



CONFERENCE A

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

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee Staff

Director	Hope Berndt
Chair	Somaieya Khurram

Agenda

- 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

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
Resolution: ESCWA/1/1	Countering Radicalization through Social and Economic Development	Adopted without a vote
Resolution: ESCWA/1/2	Countering Radicalization through - Social and Economic Development	Adopted without a vote
Resolution: ESCWA/2/2	Social and Economic Implications of Refugee Influx in the ESCWA Region	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The ESCWA held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- 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 session was attended by representatives of 12 Member States and 1 observer state.

On Sunday, the committee started off with several speeches and few informal sessions so that the delegates could discuss the agenda. The agenda was adopted as III, I, II, within the first two hours, and discussion on the Topic I began.

During Monday, discussion on Topic I quickly produced working papers. The first round of edits involved two working papers. By the end of Monday, two of the working papers had merged and a single working paper was submitted for edits, and another working paper was on its second round of ends. The Dais received a total of 3 working papers at the end of the day.

Tuesday morning and afternoon, the Dais returned all edits back to the committee, and determined that there were now two working papers, one discussing the social and political inclusion aspects of counter radicalism, and the other approach counter radicalism through economic development. The committee observed several speeches on the content of the two working papers, and worked diligently on the working papers in informal meetings. By the end of Tuesday, the Dais received final drafts of the two working papers.

By Wednesday morning, the Dais confirmed the working papers as draft resolutions 1/1 and 1/2. There was one friendly amendment that was adopted for Draft Resolution 1/1, and one failed motion for Division of the Question. Draft Resolution 1/1 and Draft Resolution 1/2 were both adopted by acclamation. The committee moved into Topic II. By Wednesday afternoon, the Dais received one working paper, which developed a forum to discuss addressing the economic and social conditions of refugees and host countries in ESCWA. It was adopted as Draft Resolution 2/1 and was adopted by acclamation. The committee ended with addressing Topic III, with a working paper submitted to the Dais for edits. ESCWA enthusiastically cooperated to pass several resolutions covering two topics and were willing to continue working until the very end.

Code: ESCWA/1/1

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia

Topic: Countering Radicalism through Social and Economic Development

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

2
3 *Recalling E/ESCWA/RES/295/26 (2010) that declares the need to provide greater attention to youth policies,*

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5 *Recalling E/ESCWA/SDD.2014/Technical Paper: 1 (2014), which calls for improved access to education,*

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7 *Recalling A/RES/68/127 which calls for an end to extremism through education, empowerment of women, and*
8 *social development,*

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10 *Having considered the ESCWA Social Development Division and approving of the civil society dialogue,*

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12 *Keeping in mind United Nations (UN) initiated programs, such as “#youthnow,” that engage the global youth*
13 *population,*

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15 *Highlighting the importance of security as the basis of any social and economic development,*

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17 *Having approved the internationally shared principles of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,*

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19 *Recognizing the lack of social, political and economic integration of youth in Western Asian societies,*

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21 *Emphasizing the need for a pluralistic society welcoming of people from all religious, ethnic and cultural*
22 *backgrounds to prevent social alienation and promote de-radicalization efforts,*

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24 *Deeply concerned with the rise of radicalization, understood as the adoption of extreme political, cultural, social,*
25 *and/or religious ideals with the purpose of undermining the rule of law and society with the clear motives of*
26 *disrupting progress and peace within the ESCWA region and abroad,*

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28 *Stressing the importance of the need to operate on a multilateral consensus-building approach, with the purpose of*
29 *arriving at a mutually beneficial solution to the problems associated with radicalization,*

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31 *Fully aware that the integration of youth in civil society is an effective tool in building a sense of community thus*
32 *lowering the risk of youth adapting racial ideals,*

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34 *Acknowledging prisoners as an at risk group, and further realizing the potential for rehabilitation to occur within the*
35 *prison system,*

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37 *Acknowledging previous attempts of fostering inter-religious dialogue such as the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz*
38 *International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) and hoping to improve upon them in*
39 *order to combat radicalization,*

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41 *Noting with approval the creation of “DemocraTweet” as established by Tunisia for the purpose of integrating youth*
42 *into current government,*

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44 *Further recognizing efforts already taken by Member States to integrate youth into their political systems, such as*
45 *the Jordanian “Youth Participation in Local Governance” project and the Lebanese “Parliamentary Internship*
46 *Program,”*

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48 1. *Establishes the “Arab Forum for Inter-religious and Ethnic Dialogue and Cooperation” (AFIEDC) to create*
49 *an open platform for discussion between different religious and ethnic groups, specifically in the ESCWA*
50 *region, with the purpose of countering radicalization through religious and ethnic dialogue, under the*
51 *following guidelines:*

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- a. The forum will be monitored by ESCWA under the Committee on Social Development;
 - b. The forum will be held on an annual basis, the date of which will be determined by the Committee on Social Development;
2. *Encourages* Member States to set up educational programs, and to open up existing programs where possible, for all disenfranchised peoples in the Western Asia region, considering:
- a. Disenfranchised groups include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Women;
 - ii. Impoverished people;
 - iii. Religious and ethnic minorities;
 - iv. Refugees and displaced persons;
 - v. Youth;
 - b. That the ESCWA subprograms for the Advancement of Women and the Integrated Social Policies will create a report to be presented to the ESCWA every two years to ensure the effectiveness of these educational programs in countering radicalism:
 - i. It is highly recommended that the creators of the report consider civil society and maintain a dialogue throughout the process;
 - ii. The report will be revisited every two years to further strengthen and expand the programs, as needed;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to implement integration programs, focusing on education towards combating radicalization within the region by:
- a. Having Member States utilize the following list, recognizing that it is not comprehensive:
 - i. Mosques;
 - ii. After-school programs;
 - iii. Professional schools;
 - iv. Media;
 - v. Prison systems;
 - vi. Sports;
 - b. Recommending that Member States encourage economic incentives for hiring qualified teachers;
 - c. Monitoring will be conducted by the ESCWA Subprogram for Statistics for Evidence Based Policy Making, which will produce a report every two years to ensure the progress in counter radicalization efforts as a result of these programs that the report will be revisited every two years to further strengthen and expand the programs, as needed;
4. *Calls upon* the ESCWA Social Development Division to gather information on and share effective counter-radicalization tactics:
- a. Using the medium of social media to:
 - i. Interact with youth;
 - ii. Observe radical activity;
 - b. The creation of a forum for Member States to share and discuss effective strategies towards social media, in which the forum will:
 - i. Meet on an annual basis;
 - ii. Involve Member States, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and the private sector;

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5. *Urges* Western Asian states to incorporate and involve youth in their societies with social events and programming in order to engage individuals in established social society for the prevention of radicalization of youth by:
 - a. Recommending that Member States and civil society organizations gather and report information that will be:
 - i. Conducted by the ESCWA's subprogram for Social Development every two years;
 - ii. Revisited every two years to further strengthen and expand the programs, as needed;
 - b. Hosting an annual Conference on Youth Participation to bring together political leaders and civil society groups to monitor the effectiveness of inclusive programs and foster transparency counter radicalization efforts;
 6. *Recommends* Member States and civil society to utilize social media in their efforts to counter radicalization through social and political inclusion by connecting with youth and observing radical activities;
 7. *Urges* Member States to respect and protect the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression when countering radicalization including social media policies in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, while considering the need to provide security within states;
 8. *Strongly suggests* that Member States modify the prison systems and policies regarding prisoner treatment in order to use the prison system as a means to rehabilitate and integrate former radicals and to prevent radicalization of at risk prisoners through:
 - a. Evaluating best practices for the purpose of sharing among Member States by:
 - i. Monitoring will be conducted by the ESCWA Subprogram for Statistics for Evidence Based Policy Making, which will produce a report every two years;
 - ii. Revisiting every two years to further strengthen and expand the programs, as needed.

Code: ESCWA/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Countering Radicalization through Economic Development

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*
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3 *Recalling* the Tunis Declaration collaborated during the 28th ESCWA meeting in 2014 regarding the empowerment
4 of youth and concerning the vital role that they play in the economy,
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6 *Alarmed* that the ESCWA region is characterized by one of the highest energy consumption rates and the lowest
7 energy efficiencies per capita as indicated in E/ESCWA/SDPD (2011),
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9 *Acknowledging* S/RES/1325 (2000) which called for a stronger engagement of women to counter radicalization and
10 the General Assembly resolution on a World Against Violence and Violent Extremism in 2013 which highlighted
11 the role of sustainable development which have the same purpose,
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13 *Having examined* A/RES/65/178 (2010) with regards to development of rural areas and the lack of economic
14 opportunities that is a factor of radicalization, the need to enhance the development of rural areas in order to prevent
15 marginalization of rural inhabitants is clearly apparent and must be addressed,
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17 *Taking into account* the United Nations (UN) Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) that emphasizes the fact
18 that youth, due to lack of employment and economic opportunities, are very much at risk to radicalize and therefore
19 be subject to recruitment by terrorist groups,
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21 *Deeply concerned* that, according the ESCWA report on Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Peacebuilding and
22 Conflict Prevention in Western Asia (2010), poverty contributes to the rise of radical Islam, and that Islamic groups
23 are able to mobilize support from the poor and the economically deprived,
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25 *Emphasizing* the need for collaboration with a centralized fund in the region in order to counter radicalization
26 through economic development,
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28 *Recognizing* the role that economic disparity on a national-level and impoverishment of individual citizens directly
29 correlates to radicalization within Member States and is a major roadblock towards the achievement of a more
30 developed economy as it may lead to civil unrest within any given Member State,
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32 *Noting* the need for the Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) to improve aid endeavors in technical
33 support and collaboration in order to obtain green energy production and equal access to renewable energy
34 development which will produce an increase in international relations and economic mobility and a decrease in
35 radical ideologies developed from low socioeconomic status,

36 *Acknowledging* that radicalization is the process by which individuals adopt extreme political, cultural, social, and/or
37 religious ideals with the purpose of undermining the rule of law and society with the clear motives of disrupting
38 progress and peace within the ESCWA region and abroad,

39 1. *Establishes* the Arab Development for De-radicalization Conference, to be held on 16 May 2016, and
40 requests that the ESCWA Secretariat invite different international actors to the Arab Development for De-
41 radicalization Conference including but not limited to:

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- 43 a. The Islamic Development Banks and other regional banks;
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- 45 b. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the area;
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- 47 c. Organizations operating in the private sector;
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49 2. *Requires* that the objectives of the Arab Development for De-radicalization Conference mainly focus on:

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- a. Projects countering radicalization, carried out by governments, government approved international NGOs and local civil society projects;
 - b. Enhance the economic opportunities for youth by providing:
 - i. Access to apprenticeship programs;
 - ii. Technical skill training;
 - iii. Entrepreneurship programs;
 - c. Providing microloans to people in the rural areas to promote economic growth and create employment;
 - d. Including women in their programs against radicalization through:
 - i. the creation of employment opportunities;
 - ii. efforts leading to the empowerment of women in society in accordance with the ESCWA Committee on Women;
 - e. The promotion of the following sustainable energy development goals, in spirit of Sustainable Energy for All, to ensure access to energy to aid in curtailing radicalization through sustainable development to:
 - i. Create a forum for Member States to discuss, and suggest, domestic and regional policies that promote sustainable energy development and focuses on countering radicalization through joint collaboration in introducing renewable and sustainable energies;
 - ii. Work towards a common energy market through extending energy access via avenues such as gas and oil pipelines between neighboring Member States in order to enhance the energy provision in rural areas; reduce poverty rates, and in turn counter actions of radicalization in the long term;
 - iii. Enlarging energy sector sponsor-pools of developed countries for funding of new renewable energy technologies such as hydro, solar, and wind power as clean energy resources; fostering foreign investment projects in the mid-term;
 - iv. Implementing national, regional, and sub-regional plans led by the pioneering initiative “Sustainable Energy for All” launched in 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon effectively countering poverty caused by inefficient energy means in the long term;
 - v. Establishing a subcommittee comprised of one representative from each participating member state to meet bi-yearly to evaluate and track the progress of each of the aforementioned tasks;
3. *Asks* the Secretariat of ESCWA evaluate data from short term and long term progress made in the eventual programs resulting from the conference in order to:
- a. Ensure that projects in the ESCWA region are being funded as proposed;
 - b. Monitor projects in order to better and more efficiently work towards the goals of the conference;
 - c. Publish an annual report to be presented by ESCWA to the conference.



Code: ESCWA/2/1

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Social and Economic Implications of Refugee Influx in the ESCWA Region

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

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3 *Recalling* Chapter 1 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) highlighting the principle of sovereignty as basis for
4 the international community,

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6 *Alarmed by* the report of the UN Secretary-General (2015), which states that some 12.2 million people require
7 humanitarian assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic, expounds that around 7.6 million people are internally
8 displaced and more than 3.8 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries and regions, and expresses that this
9 situation destabilizes economies and societies of affected countries,

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11 *Further recalling* Security Council Resolution 2191 (2014), which urges all Member States to support the UN and
12 ESCWA countries by adopting medium and long-term responses to alleviate the impact on communities and
13 providing increased, flexible and predictable funding as well as increasing resettlement efforts,

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15 *Recalling* A/RES/194 (III) (1948), which states that refugees have the right to return home as soon as they have the
16 possibility to do so,

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18 *Welcoming* neighboring states' willingness to accommodate refugees within their states,

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20 *Emphasizing* that it is the right of every refugee to return to their home countries whenever possible,

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22 *Noting* that a refugee is an individual who has sought out protection through international law due to threat of harm
23 within their home country and has been displaced outside of their country of origin,

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25 *Recognizing* that refugees should be afforded undeniable rights and protections and shall not be forced to return to
26 their home country until the threat has been eliminated,

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28 *Welcoming* the help provided by the UN and in particular the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
29 through programs such as the Syrian Regional Response Plans,

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31 *Recognizing* current overcrowding of refugee camps as a result of refugee influx of 3.9 million registered with the
32 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

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34 *Noting* that since 2011, 217,724 refugees have sought asylum within European countries and that it essential for this
35 trend to continue to work towards the eradication of the refugee influx in the ESCWA region,

36 1. *Creates* an annual international conference, the date of which will be determined by the ESCWA Committee on
37 Social Development, to address such matter as the welcoming of refugees in general, but also the necessary
38 economic support for host countries in the ESCWA region, and:

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40 a. Requests the ESCWA secretariat to invite the following organizations and representatives to take part
41 within the conference:

- 42 i. UNHCR;
43 ii. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
44 iii. Member States;
45 iv. International donor states;
46 v. Representatives of civil society, including, but not limited to, teachers and experts;
47 vi. The private sector;

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49 b. Asks the participants to have a Donors' Forum discussing current problems with funding that
50 specifically addresses:

- 51 i. The current underfunding of refugee programs within the region;
52 ii. Ways of increasing those funds through international donations;
53 iii. Strategies to ensure future funding of refugee programs;
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55 c. Further invites the participants to discuss possible policies and strategies towards helping refugee
56 communities such as:
57 i. Immediate relief help;
58 ii. Supporting governments accommodating refugees;
59 iii. Enhance economic development in communities with refugees;
60 iv. Creating employment opportunities for refugees such as the creation of start-up programs;
61 v. Providing long-term solutions for reconstruction of the ESCWA region and enhancing
62 conflict mediation and prevention;
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64 d. Highlights that the conference will create a dialogue consisting of state governments, NGOs, civil
65 society, and those operating in the private sector with the purpose of:
66 i. Discussing an end to conflicts affecting the ESCWA region;
67 ii. Creating a plan for reconstruction and reintegration;
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69 2. *Urges* Member States to allow ESCWA monitoring agents to assess the conditions of refugees, as well as the
70 economic and social impacts of host countries, in order to present to the annual conference to determine best
71 courses of actions and/or conditions of refuge be reported to UNHCR in order to address situations more
72 urgently;
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74 3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their relations with UNHCR, UNRWA, and ESCWA in order to
75 ensure that the needs of refugees and the needs of host governments are being addressed equally and equitably;
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77 4. *Strongly* condemns any attempts by any state to meddle with the sovereignty of all ESCWA Member States, as
78 these attempts will only create conflicts, leading to an increased refugee influx;
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80 5. *Invites* developed countries grant additional refugees the right to shelter, sanitation, basic education and health
81 care consistent with basic human rights;
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83 6. *Recommends* for Member States to increase their efforts and funding towards existing refugee programs.