended Syria’s membership in the Arab League.<sup>138</sup> The Arab League sent a representative to visit the Syrian refugee camps in Turkey and Jordan alongside representatives from the UN.<sup>139</sup> Additionally, the League held meetings with officials from Arab and non-Arab countries hosting Syrian refugees, resulting in the further establishment of cooperation but little financial or strategic support for the influx of refugees.<sup>140</sup> Other regional bodies such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are a part of UNHCR’s strategic plan to build regional support; regional bodies have also been encouraged by the international and regional community to further contribute, independently, in alleviating the economic and social hardships of the Syrian refugees and the host countries.<sup>141</sup>

### ***Impact of Hosting Refugees***

#### *Defining Refugees and IDPs*

In order to address the issues surrounding refugees within the ESCWA region, it is necessary to know the definitions and categories of refugees. A person or persons having to leave their home in order to escape war, persecution, or terror is known as a forcibly displaced person.<sup>142</sup> Refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers, and stateless persons are different categories of forcibly displaced persons.<sup>143</sup> In addition to leaving their homes because of war, persecution, terror, or a natural disaster, refugees also leave their country of origin.<sup>144</sup> Refugees differ from migrants in two fundamental ways: refugees leave their nation of origin under threat of harm, and they seek protection through international law.<sup>145</sup> As a result of the need for international assistance, persons considered refugees are afforded rights and protections such as those given to the citizens of the host country, and would not be forced to return to their home country as a result of their entering or living in their host country.<sup>146</sup> However, registering for refugee status can be difficult because in some cases individuals must prove that if they return home, harm would come to them.<sup>147</sup> While refugees are waiting to be considered for their refugee status to be approved, they are called asylum seekers.<sup>148</sup> Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons do not have the same international legal rights and protections, because they should be afforded the same rights and protections as citizens within their country of origin.<sup>149</sup> However, much like refugees, IDPs have experienced similar situations of violence and conflict, but have, for varying reasons, remained in their home country.<sup>150</sup> IDPs, like refugees, can also lack access to basic amenities and can strain resources of their host government, which is their own.<sup>151</sup> Addressing the humanitarian needs of IDPs poses unique

<sup>135</sup> UN ESCWA, *Weekly News: Implications of Syrian Crisis on Lebanon and Jordan Proven Link of Social and Economic Repercussions*, 2013.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>137</sup> UN ESCWA, *Press Release: Syrian Conflict Impact on Macro-economy and Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>138</sup> Kucukkeles, *Arab League’s Syrian Policy*, 2012, p. 2.

<sup>139</sup> UN News Centre, *UN-Arab League envoy visits Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan*, 2012.

<sup>140</sup> *Arab League falling short in refugee aid: Abu Faour*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2013.

<sup>141</sup> ReliefWeb, *An international failure: The Syrian refugee crisis*, 2013; UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

<sup>142</sup> UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons*, 2014.

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>144</sup> European Council on Refugee and Exiles, *Who Are Refugees?*, 2014; UN High Commission for Refugees, *World Refugee Day: Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons*, 2014.

<sup>145</sup> European Council on Refugee and Exiles, *Who Are Refugees?*, 2014.

<sup>146</sup> Amnesty International, *Who is a Refugee?*, 2014.

<sup>147</sup> Martinez & Marquez, *What’s the difference between immigrant and refugee?*, 2014.

<sup>148</sup> UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons*, 2014.

<sup>149</sup> USA for UNHCR, *Who We Help*, 2014; European Council on Refugee and Exiles, *Who Are Refugees?*, 2014.

<sup>150</sup> Refugees International, *Helpful Facts & Figures*, 2014.

<sup>151</sup> UNHCR, *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2014.

challenges, such as access to providing assistance, but is necessary in order to alleviate strains on resources, allow IDPs a safe return to their homes, and to solve the sources of conflict or disaster.<sup>152</sup>

### *Economic and Social Implications of Host Member States*

Recent conflicts throughout the Middle East have hampered social and economic development for many ESCWA members.<sup>153</sup> The Syrian conflict has had the largest impact on members of the ESCWA region.<sup>154</sup> The initial flow of refugees from Syria into the neighboring nations of Lebanon and Jordan was sustainable; however, as the conflict has continued, the refugees continue to crossover into these countries and cause great strain on various social and economic resources.<sup>155</sup> For Lebanon, the increasing numbers of refugees has added demand for health, education, and safety services, which in pre-conflict terms were in developing stages to modernize and were on track to meeting the eight MDGs.<sup>156</sup> Syrian refugees have put a strain on available water, sanitation, and electrical resources.<sup>157</sup> Additionally, this has created a competition between refugees and the citizens of Lebanon for resources, thus prompting resentment from citizens against the refugees.<sup>158</sup> Lebanon has also seen an increase in its unemployment rate, estimated at 20%, and many citizens blame refugees for the loss of jobs.<sup>159</sup> The Syrian refugee crisis has caused Lebanon, once considered the most developed Member State in the region, to now struggle under the economic and social strain from the continued influx of refugees needing jobs, education, and health care.<sup>160</sup> Jordan is also experiencing a similar strain, especially on water and sanitation supplies and in the accelerated growth of unemployment due to the growing number of refugees.<sup>161</sup> Some Syrian refugees come from water-rich areas, and therefore consume more water on average than Jordanian citizens, resulting in a strain on Jordan's limited water supply.<sup>162</sup> Jordan has a history of hosting refugees and has government agencies equipped to handle relatively large influxes, but with the estimated increase at the end of the year, Jordan may need international assistance.<sup>163</sup>

On the Member State level, five countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey) are currently hosting Syrian refugees and refugee camps and coordinating with the Syrian Crisis Response through the UN World Food Programme (WFP).<sup>164</sup> In order to coordinate its estimated 600,000 Syrian refugees, Jordan has established the Syrian Refugee Affairs Department (SRAD), a branch of the Ministry of Interior.<sup>165</sup> SRAD coordinates with government agencies such as the Office of the Civil Registrar and the Sharia Court, the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the 51 national and international NGOs to provide aid, protection, and legal protection for the Syrian refugees within the many camps in Jordan.<sup>166</sup> In Lebanon, the UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs Lebanon (MOSA) are the lead coordinators for the protection and humanitarian needs of the over 1.1 million Syrian refugees and the 53,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria.<sup>167</sup> MOSA coordinates with several international, regional, and national actors such as Social, Humanitarian, Economic Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), a Lebanese based and operated NGO.<sup>168</sup> Egypt is currently hosting the smallest amount of Syrian refugees, and therefore is coordinating heavily with international and NGO partners, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and CARE International, to aid the Egyptian government with protection and humanitarian aid efforts.<sup>169</sup> The Turkish

<sup>152</sup> Refugees International, *Helpful Facts & Figures*, 2014; European Council on Refugee and Exiles, *Who Are Refugees?*, 2014.

<sup>153</sup> *Iraq crisis poses economic threat to Lebanon and Jordan: ESCWA*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2014.

<sup>154</sup> UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*, 2014.

<sup>155</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 30.

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3; *Iraq crisis poses economic threat to Lebanon and Jordan: ESCWA*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2014.

<sup>157</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 4.

<sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 101.

<sup>159</sup> Syrian Economic Forum, *ESCWA: Syrian Labor Increases Unemployment And Growth in Lebanon*, 2014; UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 101.

<sup>160</sup> *Iraq crisis poses economic threat to Lebanon and Jordan: ESCWA*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2014; International Rescue Committee, *Yazidi Iraqi refugees arrive dehydrated in Syria after week stranded in Sinjar mountains*, 2014.

<sup>161</sup> UNHCR, *Syria Regional Response Plan*, 2013.

<sup>162</sup> UN WFP, *WFP Syria Crisis Response, Situation Update*, 2014, p. 5.

<sup>163</sup> UNHCR, *Syria Regional Response Plan*, 2012, p. 5; UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014, pp. 6-7.

<sup>164</sup> ReliefWeb, *WFP Syria Crisis Response Situation Update: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, 17-30 September 2014*, 2014.

<sup>165</sup> UN WFP, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Jordan Mid-Year Update*, 2014, p. 16.

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>167</sup> UN WFP, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Lebanon Mid-Year Update*, 2014, pp. 6, 9.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9; Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal, *Partner Information: SHEILD*, 2014.

<sup>169</sup> UN WFP, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Egypt Mid-Year Update*, 2014, pp. 5, 8.

government is utilizing the same methods as the Egyptian government, relying heavily on international actors such as IOM and UN agencies like UNHCR for protection and humanitarian efforts for the Syrian refugees.<sup>170</sup> However, with the emergence of ISIL, Iraq has encountered complications with their coordinated efforts for the Syrian refugees because of the increase of Iraqi IDPs.<sup>171</sup>

In addition to conditions experienced by the host countries of Syrian refugees, Syria is suffering developmental losses as a result of growing number of IDPs and refugees leaving the country.<sup>172</sup> Sandra Sno Saghir, ESCWA Consultant for Economic Affairs, has determined through “social and educational indicators that Syria has lost years of development” as a result of the continuation of the conflict.<sup>173</sup> Saghir also found that for every year the crisis continues, Syria retreats another eight years economically.<sup>174</sup> Financially, Syria has already lost \$109 million of their gross domestic product (GDP) and continues to lose an estimated \$70,000 every minute the conflict continues.<sup>175</sup> As for the Syrians remaining in the country, many are considered IDPs and have lost their homes and their jobs as a result of the conflict; they are unable to afford the basic necessities and Syrian’s unemployment rate increases.<sup>176</sup> Additionally, Syria is hosting refugees from Iraq, which adds to economic and social strain.<sup>177</sup>

With the growing conflicts in Iraq as a result of ISIL, IDPs are now moving into Jordan and Syria, seeking refuge within other neighboring countries, adding to the strain of resources.<sup>178</sup> Reportedly, 2 million Iraqis are considered IDPs, and the Syrian refugees who reside in Iraq are now at risk as a result of the growing hostilities from ISIL.<sup>179</sup> Although the international community has responded with air strikes against ISIL in Iraq, the conflict continues, placing the ESCWA region at further risk of strained resources and a decrease economic and social development.<sup>180</sup>

### ***Economic and Social Conditions of the Refugees***

According to a 2014 humanitarian report to the Security Council, the Syrian population is constantly under threat by the Syrian military, the armed opposition, as well as ISIL claiming an Islamic Caliphate in the area between Aleppo Governorate, Syria to Diyala Governorate, in eastern Iraq.<sup>181</sup> The report illustrates that Syrian refugees and IDPs in Syria and Iraq are a direct result of armed conflict from ISIL and the Syrian civil war.<sup>182</sup> When refugees arrive in refugee camps outside of Syria, they lack basic necessities like toiletries and bedding.<sup>183</sup> Aside from material needs, many refugees are women and children, who can have particular needs such as prenatal care and pediatric care; women also often become the head of the household in the camps and worry about the safety and security of their children.<sup>184</sup> Women and other refugees compete for food aid and other materials with the resources available to both refugees and the citizens of the host country.<sup>185</sup> The socio-economic conditions, political upheavals, and border conflicts throughout the ESCWA region have made it difficult for humanitarian agencies to provide secure locations for refugees to receive aid and food, as well as safe havens for women who are vulnerable to harassment and physical attacks.<sup>186</sup> With the continuation of the conflict and the predicted increase in refugees by the end of 2014,

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<sup>170</sup> UN WFP, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Turkey Mid-Year Update*, 2014, p. 5.

<sup>171</sup> Ministry of Planning and United Nations, *Immediate Response Plan IRP for the IDPs crisis in the KR-I, 15 Sept – 15 Nov 2014*, 2014, p. 3.

<sup>172</sup> Syrian Economic Forum, *ESCWA: Syrian Labor Increases Unemployment And Growth in Lebanon*, 2014.

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>177</sup> *Iraq crisis poses economic threat to Lebanon and Jordan: ESCWA*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2014; Syrian Economic Forum, *ESCWA: Syrian Labor Increases Unemployment And Growth in Lebanon*, 2014.

<sup>178</sup> *Iraq crisis poses economic threat to Lebanon and Jordan: ESCWA*, The Daily Star: Lebanon, 2014.

<sup>179</sup> International Rescue Committee, *The IRC in Iraq*, 2014.

<sup>180</sup> *10 days in Iraq: Aid drops, air-strikes and 200,000 new refugees*, BBC News, 2014.

<sup>181</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/525)*, 2014, pp. 2-3.

<sup>182</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>183</sup> International Rescue Committee, *Yazidi Iraqi refugees arrive dehydrated in Syria after week stranded in Sinjar mountains*, 2014.

<sup>184</sup> UNHCR, *Woman Alone: The fight for survival by Syria’s refugee woman*, 2014, pp. 10-12.

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>186</sup> UNHCR, *Woman Alone: The fight for survival by Syria’s refugee woman*, 2014, p. 13; UN WFP, *WFP Syria Crisis Response, Situation Update*, 2014, p. 3.

the RRP6 mid-year update report suggests focusing on integrating the refugees into host Member States as a way to mitigate vulnerabilities of refugees and issues with access to resources.<sup>187</sup> However, with the resentment from the citizens of host countries for refugees creating a strain on resources, and Member States' lacking socio-economic stability to support an increasing population, full integration can be challenging.<sup>188</sup>

As for the IDPs remaining in Syria, a recent report highlights the significant decrease in child vaccinations and access to education; an increase in infant and maternal mortality rates; and renewed cases of communicable disease, HIV/AIDS, and Poliomyelitis, which had been eradicated fourteen years prior to the civil war.<sup>189</sup> In the region of Syria now occupied by ISIL, Leishmaniasis disease has seen a drastic increase as a result of lack of access to clean drinking water and high levels of pollution due to a lack of sanitation programs.<sup>190</sup> Additionally, IDPs have limited access to heating fuels and therefore often have to cut down trees and hard wood plants throughout urban areas or go to old growth forests looking for fuel.<sup>191</sup> Unchecked wild fires causing air pollution in surrounding areas have consumed large sections of these forests.<sup>192</sup> Moreover, the socio-economic conditions within Syria have worsened as the civil war continues.<sup>193</sup> Due to sanctions imposed by a large group of Member States, economic aid from other countries, humanitarian aid organizations, and non-UN development aid organizations have largely halted.<sup>194</sup>

Additionally, trade between regional and international stakeholders with Syria has deteriorated, causing economic hardships for Syria and its neighbors.<sup>195</sup> Industries and businesses have closed, unemployment and poverty rates have increased, and the portions still under central government control have launched into an inflationary recession, which increases the prices on basic goods and devalues the currency.<sup>196</sup> Much of the conditions of IDPs and socio-economic deterioration directly result from the lack of the governance throughout the region; without a coordinating governing body, many regions of Syria go without basic needs for a functioning country such as sanitation, regulated banking, and security.<sup>197</sup> In order to begin reconstructing the socio-economic conditions of Syria and assist IDPs in rebuilding, the first task of the ESCWA region is to end to the civil war by fostering cooperation through regional and international stakeholders such as UNSMIS and the Arab League.<sup>198</sup> Additionally, through this fostered partnership, it will prove important to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of governance and participation within Syria and the region, in order to withstand and mitigate future uprisings.<sup>199</sup>

## Conclusion

The continuing conflict in Syria and the growing violence by ISIL in Iraq will continue to drive refugees and IDPs from their homes in upcoming months and perhaps years.<sup>200</sup> With the increase of refugees and IDPs in host countries, resources and capacities for employment and amenities continue to strain Member States of the ESCWA region and neighboring Member States.<sup>201</sup> Also, with the constant influx of refugees into the camps and other refugee areas, food, necessities, and health care aid will become strained as well, and development suffers as a

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<sup>187</sup> UNHCR, *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*, 2014, p 33; UNHCR, *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*, 2014

<sup>188</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 102.

<sup>189</sup> UN ESCWA, *Press Release: Syrian Conflict Impact on Macro-economy and Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>196</sup> UN ESCWA, *Press Release: Syrian Conflict Impact on Macro-economy and Millennium Development Goals*, 2014; UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 102.

<sup>197</sup> UN ESCWA, *Press Release: Syrian Conflict Impact on Macro-economy and Millennium Development Goals*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2043 (S/RES/2043)*, 2012; UN Supervision Mission in Syria, *UNSMIS Mandate*, 2012; UN Security Council, *Annex to S/RES/2042 Six-Point Proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States*, 2012.

<sup>198</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>200</sup> UN Security Council, *Security Council Adopts Resolutions 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria (SC/11520)*, 2014.

<sup>201</sup> UN ESCWA, *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*, 2013, p. 102.

consequence.<sup>202</sup> Under the mandate of ESCWA, it is up to the Member States to promote economic and social development and to coordinate solutions to overcome challenges to development with regional and international entities.<sup>203</sup> The armed conflicts in the region, and the resulting refugees, are a challenge to regional development and stability, and therefore ESCWA members must collaborate and cooperate to find solutions to encourage economic and social development for Member States and for refugees.

### ***Further Research***

When approaching their research, delegates should remain mindful of the mandate and role ESCWA plays in discussing situations surrounding refugees, especially with regards to the Syrian refugee crisis. Delegates should consider questions such as: what are the economic and social ramifications of the continuation of the Syrian conflict and influx of refugees on individual Member States and on the ESCWA region? How does the treatment and conditions of the refugees affect the economic and social stability of the Member States? What actions can ESCWA suggest that would improve the lives of the refugees, especially the Syrian refugees? How can Member States promote economic growth and political stability with a growing refugee population and increase regional conflict? Also, delegates should remember that ESCWA fosters regional approaches, so it is important to consider how ESCWA can facilitate further action regarding socio-economic stability while confronting the impact of refugees in the region. In what capacity can ESCWA develop regional approaches to mitigate the impact of refugees while improving access of aid to the refugees?

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<sup>202</sup> International Rescue Committee, *Yazidi Iraqi refugees arrive dehydrated in Syria after week stranded in Sinjar mountains*, 2014.

<sup>203</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2014.

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*The Syrian Economic Forum reports in an article originally from Al Jazeera about issues surrounding growing unemployment due to the continuing Syrian conflict. The Syrian Economic Forum is a think tank focused on promoting a strong economy for Syria. This article is important for delegates to review because it addresses the economic ramifications of hosting a growing refugee population. The article also highlights the economic consequences of armed conflict and a dispersing population.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2013). *Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict*. Retrieved 12 August 2014 from:

<http://arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Lebanon%20Economic%20and%20Social%20Impact%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Syrian%20Conflict.pdf>

*ESCWA, in collaboration with other UN and international agencies, formulated a comprehensive study of the economic and social implications of an unpredictable influx of refugees on a developing country. Lebanon had been considered one of the most developed Member States in the ESCWA region, and yet is suffering from economic and resource strain. It is important for delegates to note that this study was conducted in 2013, and the Syrian conflict is still in progress. This study does not include the recent addition of the refugees as a result of ISIL.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan: Strategic Overview*. Retrieved 12 August 2014 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/docs/syria-rrp6-strategic-overview.pdf#B>

*This is the sixth version of the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) for the Syrian conflict, established at the beginning of 2014. The RRP6 is the result of a collaboration of UN, international, regional, and governmental agencies to address the humanitarian issues that come with a large influx of refugees. Since the RRP6 is led by UNHCR, the plan focuses primarily on refugees and human rights violation prevention. When reviewing this source delegates should keep in mind that when written, the plan assumes that the Syrian civil war will continue throughout the rest of the year, and approach it as such if circumstances change.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *2014 Syria Regional Response Plan Strategic Overview: Mid-Year Update*. Retrieved 12 August 2014 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/midyear/docs/syria-rrp6-myu-strategic-overview.pdf>

*The mid-year update for the RRP6 modifies estimates formulated at the beginning of 2014. An important correction to note is that the projected number of Syrian refugees has decreased from 4.1 million to 3.95 million. Other modifications also include data that indicate the impact of the influx of refugees on host countries. Also, the RRP6 update notes the challenges facing refugees and IDPs the rest of 2014. This mid-year update will allow delegates to make effective recommendations moving forward on this topic.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *Syria Regional Refugee Response: Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal* [Website]. Retrieved 8 September 2014 from:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php#>

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) composed an interactive website to provide comprehensive information on the Syrian refugee crisis. The website provides a map highlighting the concentration of the refugees in the various host Member States as well as the links to the various camps and centers of refugees for each Member State. The numbers for the persons of concern and the funding monitors are updated daily. Delegates will benefit greatly from this website because the data is current and links will help further their research.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *2014 UNHCR country operations profile – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)* [Website]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a02db416.html>

*UNHCR has comprehensive profiles for each region and Member State with regards to forcibly displaced person. This regional profile encompasses all ESCWA Member States and neighboring*

countries. The figures given are compiled data from 2013 reports with regards to refugees and IDPs. The profile also gives the strategic approaches of UNHCR towards solving humanitarian needs in the region and in individual Member States.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *Woman Alone: The fight for survival by Syria's refugee woman*. Retrieve 11 July 2014 from:

[http://www.unhcr.nl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/pdf/Woman\\_Alone\\_ENG\\_2\\_July\\_2014.pdf](http://www.unhcr.nl/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/Woman_Alone_ENG_2_July_2014.pdf)

*The UNHCR compiled a report on Syrian women to address the gender issues surrounding Syrian refugees. The objective data and observations based on humanitarian reports from the refugee camps are mixed with stories from various women living in refugee camps. The majority of these women fled from Syria with children and without their husbands. Women refugees with children present new issues for the camps and social integration. This report gives a clear perspective of the economic and social hardships refugees face.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014, June 20). *World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for the first time in post-World War II era*. Retrieved 6 August 2014 from:

<http://www.unhcr.org/53a155bc6.html>

*After World Refugee Day, UNHCR released this article that compares the amount of refugees present in the world for the past 10 years. The article also looks at the current amount of refugees worldwide to the amount from the formation of UNHCR. There is a chart included that illustrates the ten Member States that are the largest sources of refugees at the end of 2013. Delegates should note that Syria, Iraq, and Yemen (all three ESCWA members) are on this chart.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *World Refugee Day: Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons* [Website]. Retrieved 15 August 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/background.shtml>

*In recognition of World Refugee Day, 20 June 2014, the UN and UNHCR have provided definitions for the different types of forcibly displaced persons. Each is given a short, UN-approved definition. Delegates should be mindful of the legal protection and rights that are given to refugees. Also, although other types of forcibly displaced persons do not have the same legal protection as refugees, they do have the same needs and potential impact.*

United Nations Security Council. (2014). *Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/525)*. Retrieved 20 August 2014 from:

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_2014\\_525.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2014_525.pdf)

*This is the first humanitarian report to come from inside Syria since the beginning of the 2014. The report notes the various human rights abuses committed by the Syrian government, the armed opposition, and ISIL. This report was possible because of a resolution passed by the UN Security Council which opened the Syrian borders to UN agencies and humanitarian relief NGOs. To understand the continued human right violations from the armed conflict in Syria and the status of the IDPs, delegates will benefit from reading this report.*

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## II. Meeting Growing Energy Demands

### *Introduction*

Energy production, policy, consumption and trade shapes modern-day development in the Middle East, more so than almost any other region in the world.<sup>204</sup> The wave of oil industry-nationalization that swept across the region in the 1970s marked a seminal point in the area's history, ushering in unprecedented wealth and challenges.<sup>205</sup> This was closely followed by the discovery of natural gas deposits and their similar exploitation.<sup>206</sup> This situation has led to the emergence of the Middle East, the area of focus for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as the world's foremost supplier of energy.<sup>207</sup> Latest data estimates that the Middle East has more than 43% of the world's proven oil reserves and nearly a quarter of the natural gas wealth.<sup>208</sup> Energy production becomes crucial when placed within the context of both global and regional growing energy demand.

For the past 30 years, energy consumption growth rates in the ESCWA region had been one of the highest in the world, until 2005, when consumption outpaced all other regions.<sup>209</sup> Energy consumption growth is faster than population or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.<sup>210</sup> The region's population is only 4% of the globe's, but accounts for 6.4% of residential energy consumption.<sup>211</sup> The Middle East is projected to become a major energy market by 2025; the region's domestic oil demand is projected to increase significantly, due to urbanization, subsidization, and weak energy regulation mechanisms.<sup>212</sup> Even with increased consumption, however, the fact remains that one-fifth of the Arab population, those in rural and impoverished urban areas, suffer from energy poverty (also known as lack of access to energy) and rely on non-commercial fuels for energy uses.<sup>213</sup>

It is also important to draw a distinction between renewable energy (RE) and sustainable energy. RE is produced from sources that are naturally replenished over time, such as wind or water.<sup>214</sup> Sustainable energy aims to avoid adverse impacts on future energy production and encompasses some, but not all RE sources.<sup>215</sup> In fact, even some RE sources may not be sustainable; hydropower's ecological impact, for example, has been likened to that of coal plants, due to high methane production, habitat destruction, and reduced water quality.<sup>216</sup> Wind and solar energy technologies have been deemed the most sustainable, which bodes well for the ESCWA region due to their resource abundance.<sup>217</sup>

### *International and Regional Framework*

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, resulted in an outcome which, building on past key policy frameworks on this issue, affirmed that the three pillars of sustainable development are economic development, social development, and environmental protection.<sup>218</sup> It recognized that improving access to reliable, affordable, environmentally friendly energy services is crucial for eradicating poverty.<sup>219</sup> The plan recommended doing so through the following: rural electrification, decentralized energy

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<sup>204</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>205</sup> Ibid.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

<sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

<sup>210</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 23.

<sup>211</sup> United States of America, *International Energy Outlook 2013*, 2013, p. 118.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid., pp. 118, 152.

<sup>213</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns in Energy and Water Sectors in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011)*, 2011, p. 3.

<sup>214</sup> Schneider, et al., *Sustainable vs. Renewable*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>217</sup> UN ESCWA, *Best Practices and Tools for Large-scale Deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009)*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>218</sup> World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2002, p. 2.

<sup>219</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

systems, more use of RE and improved energy efficiency, and cleaner fossil fuel mixes.<sup>220</sup> Innovative financing mechanisms, technological and technical assistance, via international and regional cooperation are required for the above.<sup>221</sup>

Sustainable energy development policies feature heavily in the follow-up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in 2012.<sup>222</sup> The Arab Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM), organized by ESCWA and held in 2013, led to the adoption of the *Dubai document*, in which energy efficiency, energy security, and energy sourcing were all touched upon, proving a timely reminder of the importance of the issue to the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>223</sup>

The importance to promote sustainable energy has been recognized by the Secretary-General, who launched the initiative “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4ALL) in 2012 to mobilize international action on ensuring sustainability around energy consumption.<sup>224</sup> The initiative has three objectives: “(a) ensure universal access to modern energy services, (b) double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and (c) double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.”<sup>225</sup> The High-level Group on SE4ALL has committed to achieving these objectives by 2030.<sup>226</sup> Each stakeholder has opportunities to contribute; governments via supportive national energy policies and plans; companies via greater energy efficiency in their supply chains plus more public-private partnerships, and investors via seed money for clean technologies and energy solutions.<sup>227</sup> SE4ALL also launched the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform in September 2014.<sup>228</sup> Preceding the UN Climate Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General had declared 2014-2024 to be the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.<sup>229</sup> SE4ALL signed a cooperation agreement with Power Africa, US to reach the milestone of halving the number of “energy poor” globally by 2030, currently at 1.3 billion.<sup>230</sup>

#### *Regional Framework*

In 2003 Arab Ministers gathered at a regional energy conference where they attempted to create a unified stance on the issues, and address their right to sustainably benefit from their natural resources.<sup>231</sup> They adopted the *Abu Dhabi Declaration*, which called upon industrialized, energy-consuming nations to refrain from policies harmful to Arab countries; such as discriminatory policies against oil, gas, and their products.<sup>232</sup> It also emphasized the need to lay plans to mitigate the effects of climate change.<sup>233</sup> The ministers recommended changing production and consumption patterns, catalyzing scientific research and encouraging the use of clean energy to achieve these goals.<sup>234</sup> Finally, the declaration called for additional investment and greater integration in the Arab energy sector as a whole.<sup>235</sup>

The Arab Economic Summit, held in 2009, released an outcome document titled the *Kuwait Declaration*.<sup>236</sup> It highlighted the challenges facing the Arab region, among which were climate change, energy, and non-optimal use

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<sup>220</sup> World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2002, p. 5.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>222</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Regional Implementation Meeting For the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/WG.1/6)*, 2013, p. 3.

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>224</sup> UN Secretary-General’s High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *Sustainable Energy for All Initiative*.

<sup>225</sup> UN Secretary General’s High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, *Sustainable Energy for All: A Framework for Action*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>226</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>227</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>228</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development, “*Implementing Sustainable Energy for All*” and High-Level Luncheon on the SE4ALL Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform, 2014.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>230</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>231</sup> UAE: Interact, *Energy Conference Issues Abu Dhabi Declaration*, 2003.

<sup>232</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>234</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>236</sup> Kuwait, *Kuwait Declaration of the Arab Economic Summit*, 2009.

of resources.<sup>237</sup> It affirmed the importance of supporting infrastructure projects, such as electricity link and gas networks, in addition to creating an Arab electricity market.<sup>238</sup> It emphasized that this was only possible through increased regional cooperation, and also called for additional investment and ownership by the private sector.<sup>239</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2005/50 of 27 July 2005 mandated that ESCWA must support its members in their realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>240</sup> Reflecting this mandate, ESCWA's *Proposed Strategic Framework for 2014-2015* focuses on Member States' capacity-building across a wide range of development issues, including sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of regional cooperation on natural resources.<sup>241</sup> ESCWA focuses specifically on energy policy in the region in a subcommittee established in 1995.<sup>242</sup> Its establishment reflects the significance of developing sources of renewable energy (RE), the multifaceted and interdisciplinary nature of energy, the importance of involvement by ESCWA's Member States in the Secretariat's deliberations on energy, and finally the trend among sister regional commissions (RCs) to have a specialized committee on energy.<sup>243</sup> The energy subcommittee is comprised of representatives of ESCWA Member States and is tasked with monitoring developments in the field generally, and advancing concrete progress in implementing key policy frameworks.<sup>244</sup> Further, part of ESCWA's role is to convene meetings and events. For example, recently, ESCWA, in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), delivered a workshop on how oil and gas pricing parameters affect RE and energy efficiency activities.<sup>245</sup> Moreover, ESCWA participated a conference focused on renewable energy jobs organized by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in January 2014.<sup>246</sup> One of the primary outcomes is the recognition that RE has the potential to add millions of jobs worldwide in the coming years.<sup>247</sup>

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has plays a crucial role in the ESCWA region.<sup>248</sup> OPEC was founded in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.<sup>249</sup> Its current roster of members has been expanded to include Qatar, Libya, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Algeria, Nigeria, Ecuador, and Angola.<sup>250</sup> In 1968, it issued a "Declaratory Statement of Petroleum Policy in Member Countries" – emphasizing all countries' inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty, over their different natural resources, in the interest of their national development.<sup>251</sup> OPEC's mission is to align petroleum policies among its member countries – securing equitable and stable prices for producing countries and economical and reliable prices for consumer countries.<sup>252</sup> The organization has a group production ceiling divided among its members, and a Reference Basket for a weighted average price for its Member's petroleum blends.<sup>253</sup> Recently, OPEC's second and third heads of state summits, in 2000 and 2007 established and then affirmed three main guiding themes; stable energy markets, sustainable development and the environment.<sup>254</sup>

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<sup>237</sup> Kuwait, *Kuwait Declaration of the Arab Economic Summit*, 2009.

<sup>238</sup> Ibid.

<sup>239</sup> Ibid.

<sup>240</sup> UN ECOSOC, *The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration*, (E/ECOSOC/RES 2005/50 (2005)), 2005.

<sup>241</sup> UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework For The Period 2014-2015*, 2012, pp. 4, 7.

<sup>242</sup> UN ESCWA, *Establishment of a Committee on Energy for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (204 XVIII)*, 1995.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid.

<sup>244</sup> Ibid.

<sup>245</sup> UN ESCWA, *Regional Workshop on Oil and Gas Pricing Parameters Influencing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Activities (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/WG.7)*, 2013.

<sup>246</sup> UN ESCWA, *ESCWA and the International Renewable Energy Conference*, 2014, p. 3.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

<sup>248</sup> OPEC, *Brief History*, 2014.

<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Ibid.

<sup>251</sup> Ibid.

<sup>252</sup> Ibid.

<sup>253</sup> OPEC, *Brief History*, 2014.

<sup>254</sup> Ibid.

The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is a regional intergovernmental organization founded by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Libya.<sup>255</sup> Its founding mission is to promote an integrated Arab petroleum industry, as a springboard for future economic integration – and as such, it sponsors joint ventures between Member States.<sup>256</sup> These joint ventures include the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP), with an authorized capital of \$1.2 billion, which is responsible for large-scale financing of petroleum projects.<sup>257</sup> Another example is the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company (AMPTC), which covers the marine transport of hydrocarbons.<sup>258</sup> All OAPEC members are shareholders in such businesses.<sup>259</sup>

As energy is such an essential part of our daily lives, civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in both strengthening and implementing energy policy; from calling for greater accountability, transparency and ownership, to directly participating in projects that provide better access to energy services. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a global multi-stakeholder coalition made of countries, corporations and NGOs.<sup>260</sup> EITI's underlying principles are simple and emphasize that a country's natural wealth belongs to its citizens.<sup>261</sup> To this end, it has established its EITI Standard, a tool to ensure transparency regarding how governments manage their oil, gas, and mineral resources.<sup>262</sup> The tool is designed to benefit all stakeholders; governments, for example, display a commitment to anti-corruption, and improve their tax collection mechanisms.<sup>263</sup> Also, equitable disclosure of information among companies leads to a better investment climate and enhanced energy security which in turn, ultimately provides citizens with reliable information and helps them hold their governments accountable regarding their wealth.<sup>264</sup>

The National Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) is another example of a civil society organization engaged on this issue. NRGI has a high-impact, targeted approach NRGI provides technical advice, undertakes advocacy efforts, and carries out applied research and analysis, as well as capacity-development.<sup>265</sup> In particular countries as their in-house evaluation has shown that in-depth interventions face better than a broad but ultimately limited series of interventions across more countries, compared to the universal approach employed by the EITI.<sup>266</sup> The International Energy Forum (IEF) brings together both sides of the oil equation in one meeting; it includes the members of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and OPEC.<sup>267</sup> Its biennial Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers, a testament to its credibility as an honest and neutral broker on energy issues, all in the interest in promoting greater understanding of common challenges and energy security.<sup>268</sup>

### ***Current Energy Production and Consumption in the ESCWA Region***

Natural resource wealth is primarily concentrated in only seven of the 17 ESCWA members: Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.<sup>269</sup> The energy trade has evolved in recent years, including a shift for five countries from being exporting to importing hydrocarbons.<sup>270</sup> However, natural gas is shared among more countries than oil, lessening its geostrategic significance.<sup>271</sup> The Arab world produces 32% of the world's oil, and less than a sixth of the world's natural gas; the latter considered quite below its output potential.<sup>272</sup> Rapid growth in domestic demand also accounts for low export-production ratios.<sup>273</sup>

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<sup>255</sup> OAPEC, *Establishment*, 2014.

<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.

<sup>258</sup> Ibid.

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

<sup>260</sup> Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, *EITI Factsheet*, 2014.

<sup>261</sup> Ibid.

<sup>262</sup> Ibid.

<sup>263</sup> Ibid.

<sup>264</sup> Ibid.

<sup>265</sup> Natural Resource Governance Institute, *About NRGI*, 2014.

<sup>266</sup> Ibid.

<sup>267</sup> International Energy Agency, *Global Engagement*, 2014; International Energy Forum, *IEF Overview*, 2014.

<sup>268</sup> International Energy Forum, *IEF Overview*, 2014.

<sup>269</sup> UN ESCWA, *RE Projects in Arab countries and their Socio-Economic Impact*, 2014, p. 3.

<sup>270</sup> UN ESCWA, *RE Projects in Arab countries and their Socio-Economic Impact*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>271</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 8.

<sup>272</sup> Ibid., pp. 10-12.

<sup>273</sup> Ibid.



Motorized road transport, particularly by private cars, accounts for 51% of total oil consumption in the region.<sup>274</sup> This is driven by low energy tariffs and lack of effective public transportation.<sup>275</sup> Coupled by high traffic congestion and a predominantly aging vehicle fleet, this leads to the aforementioned high fuel consumption and low efficiency, and excess pollution problems; only 12% of useful energy is transmitted to a vehicle's wheels, and more than 70% of cars in the region are 15 years or older.<sup>276</sup>

Another key domestic demand-driven industry is the refining of petroleum. Refining capacity in the Arab world stood at 7.83 million barrels/day (b/d), which is 8.5% of global refining efforts.<sup>277</sup> This has also provided feedstock for the energy-intensive petrochemical industry, which is seen by Arab governments as a way to diversify investment and add to the value chain.<sup>278</sup> Petrochemicals production takes advantage of natural gas that could have been otherwise wasted.<sup>279</sup> Finally, an altogether more essential energy-intensive sector is the production, distribution and consumption of water resources.<sup>280</sup> The ESCWA region is home to the world's largest desalination capacity.<sup>281</sup>

### ***Growing Energy Demands – Data and Challenges***

Energy prices, whether oil, natural gas, their products or electricity in the ESCWA region are among the cheapest in the world.<sup>282</sup> Current subsidized energy tariffs are a highly controversial topic; while politically popular, they are a drain on government budgets, accelerate demand, and inhibit investment in other forms of energy.<sup>283</sup> The region has one of the highest energy consumption rates and the lowest energy efficiencies per capita, with varying degrees across the region.<sup>284</sup> Subsidization also accelerates demand for fuels for consumption in the transport sector, as it accounts for half of global oil demand.<sup>285</sup> Low conventional energy prices naturally lessen demand for development of RE technologies and industries.<sup>286</sup> While constructed with benign intentions to ensure universal access to energy, subsidized energy tariffs can be counterproductive in alleviating poverty, taking away from badly needed funds for infrastructure, investment, and social welfare.<sup>287</sup>

The United States' Energy Information Administration publishes annual reports on the international energy outlook.<sup>288</sup> The most recent report outlined the political challenges to meeting growing energy demand globally, which are violent civil unrest and international sanctions.<sup>289</sup> The report focuses on the three main OPEC producers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran.<sup>290</sup> If Iraq and Iran do not resolve their political challenges, the onus will be on Saudi Arabia to increase its production and supply most of the world's oil.<sup>291</sup> This uncertainty in expectations leads to a wide range of expected output for Saudi Arabia, from 6.0 million to 15.5 million barrels per day, and with it also a huge degree of price fluctuation.<sup>292</sup>

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<sup>274</sup> UN ESCWA, *Transport for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Measures, Progress Achieved, Challenges and Policy Framework*, 2009, p. 7.

<sup>275</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>276</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5, 7, 12.

<sup>277</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 31.

<sup>278</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 33.

<sup>279</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>280</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns in Energy and Water Sectors in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011)*, 2011, p. 12.

<sup>281</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>282</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 59.

<sup>283</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy Subsidies in the Arab World: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 8.

<sup>284</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns in Energy and Water Sectors in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011)*, 2011, p. 5.

<sup>285</sup> UN ESCWA, *Transport For Sustainable Development In The Arab Region: Measures, Progress Achieved, Challenges And Policy Framework*, 2009, p. 5.

<sup>286</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy Subsidies in the Arab World: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 8.

<sup>287</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 60.

<sup>288</sup> United States of America, *International Energy Outlook 2013*, 2013, p. 31.

<sup>289</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>290</sup> United States of America, *International Energy Outlook 2013*, 2013, p. 31.

<sup>291</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>292</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 32.

Energy poverty is the lack of access to basic energy services.<sup>293</sup> People suffering from energy poverty are less likely to earn a living, take care of themselves and their families and self-improve.<sup>294</sup> 65 million people living in the Arab world in rural and urban areas do not have access to electricity, and another 60 million are severely undersupplied.<sup>295</sup> Almost of a fifth of Arabs rely on non-commercial fuels such as wood and dung for cooking and heating.<sup>296</sup> Due to systemic “rights failures”, women experience energy poverty differently than men.<sup>297</sup> First of all, women’s energy needs and contributions are unrecognized and undervalued, leaving little scope for interventions.<sup>298</sup> For example, little economic importance is attached to biomass collection necessary for cooking, and improvement in stove technology is far from being a national or global priority.<sup>299</sup> Second of all, women’s lack of control over property, access to income generation and credit and education leaves them woefully underprepared to benefit from existing and potential energy services.<sup>300</sup>

### ***Investment in Renewable Energy***

Investment in renewable energy has many benefits, such as supplying energy demand, economic diversification, employment opportunities, and climate change mitigation.<sup>301</sup> Investment frees up valuable hydrocarbons for export, reduces vulnerabilities to price volatility, creates new jobs in production, maintenance, and services sectors, and reduces emissions.<sup>302</sup> RE contributes to the demand created by electricity, transport, cooling, and heating.<sup>303</sup> It has been suggested that solar energy production in the Arab world could meet global demand for electricity comfortably.<sup>304</sup>

There are still many legislative, institutional, regulatory, and capacity-based challenges for a fully mature RE industry in the ESCWA region.<sup>305</sup> To this end, the Commission has recommended that RE technologies need to be commercially viable to ensure their economic feasibility, and drive investment.<sup>306</sup> As per a report by the commission in 2009, it is frequently assumed that, if “any renewable technology reaches a cost of US\$ 0.10 per KWh of electricity generated (assuming a price of oil of around US\$70/barrel), it can be considered as being economically competitive.”<sup>307</sup> Also, after a lengthy study by ESCWA in 2012, the Commission recommends converting RE to thermal and mechanical energy directly, to combat low electricity production efficiency from solar and wind energy, in addition to its low storage efficiency.<sup>308</sup>

### ***Regional Energy Efficiency***

Investment in energy efficiency covers many economic sectors and applications; it includes windows, lighting, computer systems, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.<sup>309</sup> It simply means consuming less energy for the same output.<sup>310</sup> The IEA has found that investments in EE in 11 member countries have led to energy

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<sup>293</sup> Danielsen, *Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Access to Energy Services*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>294</sup> Ibid.

<sup>295</sup> Fattouh & El-Katiri, *Energy Subsidies in the Arab World: Arab Human Development Report*, 2012, p. 13.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

<sup>297</sup> Danielsen, *Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Access to Energy Services*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>298</sup> Ibid.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid.

<sup>301</sup> UN ESCWA, *RE Projects in Arab countries and their Socio-Economic Impact*, 2014, p. 9.

<sup>302</sup> Ibid., pp. 9-16.

<sup>303</sup> UN ESCWA, *Best Practices and Tools for Large-scale Deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009)*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>304</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns in Energy and Water Sectors in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011)*, 2011, p. 21.

<sup>305</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Role of Renewable Energy in Mitigating Climate Change In The ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2012/1)*, 2012, p. 71.

<sup>306</sup> Ibid.

<sup>307</sup> UN ESCWA, *Best Practices and Tools for Large-scale Deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009)*, 2009, p. 4.

<sup>308</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Role of Renewable Energy in Mitigating Climate Change in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2012/1)*, 2012, p. 7.

<sup>309</sup> Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, *What's Energy Efficiency?*, 2014.

<sup>310</sup> Ibid.

use being 58% less than without EE.<sup>311</sup> Notwithstanding significant challenges, there is potential for the right policy framework to create an EE market in the ESCWA region.<sup>312</sup> As with any new project, there are legislative, regulatory, and capacity gaps, and a lack of awareness and incentives.<sup>313</sup> For example, the project proposals fail to get financiers' attention or interest, and neither the project scales nor funding eventually acquired are significant.<sup>314</sup>

ESCWA has the opportunity to contribute via setting up a dedicated EE taskforce.<sup>315</sup> Its role would be to advise on energy tariff policy creation, and EE legislation to help policy makers from a regulatory perspective.<sup>316</sup> From an informative side, it could provide training workshops and disseminate technical information on the socio-economic benefits of EE.<sup>317</sup> If properly implemented, the result could be lower energy costs, enhanced energy security, and less of a negative environmental impact.<sup>318</sup> In the same vein of intra-regional cooperation; there are also outstanding infrastructure options, including regional electrical energy networks and oil and gas pipelines.<sup>319</sup> Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have an important role to play here.<sup>320</sup> They constitute 90% of global business and 50-60% of global employment.<sup>321</sup> Their potential involvement in the EE process can save the Arab region a projected \$6.14 billion.<sup>322</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The resource wealth that the ESCWA region enjoys, and the subsequent policies adopted to manage and develop them, pose significant and urgent challenges that require extensive planning, investment, and cooperation. The energy-led development model has left countries vulnerable to price fluctuations, climate change effects, and social unrest. This guide has illustrated how even among non-oil producing countries, energy is the lifeblood of the country and is closely linked to transportation, water security, and the development of heavy industries. There is a plethora of options to facilitate meeting growing energy demands, each with its advantages and drawbacks. Governments can introduce legislation conducive to RE and EE market formation, such as more stringent fuel efficiency standards, plus regulatory and support mechanisms for clean energy industries. They can also direct investment in more fuel-efficient technologies. Most urgently, they can restructure or remove their subsidization of petroleum products. Companies can respond to their governments' direction by becoming more energy efficient and provide more energy efficiency services. The aforementioned is especially critical for energy-intensive economic sectors, such as transportation, desalination and petrochemicals production. Finally, individuals can exploit all the above to reduce their energy intensity, find more employment opportunities, and enjoy better energy services.

### **Further Research**

Delegates should consider the following questions: What are the policy options that countries have at both national and regional levels to better manage their energy? How can countries better balance investment in existing hydrocarbon production and subsidization capacities and diversification into RE and EE technologies? How can your country mainstream gender, the environment, and corruption-related issues within the discussion on energy? How does energy fit within the post-2015 development agenda, and how can countries align national-level goals with the sustainable development goals? How can ESCWA support the achievement of these goals? How can countries ensure that their efforts and experiences are translated at the international level?

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<sup>311</sup> UN ECE, *Background Paper on Global Strategy for Energy Efficiency Market Formation to Mitigate Climate Change*, 2011, p. 11.

<sup>312</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>313</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>314</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>315</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 27.

<sup>316</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>317</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>318</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>319</sup> UN ESCWA, *Expert Group Meeting On the "Role of Energy Networks in Regional Integration"* (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/WG.4/1), 2010, p. 3.

<sup>320</sup> UN ESCWA, *Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: Opportunities in Energy Services (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010)*, 2010, p. 1.

<sup>321</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

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*This source provides an absolutely essential insight into the differences between men and women's experiences of energy poverty. It reveals that institutional norms that hinder women in all walks of life play their part in enjoying access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy services. The recommendations provided should drive delegates to mainstream gender into the energy conversation, and provide a new and needed entry point when discussing strategy.*

Fattouh, B. & L. El-Katiri. (2012). *Energy Subsidies in the Arab World: Arab Human Development Report*. United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Arab States. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdrps/Energy%20Subsidies-Bassam%20Fattouh-Final.pdf>

*Energy subsidization has been a long-lasting debate. This report attempts to explain the finer points relevant to the ESCWA region, while discussing the possible measures to change it. This is in terms of the different types of subsidization, the financing for it, and ultimately the consequences of having subsidization policies in place. Delegates perusing this source will have a clearer picture of both the economics and politics for and against subsidization. This is significant due to its high prevalence within the ESCWA region and its role in stimulating investment in renewable energy.*

Fattouh, B. & L. El-Katiri. (2012). *Energy and Arab Economic Development: Arab Human Development Report*. United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Arab States. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdrps/ENGFattouhKatiriV2.pdf>

*The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)'s take on energy within the Arab world guarantees a development-based approach that should assist delegates in looking past the immediate economic picture, and towards the long-term value for the region of sustainable, affordable, and accessible energy sources. The report explores the energy-led development model in the ESCWA region, in terms of its structure, benefits, and challenges. It goes behind the reasons for its establishment, the socio-economic features of this model, and how to address its challenges. This is a must-read to gain a preliminary insight on energy's fundamental role in shaping the Middle East.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2013). *Arab Regional Implementation Meeting for the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – Follow-Up on Rio+20* [Report]. Retrieved 11 August 2014 from: [http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E\\_ESCWA\\_SDPD\\_13\\_WG-1\\_6\\_Report\\_E.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_SDPD_13_WG-1_6_Report_E.pdf)

*This report is an excellent window into the inclusive and cooperative nature of the UN system, both in terms of bodies and Member States. It also shows to delegates how a topic such as energy is discussed from a global developmental aspect, and how ESCWA truly takes the role of relaying that to its members, before providing feedback. Also, this report contains the text of the Dubai document, and intergovernmental text on development issues, including energy.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2011). *Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns in Energy and Water Sectors in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011)* [Report]. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/SDPD-11-WP-1.pdf>

*This report provides an extremely comprehensive picture of consumption patterns of water and energy and draws the underpublicized link between both. The report also contains policy and technology related recommendations on how to create sustainable production patterns. Delegates should refer to this source as a reference for the type of work generated by the SDPD, and use the data presented in the document to prepare for the conference.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Best Practices and Tools for Large-scale Deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009)*. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/sdpd-09-TP3.pdf>

*This source provides valuable insight into the level of technical detail that ESCWA can publish on its authority. It provides an overview of the existing RE technologies, in addition to those most suitable to the ESCWA region, and the level of investment required for each. As such, it should empower delegates to consider all aspects of the energy issue, and make informed technical decisions, and finally not feel limited by offering the standard recommendations, and ultimately simulate the advisory nature of ESCWA.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2009). *Transport for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Measures, Progress Achieved, Challenges and Policy Framework* [Report]. Retrieved 11 August 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/SDPD-09-wp-1.pdf>

*Transport in the geographically large Arab world plays a huge role in economic development and linking people together. However, it is a poster child for Arab policy gaps and challenges, be it rapid urbanization, poor regulatory capacity, or the shunning of environmental concerns to the sidelines. This source covers all of that in addition to shedding more light on low energy prices and their effects on all economic sectors. Delegates must refer to this report when drafting their policy recommendations related to reforming this huge drain on energy and money.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1995). *Establishment of a Committee on Energy for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* (204 XVIII) [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://css.escwa.org.lb/english/204%20\(XVIII\).pdf](http://css.escwa.org.lb/english/204%20(XVIII).pdf)

*This is the founding text for the well-established Committee on Energy within ESCWA. As such, it introduces the mandate of the committee, in addition to its relationship to the larger ESCWA community. Delegates should use this source in order to gain in-depth understanding about ESCWA's role and work in addressing the energy question.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2014-2015*. Retrieved 11 August 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/6%20\(Prog.%2019\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/6%20(Prog.%2019))

*The proposed strategic framework is the perfect example of the top-down direction and guidance that ESCWA receives from the UN General Assembly, in addition to being the strategic master plan for ESCWA for the next two years. Delegates will also notice when feedback from the Commission is percolated into its framework. Finally, it proves the singular importance of managing energy resources by having it as the initial subprogram in the framework.*

U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2013). *International Energy Outlook 2013*. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: [http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/pdf/0484\(2013\).pdf](http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/pdf/0484(2013).pdf)

*With a year-long rigorous research methodology applied, and forecasting up to 2040, the International Energy Outlook is a crucial item when it comes to comparing the energy mix breakdown not only within the ESCWA region, but also globally. This resource will assist delegates in determining trends in consumption, production and delivery across different sectors of human activity, in terms of industries, energy types, and regions. As such, it provides a comprehensive outlook on where global energy supply and demand comes from, in addition to the political, logistical, and financial challenges to creating sustainable patterns of supply and demand.*

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### III. Countering Radicalization through Social and Economic Development

#### *Introduction*

In a recent Pew Research Center poll, citizens residing in countries with significant Muslim populations, specifically in Middle East and South Asia, stated that they have growing fears of Islamic extremism.<sup>323</sup> Groups considered Islamic extremists included Al Qaida, Hezbollah, Boko Haram, and Hamas.<sup>324</sup> The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was not initially discussed in the poll as it was emerging at the time of the study, but is now also considered an Islamic extremist group; ISIL has conducted acts of sectarian violence, primarily against Iraqi minorities and opposing groups.<sup>325</sup> According to Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (UN) Mohamed Ali Alhakim, these violent acts include “ethnic cleansing, targeting unarmed civilians, conducting horrible massacres, recruiting children, destroying places of worship and persecuting religious communities and minorities.”<sup>326</sup> Extremist groups pose a threat to the peace and security of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region.<sup>327</sup> Peace and security in the region is interconnected with social and economic development, and as such, socio-economic strategies are significant in order to combat sources of radicalism and extremism, thus protecting the citizens of the region and contributing to overall regional development.<sup>328</sup>

Radicalism and extremism are two important issues often connected to one another and can be considered in the contexts of terrorism and counterterrorism, although many of the strategies developed to counter radicalism and extremism are more closely related to development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.<sup>329</sup> Extremism varies from situation to situation, but is associated with violence resulting from radical political, social, cultural, and religious ideologies and groups that reject the rule of law and inclusive societal norms.<sup>330</sup> However, radicalism can be defined as “a concentration of the focus of relevance on a particular principle, at the expense of the traditionally sanctioned regard for the complexities of context,” and can encompass every part of life in order to adhere to principles.<sup>331</sup> Radicalism is connected to political and ideological beliefs that can be utilized to effect positive societal change or can develop into a violent threat of extremism, and is not interchangeable with terrorism.<sup>332</sup> Understanding the differences between extremism, radicalism, and terrorism is important in countering the negative effects of radicalization at the root cause and mitigating the existence of extremist groups, and also allows for a more full implementation of counter measures through the forms of economic and social development.<sup>333</sup>

#### *International and Regional Framework*

According to Article 3 of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), each person has the right to live freely and without fear of harm.<sup>334</sup> The first purpose of the UN as listed in Article 1 of the *Charter of the United*

<sup>323</sup> Pew Research, *Concerns about Islamic Extremism on the Rise in Middle East*, 2014; Poll: Fears over Islamic extremism rising, *Al Jazeera America*, 2014.

<sup>324</sup> Ibid.

<sup>325</sup> Poll: Fears over Islamic extremism rising, *Al Jazeera America*, 2014; Amnesty International, *Iraq: Yazidis captured by ISIS amid mounting sectarian attacks*, 2014.

<sup>326</sup> UN Security Council, *Security Council Adopts Resolutions 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria (SC/11520)*, 2014.

<sup>327</sup> Ibid.

<sup>328</sup> UN ESCWA, *Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 1; UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2014; United Nations & League of Arab States, *The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2013, p. 61.

<sup>329</sup> Kundnani, *Radicalization: the Journey of a Concept*, 2012, p. 3; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009.

<sup>330</sup> Holmer, *Countering Violent Extremism: A Peacebuilding Perspective*, 2013, p. 2; Borum, *Radicalization into Violent Extremism*, 2011, p. 9; Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 8.

<sup>331</sup> International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, *Radicalism*, 1968.

<sup>332</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 76; Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 6; International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, *Radicalism*, 1968.

<sup>333</sup> UN ESCWA & League of Arab States, *The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2013, p. 61; UN ESCWA, *Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 6; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 76; UN ESCWA, *Report Of The Brainstorming Session On The Root Causes of Ethnic and Sectarian Tensions In The ESCWA Region, Beirut, 26 August 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2009/4)*, 2009.

<sup>334</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

*Nations* (1945) is to ensure peace and stability, which is done through actions conducted by the Security Council and through soft, or non-militarized, means of social and economic development, to which ECOSOC and its subsidiary organs, including ESCWA, are given responsibility.<sup>335</sup>

It is the mandate of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security, and one method through which it has done this was the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001), which established the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).<sup>336</sup> As a way to expand the powers of the CTC, the Security Council adopted resolution 1566 (2004), thereby standardizing the UN definition for terrorism as “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public...or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”<sup>337</sup> Also, in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) Member States are encouraged to incorporate women into active roles pertaining to peace and security and peacebuilding, as well as the continued efforts of preventing violence against women and girls, especially during times of conflict.<sup>338</sup> Security Council resolution 1631 (2005) encourages cooperation among regional and sub-regional UN bodies in working on peacebuilding efforts.<sup>339</sup> The resolution also encourages regional UN entities to develop cooperation with international and regional organizations.<sup>340</sup> Additionally, the General Assembly (GA) passed resolution 68/127 (2014), which not only condemns the actions of extremist and terrorist groups, but also calls upon Member States and the UN to find counter measures that protect populations, promote development, and ensure human rights.<sup>341</sup>

Peacebuilding and capacity-building efforts can only be useful and sustainable if there is economic and social development within a region.<sup>342</sup> The *Millennium Declaration* (2000) promoted the connection between development and peacekeeping by emphasizing that a lack of socio-economic development hinders inclusive and equitable governance.<sup>343</sup> After the adoption of the UN *Millennium Declaration*, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were later established for the international community to reach by 2015, designed to foster economic and social development.<sup>344</sup> In order to monitor the MDGs with relevance to the ESCWA region, ESCWA and the Arab League created a monitoring system called the Arab Millennium Development Goals.<sup>345</sup> The Arab MDGs promote all eight MDGs equally, but also acknowledge combating the various challenges facing the region such as the political instability of the region and the monetary inequalities of several Member States.<sup>346</sup> However, with the 2015 deadline approaching for the MDGs, the UN system is currently discussing the development of the post-2015 development agenda as a means to continue working towards continuing goals found in the MDGs, such as poverty and environmental sustainability, and adding new goals improving governance and capacity-building for Member States.<sup>347</sup> The post-2015 agenda is incorporating the thematic issues of the MDGs as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their connection to the outcome document from the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, which echoes commitment to development and the provision of additional guidance and goals to achieving environmentally sustainable solutions for socio-economic growth.<sup>348</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

ESCWA has often discussed topics related to radicalism and social and economic development. ESCWA issued a summary report in 2009, which was in collaboration between ESCWA’s Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues

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<sup>335</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 26 June 1945, Ch. 1, Art. 1, and Ch. 7, Art. 39; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>336</sup> UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 1373 (2001) (S/RES/1373)*, 2001.

<sup>337</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 1566 (2004) (S/RES/1566)*, 2004.

<sup>338</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 1325 (2000) (S/RES/1325)*, 2000.

<sup>339</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 1631 (S/RES/1631)*, 2005.

<sup>340</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>341</sup> UN General Assembly, *A world against violence and violent extremism (A/RES/66/127)*, 2014.

<sup>342</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 85.

<sup>343</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>344</sup> UN, Statistics Division, *Millennium Development Goals Indicators*, 2008.

<sup>345</sup> UN ESCWA & League of Arab States, *The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2013, p. xi.

<sup>346</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 46.

<sup>347</sup> UN General Assembly, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/65/1)*, 2010.

<sup>348</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *Letter dated 18 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations address to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/5)*, 2012; UN General Assembly, *The Future we want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.

Division (ECRI) and the Heinrich Boell Foundation.<sup>349</sup> The report “On the Brainstorming Session on the Root Causes of Ethnic and Sectarian Tensions in the ESCWA Regions” highlights a few sources for radicalism and conflict in the region, such as lack of youth involvement and socio-economic inequalities, while focusing primarily on methodology and approaches for measurement.<sup>350</sup> ECRI also released a report in 2013 that called for a separate committee to oversee social and economic instability and create regional cooperation for capacity-building to mitigate damage to overall development caused by conflict.<sup>351</sup> One of the key roles of this separate committee proposed ECRI would be to encourage ESCWA to find solutions to conflicts and future conflicts through sustainable development.<sup>352</sup> ESCWA also held an Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia in 2010.<sup>353</sup> The Expert Group was comprised of representatives from ESCWA, think tanks, academic institutions, UN agencies and other multilateral organizations, as well as decision-makers and civil society representatives.<sup>354</sup> This meeting was held because the region has several Member States in “conflict or political tension” whom require “successful peacebuilding interventions that are geared towards preventing a relapse into conflict and ensure sustainable peace and development.”<sup>355</sup> In order to develop prevention and peacebuilding policies, the Expert Group first examined recommendations that included the need for strong judiciary systems and government leadership, social inclusion, and prevention efforts that address poverty and socio-economic inequalities.<sup>356</sup> Additionally, the group looked at consequences of actions taken, agreeing that “military intervention does not represent a solution to conflicts,” nor does it bring a sustainable peace.<sup>357</sup>

In 2013, an advisory board led by Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Rima Khalaf, released a report called “Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative.”<sup>358</sup> This report outlines how utilizing a shared Arab identity can be an umbrella theme for policies related to political, economic, and cultural development within Member States.<sup>359</sup> Another connected UN effort is a report released by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), created by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly in 2005, in 2009 focusing on the universal root causes of radicalism and extremism.<sup>360</sup> The “First Report of the Working Group on Radicalisation and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism: Inventory State Programme” provides an overview of various Member States’ programs and approaches to countering radicalism and extremism. Programs and approaches highlighted within the report include education, improving civil society, Internet policies, inter-cultural dialogue, and addressing economic and social inequalities.<sup>361</sup>

Other regional actors are working on ensuring development and peace and security of the ESCWA region, such as the Arab League. The Arab League is a regional body aimed to facilitate discussions and action among its 22 members with special regards to social and economic issues facing the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).<sup>362</sup> To further build international and regional participation to promote peace and security among ESCWA Member States, the CTC has engaged with the Arab League to discuss counterterrorism and counter-radicalism measures.<sup>363</sup> In January 2014, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), CTC, the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union,

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<sup>349</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report Of The Brainstorming Session On The Root Causes Of Ethnic And Sectarian Tensions In The ESCWA Region, Beirut, 26 August 2009*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>350</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>351</sup> UN ESCWA, *Consultative Meeting on Establishing a Committee on Emerging Issues and Development Under Crisis Amman, 11 December 2013 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2013/WG.3/Report)*, 2013, p. 1.

<sup>352</sup> UN ESCWA, *Consultative Meeting on Establishing a Committee on Emerging Issues and Development Under Crisis Amman, 11 December 2013 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2013/WG.3/Report)*, 2013, p. 5.

<sup>353</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010.

<sup>354</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>355</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>356</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-5.

<sup>357</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

<sup>358</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014.

<sup>359</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. iii, v.

<sup>360</sup> UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*, 2006; UN CTITF, *Main Page*, 2014; UN CTITF, *First Report of the Working Group on Radicalisation and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism: Inventory of State Programmes*, 2009.

<sup>361</sup> UN CTITF, *First Report of the Working Group on Radicalisation and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism: Inventory of State Programmes*, 2009, pp. 6-16.

<sup>362</sup> Profile: Arab League, *BBC News*, 2014.

<sup>363</sup> UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, *CTED, League of the Arab States Discuss Areas of Cooperation*, 2014.

INTERPOL and others including representatives from the United States and MENA held an initial regional meeting to build up cooperation to create a “single central authority in charge of processing extradition and requests for mutual legal assistance thereby strengthening their capacity to cooperate and ensuring efficient and time-effective responses” to criminal and terrorist activities.<sup>364</sup> The CTC and the Arab League have also held a follow-up meeting where the League noted that developing cooperation among members for the purpose of a proposed single central authority was challenging because of the differing stances on terrorism and sources of terrorist groups.<sup>365</sup> The Arab League representative for this meeting also expressed concern over the root causes of terrorism, and the subsequent “consequences to counter-radicalization measures adopted” by the proposed single central authority.<sup>366</sup>

Another regional actor focusing on countering radicalism and extremism in the ESCWA region is the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC has 57 members, and aims to protect the shared interests of the members and promote cooperation and solidarity throughout the Islamic world.<sup>367</sup> In May 2014, Ambassador Omur Orhun, a representative of the OIC General Secretariat, met with the UN Development Programme Global Expert Consultation on “Radicalization and its Impact for Development, Violence Prevention and Conflict Resolution.”<sup>368</sup> The meeting addressed the relationship between development and radicalization, discussing both the impact that radicalized groups have on undermining development progress and ways that development could be utilized to mitigate the occurrence of radicalization.<sup>369</sup>

### ***Radicalization in the ESCWA Region***

It is important to determine the political and socio-economic sources of radicalization and extremism before developing counter measures.<sup>370</sup> Radicalism is more likely to take hold and garner support from the population when negative social, economic, and political trends converge in a country or region, such as poverty or political disenfranchisement.<sup>371</sup> In several cases, radicalism occurs not as a direct result of poverty, but in the recognition of socio-economic marginalization and social inequalities.<sup>372</sup> In gaining popularity, radical ideas can end up partnered with or taken over by violent extremists, which tend to rule or enforce societal changes.<sup>373</sup> These extremist groups hijack radicalized movements and utilize political or religious ideologies to further their cause of violence and garner support from the population at large.<sup>374</sup> In some cases, radicalized groups form as a result of a power vacuum created by lack of governance or due to a civil war, like in the case of ISIL.<sup>375</sup> Job opportunities, rule of law, safety and security, and political culture are less available or unstable in countries with weak or corrupt governments, and this can disenfranchise youth and lead to a loss of national identity.<sup>376</sup> Another reason for radicalization can stem from the experiences of youth in the ESCWA region; in particular, this can happen to youth who live in Western countries who, upon returning to their country of origin, see a lack of opportunities and socio-economic disparity between the countries.<sup>377</sup>

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<sup>364</sup> UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *UNODC and CTED Hold the First Regional Meeting on Building Effective Central Authorities*, 2014.

<sup>365</sup> UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, *CTED, League of the Arab States Discuss Areas of Cooperation*, 2014.

<sup>366</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>367</sup> Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, *About OIC*, 2014.

<sup>368</sup> Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, *OIC participates in the UNDP Global Expert Consultation on Radicalization*, 2014.

<sup>369</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>370</sup> Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 47.

<sup>371</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 78.

<sup>372</sup> Nasser-Eddine et al., *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Literature Review*, 2011, p. 30.

<sup>373</sup> Schmid, A., *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 10.

<sup>374</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>375</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 78; Amnesty International, *Iraq: Yezidis captured by ISIS amid mounting sectarian attacks*, 2014.

<sup>376</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p.78; UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, pp. 5-6.

<sup>377</sup> Nasser-Eddine et al., *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Literature Review*, 2011, pp. 13-14; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 78; UN ESCWA, *The Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions*, 2013, p. 2.

Understanding the root causes for radicalism can determine what methods are best for countering radicalization before leading to violence.<sup>378</sup> Some efforts by ESCWA members to address radicalization include individualized plans that use psychological and religious counseling to help persuade radicals towards a more moderate viewpoint.<sup>379</sup> However, it is difficult to target just those who are radicalized, extremist, or terrorists because they “are hard to find and, where they can be found, are often not very cooperative or sincere.”<sup>380</sup> Another approach uses a collective method in which “political negotiations to obtain a type of change of behavior.”<sup>381</sup> This approach only helps with those already a part of a radicalized or extremist group, and does nothing for the potential members who may be recruited.<sup>382</sup>

In order to counter radicalism on a broader scale, policies on regional and national levels should focus on economic, social, and political growth and stability.<sup>383</sup> Approaches to radicalism and extremism must also encompass as many aspects of society as possible, including those already that have committed violent acts of extremism.<sup>384</sup> Although Member States are obligated to implement and strongly enforce laws that punish extremists and those recruiting towards extremism, prisons can then become recruitment centers for terrorist and extremist groups.<sup>385</sup> Traditional methods of incapacitation and containment of terrorists or suspected terrorists have resulted in rallying points for recruitment, whereas reforming and rehabilitation of terrorists and radicals through group and individual counseling like the system used in Saudi Arabia tends to be more effective and less publicized.<sup>386</sup> Prisoners in Saudi Arabia undergo group and individual therapy to de-radicalize inmates, engage in trade skill education, and once freed are placed into programs allowing the former inmates to become a part of the political process and obtain an occupation.<sup>387</sup> The results of this program are not a resounding success, 60% reported returning to the various extremist groups, but efforts like those in Saudi Arabia begin to address the need to incorporate programs that reintegrate former extremists and stem a source of recruitment.<sup>388</sup>

### ***Social Development to Counter Radicalism***

#### *Arab Integration*

Because radicalism centers on a principle, religious ideologies are susceptible to radicalization; this becomes zealotry.<sup>389</sup> In the context of Islamic radicalism, religious fundamental groups, like those in the Central Asian region, can become literalist, which is a way of radicalizing religious teachings.<sup>390</sup> Literalists apply radical and extreme interpretations of Islam in the contemporary world, which does not translate to violent or terrorist acts, but the followers of strict interpretation become more susceptible to manipulative leaders or groups with violent agendas.<sup>391</sup>

An ESCWA-mandated Advisory Board was recently tasked as a part of its Arab Integration effort to develop an ideology equally universal to the region; inclusionary, and difficult for radical and extremist groups to radicalize.<sup>392</sup>

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<sup>378</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 3.

<sup>379</sup> Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 41.

<sup>380</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 20.

<sup>381</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 41.

<sup>382</sup> Nasser-Eddine et al., *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Literature Review*, 2011, p. 14.

<sup>383</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 3; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, pp. 79-80.

<sup>384</sup> UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 7.

<sup>385</sup> OSCE, *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism*, 2014, p. 42; Neumann, *Prisons and Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization in 15 Countries*, 2010, p. 7.

<sup>386</sup> Neumann, *Prisons and Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization in 15 Countries*, 2010, pp. 19-20; Wright, *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*, 2011, p. 82.

<sup>387</sup> Wright, *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*, 2011, pp. 82-84.

<sup>388</sup> Neumann, *Prisons and Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization in 15 Countries*, 2010, pp. 19-20; Wright, *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*, 2011, pp. 83-85.

<sup>389</sup> International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, *Radicalism*, 1968.

<sup>390</sup> Zhussipbek, *Religious Radicalism in Central Asia*, 2013, p. 6.

<sup>391</sup> Zhussipbek, *Religious Radicalism in Central Asia*, 2013, pp. 6-7; Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 8.

<sup>392</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014, pp. iii, v.

The approach specific for the ESCWA region is Arab integration, which can provide a cultural identity to unite the region and provide Member States with a basis for national policies and agendas that promote socio-economic progress and development for citizens within the region.<sup>393</sup> Arab integration is a means to unify the ESCWA region under the shared identity and history of being Arab.<sup>394</sup> Within ESCWA recent report on Arab integration, Member States are encouraged to utilize this shared identity when approaching policy and government changes, particularly when incorporating women and youth into the role of civil society.<sup>395</sup> The hope of Arab integration is that through a unified identity, all individuals within a society will exercise full citizenship rights and therefore create Member States that will be better equipped to handle radicalization.<sup>396</sup>

### *Women*

Another important aspect to social development in countering radicalism is women, who are a large component of society that can be further utilized for counter-radicalization and peacebuilding efforts in the ESCWA region.<sup>397</sup> Women within the household are typically the first to notice changes within family members, especially those with tendencies towards radicalism or extremism.<sup>398</sup> With proper training and education, women can potentially mitigate the radicalism of family members, or be able to alert officials, such as the police, of their concern for future violent actions taken by a family member.<sup>399</sup> In Pakistan, an organization called Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN) Alumni Trust coordinates a network of women and youth to train and educate women in the household, mostly mothers, on how to recognize extremism and to find economic and social alternatives for the young men likely to become extremists.<sup>400</sup> Additionally, women can play a crucial role in preventing radicalism and violent extremism and in formulating policies that reflect their unique perspective.<sup>401</sup> Through inter-faith counseling, cooperatives, and social media, women are able to spread messages within their communities and on a country-wide level that mitigate forms of radicalism and extremism, thus also including women in society and the civil society framework.<sup>402</sup> When women are incorporated into political, social, and economic decision-making processes, then the whole population benefits such as more social inclusion, a sense of equality, and the development that follows.<sup>403</sup>

### *Youth*

Youth are another significant demographic within the ESCWA region; throughout the ESCWA region, many have protested and/or still are protesting their lack of involvement and representation in government and civil society, which was reflected during the Arab Spring.<sup>404</sup> In Yemen, the National Democratic Institute developed two councils to engage and incorporate male and female youth into the government system and provide a forum to discuss issues facing youth such as access to job opportunities, issues facing education, and the needs of young women.<sup>405</sup> This level of the incorporation of youth creates a social identity and lessens feelings of political repression, which at the same time lessens the need for strong political or societal changes.<sup>406</sup>

### ***Economic Development to Counter Radicalism***

One of the key elements of the Arab Spring, especially in Tunisia and Egypt, was the lack of employment opportunities for the youth.<sup>407</sup> As of 2011, there was a projected 92.7 million unemployed youth in the MENA

<sup>393</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014, pp. 16-17; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not "Terrorism,"* 2009, pp. 79-80.

<sup>394</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>395</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014, pp. 16-17; UN ESCWA, *The Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions*, 2013, pp. 2-3.

<sup>396</sup> UN ESCWA, *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative, Summary*, 2014, p. 3; Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, p. 41.

<sup>397</sup> United Nations, *Women, Peace and Security*, 2002, p. 53.

<sup>398</sup> USIP, "Engaging and Educating Women and Girls in the Prevention of Violent Conflict and Violent Extremism," 2014.

<sup>399</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>400</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>401</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>402</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>403</sup> United Nations, *Women, Peace and Security*, 2002, p. 53.

<sup>404</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions*, 2013, pp. 2-3.

<sup>405</sup> Sumpf, *The Middle Class in the Arab Region and Their Political Participation – A Research and Policy Agenda*, 2014, p. 10.

<sup>406</sup> UN ESCWA, *The Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions*, 2013, pp. 74-75.

<sup>407</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Development Goals... An Arab Regional Perspective (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/1/Rev)*, 2014, p. 11.

region.<sup>408</sup> Unemployment rates in 2013 reached as high as 19% in some portions of the ESCWA region; the lowest level was found in Member States bordering the Persian Gulf, which had 6% unemployment.<sup>409</sup> The International Labour Organization (ILO) labeled the large percentages of unemployed youth as a global crisis.<sup>410</sup> With the economic downturn in the region in 2012 due to a drop in the market value of petroleum and global economic hardships, many Member States had to enforce austere policies that scaled back employment in the public sector.<sup>411</sup> Additionally, the decrease in foreign investment, private sector investment, and regional investment has contributed to the high unemployment rates.<sup>412</sup> Unemployment is significant to consider and ameliorate, as economic difficulty can lead to radicalism.<sup>413</sup>

In an effort to create jobs and engage the youth, the Tunisian government has partnered with ILO, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and other UN agencies to form a programme called “Engaging Tunisian Youth to Achieve the MDGs.”<sup>414</sup> The programme teaches and trains young men and women in traditional arts and trades and provided loans which they pay back with a portion of their sales.<sup>415</sup> Additionally, Tunisia has been involved in a South-South exchange program through ILO called the Territorial Youth Employment Pacts.<sup>416</sup> Tunis and Albania collaborated on developing government programs that eased young men and women from informal economies, exchanging products for good, into a more formalized sector that includes the private sector and banking.<sup>417</sup> Through this process, the youth were able to create their own job opportunities and expand to small business opportunities and as entrepreneurs.<sup>418</sup> However, this is reliant upon the stability and effectiveness of the governmental and civil society structures within a Member State; ineffective government institutions hinder economic and social inclusion because of the lack of indicators and funding for development programs.<sup>419</sup> By making economic development and social inclusion a priority, Member States within the ESCWA region can create job opportunities needed for youth populations and mitigate radicalizing marginalized groups.<sup>420</sup>

### **Conclusion**

As groups like ISIL and Al Qaida grow, populations within the ESCWA region will continue to need efforts for strengthening socio-economic development, combating inequality, and policies that encompass all aspects of society.<sup>421</sup> Governments also must consider the root causes of radicalization and the differences among radicalism, violent extremism, and terrorism when countering the negative effects of these philosophies through social and economic development.<sup>422</sup> It is also important to compare and implement counter-extremism agendas and encourage social and economic development in order to address radicalization.<sup>423</sup> Close attention to radicalism and extremism

<sup>408</sup> Roudi, *Youth Population & Unemployment in the Middle East & North Africa*, 2011.

<sup>409</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Development Goals... An Arab Regional Perspective (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/1/Rev)*, 2014, pp. 8, 11.

<sup>410</sup> ILO, *The youth employment crisis: A call for action*, 2012.

<sup>411</sup> UN ESCWA, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2013-2014 (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2014/1/Summary)*, 2014, p. 9.

<sup>412</sup> Ibid.

<sup>413</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 78.

<sup>414</sup> UN Development Programme, *Constructing a future for youth in Tunisia*, 2014.

<sup>415</sup> Ibid.

<sup>416</sup> ILO, *Territorial Youth Employment Pacts Albania-Tunis*, 2014, p.1.

<sup>417</sup> Ibid., pp. 7-10.

<sup>418</sup> Ibid., pp. 7-10.

<sup>419</sup> UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Development Goals... An Arab Regional Perspective (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/1/Rev)*, 2014, pp.13-14.

<sup>420</sup> UN ESCWA, *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2013-2014 (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2014/1/Summary)*, 2014, p. 9; UN ESCWA, *The Promises of Spring: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Democratic Transitions*, 2013, pp. 74-75; UN ESCWA, *Sustainable Development Goals...An Arab Regional Perspective (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/1/Rev)*, 2014, pp. 13-14.

<sup>421</sup> Poll: Fears over Islamic extremism rising, *Al Jazeera America*, 2014; UN ESCWA, *Report: Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia, Beirut, 9-10 December 2009 (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)*, 2010, p. 7; UN CTITF, *First Report of the Working Group on Radicalisation and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism: Inventory of State Programmes*, 2009, pp. 6-12.

<sup>422</sup> Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, p. 78; Schmid, *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation*, 2013, p. 10.

<sup>423</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 1631 (2005) (S/RES/1631)*, 2005; UN ESCWA, *ESCWA in Brief*, 2014; Taspinar, *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism,”* 2009, pp. 79-80.



will allow ESCWA and Member States to counter radicalism through social and economic development, thus contributing to the overall development and peace and security of the ESCWA region.

### ***Further Research***

When addressing this topic, delegates should remain mindful of the differences between peace and security and the role of development in countering situations that threaten a Member State or region. Delegates will want to look at the connections between socio-economic development and security of a region and how it relates to the ESCWA region. Additionally, delegates should consider questions such as: in what ways can ESCWA encourage Member States to develop counter-extremism measures through socio-economic development? How can ESCWA foster a dialogue within the region to exchange ideas on how best to develop and engage civil society on development and countering radicalization? What would a definition for radicalism and extremism look like for the ESCWA region? What are the challenges in implementing the counter-extremism approaches already discussed? Does Arab integration approach encompass everyone in the ESCWA region, and if not, how should ESCWA discuss this? What other counter-extremism and pro-development approaches have individual Member States implemented that could work on a regional level?



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*The results of a 2014 Pew Research Center poll on Islamic extremism highlight the increase in fears from Muslim populations regarding extremist groups. The results show that the highest percentages of fear stem from populations within the Middle East. The article goes on to give comparisons of Muslim populations in other regions and their poll results, which were significantly lower. Knowing that it is the Muslim populations with the greatest fear of extremism in the Middle East emphasizes that countering extremism is an ESCWA issue.*

Holmer, G. (2013). *Countering Violent Extremism: A Peacebuilding Perspective*. United States Institute of Peace. Retrieved 8 August 2014 from: <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR336-Countering%20Violent%20Extremism-A%20Peacebuilding%20Perspective.pdf>

*In a Special Report produced by the United States Institute of Peace, the author makes a compelling argument for the distinction between radicalization and violent extremism within the context of peacebuilding, stating that radicalization is more emotionally and psychologically driven than extremism. The report also provides definitions within the context of counter measures for violent acts.*

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. (1968). *Radicalism* [Website]. Retrieved 15 August 2014 from: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Radicalism.aspx>

*Although this definition is not fully related to international politics or specifically framed for the ESCWA region, it does provide a good foundation for understanding radicalism. The site defines the various forms of radicalism, including religious radicalism or political radicalism. It also gives historic and contemporary context. Despite the age of the source, the definition and variations can still apply to recent situations and regional needs.*

Schmid, A. (2013). *Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation: A Conceptual Discussion and Literature Review*. International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.icct.nl/download/file/ICCT-Schmid-Radicalisation-De-Radicalisation-Counter-Radicalisation-March-2013.pdf>

*Dr. Alex P. Schmid addresses the historic roots of radicalization in this report. He develops a working definition for radicalization that is utilized by the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism. He also analyzes what counter-radicalization means and methods that could be utilized in order to develop counter-radicalization approaches. Additionally, the report correlates radicalization and terrorism with some emphasis on the ESCWA region. Schmid has given the reader a distinction between the terms radicalization and terrorism and given justification for these differences.*

Taspinar, O. (2009). *Fighting Radicalism, not “Terrorism”*: Root Causes of an International Actor Redefined. *SAIS Review*, 29 (2): 75-86. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/articles/2009/9/summer%20fall%20radicalism%20taspinar/summer\\_fall\\_radicalism\\_taspinar](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/articles/2009/9/summer%20fall%20radicalism%20taspinar/summer_fall_radicalism_taspinar)

*In this article, Omer Taspinar emphasizes the need for international and regional actors to combat root causes of terrorism as a new form of counter-terrorism measures. For Mr. Taspinar, creating and implementing counter-radicalization methods allows for combating root causes of radicalism. The article provides definitions of radicalization and correlations to terrorism. Also, the article provides ideas on how to implement development as a means of countering radicalization. This article will give delegates a better understanding of the significant difference between radicalism and terrorism, as well as approaches to combating radicalism.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2010). *Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Western Asia (E/ESCWA/ECRI/2010/WG.1/Report)* [Report]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/ecri-10-WG1-R.pdf>

*This report from a 2010 ESCWA Expert Group Meeting highlights the steps that Member States have taken towards conflict prevention, as well as the consequences of conflict within the region. Although this source focuses on conflict in general, it also pertains to radicalization since many violent acts and conflicts are in direct result of radical Islam in the region. Additionally, the policies that Member States discussed at this time gives the current Commission insight as to what counter-radicalization approaches and conflict prevention have already been explored.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2014). *Arab Integration: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Development Imperative*. Retrieved 3 July 2014 from:

[http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E\\_ESCWA\\_OES\\_13\\_3\\_E.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_OES_13_3_E.pdf)

*This recent ESCWA report gives modernized approaches to historic ideals of Arab unification. Proposed by ESWCA, Arab integration is a multifaceted approach towards counter-radicalization, as well as several other issues experienced in the region. The underlying idea is to give a new foundation for unifying the region that extends beyond religion, and to also provide access to a historically universal identity that is less prone to radicalization. Delegates should review this ESCWA-specific approach, especially since it uses the shared history of region as uniting force.*

United Nations, Security Council, 5282th Meeting. (2005). *Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (S/RES/1631)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 July 2014 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1631\(2005\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1631(2005))

*Security Council resolution 1631 is a crucial document for approaching the topic of countering radicalization, because although peace and security do fall under the purview of the Security Council, regional organizations are a recognized element of maintaining that peace and security. Under this resolution, regional organizations are singled out for developing counterterrorism measures within a region, which would also include means in countering violent religious radicalism. For ESCWA, as a regional organization under the UN, this resolution means that developing counterterrorism measures through social and economic development is important.*

Wright, R. (2011). *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*. New York City: Simon & Schuster.

*This book, written in a journalistic style, chronicles the Arab Spring that included the ESCWA region. Robin Wright interviews a reformed member of the Taliban who was imprisoned in Saudi Arabia. The narrative gives a perspective of treatments and therapy being used in order to de-radicalize inmates, and reintegrate them as citizens upon release. Delegates will find this account helpful when addressing approaches for de-radicalization, counter-extremism techniques, and root causes of radicalism.*

Zhussipbek, G. (2013). *Religious Radicalism in Central Asia*. Retrieved 20 August 2014 from:

<http://www.rethinkinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Zhussipbek-Religious-Radicalism-in-Central-Asia.pdf>

*This report addresses the rise of religious radicalism and how Islam can be radicalized and utilized as means to justify violent extremism. Although the paper focuses on Central Asia, the themes and discussions can translate to situations occurring in the ESCWA region. The experiences with religious radicalism, or literalists, provide insight to understanding religious radical and extremist groups. The paper also highlights case studies of two countries that combatted Islamic radical groups gaining political and social power. The lessons learned in Central Asia illustrated in this paper will prove helpful when constructing solutions for countering radicalization generally.*

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