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



Conference A

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee Staff

Director	Daniel Sweeney
Chair	Amna Siddiqui

Agenda

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

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ESCWA/1/1	Achieving the Arab Development Outlook	Adopted without a vote
ESCWA/1/2	Achieving the Arab Development Outlook	Adopted without a vote
ESCWA/1/3	Achieving the Arab Development Outlook	Adopted without a vote
ESCWA/2/1	Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence	Adopted without a vote
ESCWA/2/2	Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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

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

The session was attended by representatives of 13 Member States and 1 Observer.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Achieving the Arab Development Outlook.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including solar technology, increasing regional cooperation, building infrastructure, and trade. The committee working groups displayed continuous collaboration with a variety of solutions addressing many topics regarding the Arab Development Outlook. By the end of Tuesday, three working groups submitted working papers that discussed the topic in several different ways.

On Wednesday, three draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had an amendment. The committee adopted three resolutions, all of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including solar technology, increasing regional cooperation, developing trade cooperation, and solar power. The committee began discussing the second topic on “Reducing the Occurrence of Gender-Based Violence,” and produced two draft resolutions. The committee adopted two resolutions on this topic, both of which received unanimous support by the body. The committee members worked diligently and cooperatively, which was reflected in all resolutions being adopted by acclamation.



Code: ESCWA/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

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

2
3 *Recalling* chapter 1.1 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which emphasizes achieving international
4 cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character,

5
6 *Recalling* the objective of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to promote
7 cooperation and to support economic and social development between ESCWA Member
8 States, by providing technical assistance through capacity building and implementing linkages between sectors,

9
10 *Supporting fully* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), specifically Sustainable Development Goal
11 (SDG) 17.6 focusing on regional cooperation and enhanced knowledge sharing,

12
13 *Emphasizing* the *Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030* (2016) and its focus on highlighting the importance of
14 reducing the reliance on external sources by enhancing secondary and post-secondary education and research
15 opportunities to develop technical capacities specific to regional circumstances,

16
17 *Viewing with appreciation* the success of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) in promoting strategic
18 cooperation and collective action at the regional and sub-regional level through the use of Working Groups and Task
19 Forces,

20
21 *Reaffirming* the *Monterrey Consensus* (2002) and the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) to eradicate poverty and
22 hunger to achieve sustainable development, by promoting expertise sharing in line with the Vision 2030 pillar on
23 Transformational Growth and Regional Integration,

24
25 *Having Considered* the ESCWA general budget surplus of over \$ 1.4 million, as reported in the most recent report
26 on the financial status of the Commission,

27
28 *Having further considered* the relevance of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation for Economic
29 Development and Cooperation as part of ESCWA's institutional structure, and its budget for promoting technical
30 cooperation,

31
32 *Further emphasizing* the United Nations (UN) Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development for 2016-
33 2020, which is a comprehensive roadmap to promote youth empowerment for sustainable development, the
34 young population of the Arab region, and their potential as agents of change in their participation at all levels,

35
36 *Cognizant* of the potential that effective economic cooperation and expertise sharing have for moving beyond
37 historical grievances and post-conflict cooperation, such as the case of the European Union as a catalyst for unity
38 through post-World War II economic cooperation,

39
40 *Fully aware* of the unique implications of each Member State's culture on the way in which they conduct business
41 and the potential benefit for all Member States from the sharing of these cultural expressions as well as the UN
42 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD),
43 which invests in such projects leading to structural change through activities promoting the diversity of cultural
44 expressions,

45
46 1. *Invites* the RCM to create a centralized, consolidated, and consultative task force to be the fifth Task Force
47 under this structure, with the aim of:

48

- 49 a. Mechanizing a call for tender and bidding system to:
50
51 i. Enable Arab projects in the private or public sphere, that reflect the goals of *the Arab*
52 *Development Outlook: Vision 2030* that require assistance to formally request expert
53 assistance;
54 ii. Enable experts to make themselves known and register with the system, highlighting their
55 area of expertise and related skills;
56 iii. Connect those experts with the projects requiring assistance, which consequently allows for
57 the project to pair with the most suited expert for the specific situation from a shortlist of
58 competing experts provided by the system;
59 iv. Facilitate the transaction of payment for experts or the request for the financing of the tender,
60 based on the given circumstances to avoid misused or misplaced funds;
61
- 62 b. Guaranteeing the security of visiting experts by:
63
64 i. Providing the experts with unbiased context, advice, or clarity on the security situation unique
65 to the Member State where they will be conducting their work;
66 ii. Making small details of security personnel available to experts in certain conditions, at the
67 discretion of the Task Force with potential collaboration from UN peacekeeping forces;
68 iii. Establishing a plan of action to address the potential occurrence of unforeseen security
69 situations;
70
- 71 c. Facilitating regional growth and cooperation with funding from the ESCWA surplus and the budget of
72 the Regular Program of Technical Cooperation for Economic Development;
73
- 74 2. *Insists* that all ESCWA Member States facilitate to the best of their ability the uninhibited access of experts to
75 their state, as it pertains to the effective completion of their tasks through the expedition of all necessary travel
76 work-related documentation;
77
- 78 3. *Requests* the RCM also create an annual conference to connect experts in various fields from across Western
79 Asia with high performing youth from the same region that:
80
- 81 a. Fosters an environment of cooperation and unity among experts as well as youth by:
82
83 i. Allowing for the increase of youth involvement in creating a more prosperous and sustainable
84 region;
85 ii. Overcoming historical tensions between Member States in the region that have long been an
86 obstacle for any cross-border and cross-disciplinary cooperation;
87 iii. Exemplifying the notion that all ESCWA Member States can learn from each other;
88
- 89 b. Is supported by the fourth Task Force of the RCM on SDG Data in a consultative capacity to:
90
91 i. Retrieve statistical data through surveys of the participants regarding youth participation in
92 sustainable development in their respective Member States, and of the region as a whole;
93 ii. Consult with experts and youth represented at the conference to gain a deeper understanding
94 of the progress that this program and conference are making towards achieving the *Vision*
95 *2030*;
96
- 97 c. Is hosted by ESCWA Member States in an order decided by the Task Force as well as the Regional
98 Cooperation Mechanism;
99
- 100 d. Will request funding from UNESCO's IFCD;
101
- 102 4. *Calls upon* ESCWA Member States to engage in expertise sharing as one of the prerequisites for increased
103 regional unity.



Code: ESCWA/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

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

2
3 *Recalling the Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (2016), which promotes moving away from oil as the Arab*
4 *region's main source of economic revenue and urges a transition towards renewable energy,*

5
6 *Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/197 (2008) on "The Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of*
7 *Energy," which reiterates the importance of implementing the outcome of the General Assembly resolution 60/1*
8 *(2005) on the "World Summit Outcome," which welcomes initiatives aimed at improving access to sustainable*
9 *development that is affordable, accessible, and reliable,*

10
11 *Recognizing the sustainable energy development of the Arab region,*

12
13 *Understanding the importance of maintaining our cultural values and putting an end to the destruction of the Arab*
14 *culture, while elevating our economic influence in the international community as set out in the Arab Development*
15 *Outlook,*

16
17 *Understanding the need to expand our economic exports horizontally as the oil has become heavily regulated by the*
18 *Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which has made production cuts in oil due to the*
19 *international community's transition to renewable energy sources to combat the issue of climate change,*

20
21 *Alarmed at the status of the Arab region as one of highest CO2 emitters per capita in the world, which has had a*
22 *tremendous negative impact on our environment, which includes and is not limited to loss of agriculture, forced*
23 *migration, and water scarcities, as already witnessed in Syria and Egypt and as reported in the Atlantic Council's*
24 *Global Energy Center Report on Renewable Energy in the Middle East (2018),*

25
26 *Applauding the efforts of Member States such as the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, and others for*
27 *following and enhancing the Arab Development Outlook by setting achievable goals in moving towards renewable*
28 *energy with the construction of solar complexes to facilitate the implementation of solar technology,*

29
30 *Understanding that many of the countries in the Arab region have put forth initiatives to bring their countries closer*
31 *to sustainable resources as set out in the Arab Development Outlook, such as Kuwait which aims to double their*
32 *renewable energy power generation by 2030, Bahrain and Jordan's efforts to generate 10% of their renewable*
33 *energy by 2035, and the United Arab Emirates' efforts to have 44% of their energy come from renewable resources*
34 *by 2050,*

35
36 *Applauding the International Financial Corporation (IFC) for its investments in Jordan under the Seven Sisters*
37 *Program, which ultimately provided \$ 91.5 million in senior loans, sub-debt, and interest rate swaps, while*
38 *successfully syndicating an additional \$ 115 million from six regional and developmental banks for solar power*
39 *development,*

40
41 *Recognizing the European Bank for its investments in the Alcanzar Energy Partners program who has donated 250*
42 *million dollars that will be used to finance the development, construction and acquisition of renewable energy*
43 *projects, in particular, onshore with solar technology projects, in Egypt, Jordan, and other countries in the region,*

44
45 1. *Requests the ESCWA Committee on Energy design mechanisms to help Arab states implement solar*
46 *technology, which will allow them to shift their reliance away from fossil fuels to renewable resources, as well*
47 *as cost-effective, and in abundance in our Member States, by:*

48

- 49 a. Collaborating with financial institutions to secure financial assistance measures for Member States
50 who have begun or will begin integrating solar technology such as EBRD, IFC, as well as private
51 investors globally;
52
- 53 b. Encouraging to review and advise current proposed renewable energy programs to lower the cost of
54 manufacturing and infrastructure;
55
- 56 2. *Encourages* the ESCWA Committee on Energy to invite Arab heads of state to a conference within the next
57 year to discuss the creation of a commission that will:
58
- 59 a. Monitor and study carbon dioxide emission in the region, to ensure that the goals for transitioning to
60 renewable energy as determined by each Member State are met;
61
- 62 b. Suggest Member States collaborate on an action plan to diminish the carbon dioxide emission by an
63 agreed-upon percentage by the year 2030;
64
- 65 c. Offer guidance in the occurrence a nation has issues meeting the set-upon goals, so the commission
66 can better assess and ensure a more successful solution for said state.



Code: ESCWA/1/3

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Achieving the Arab Development Outlook

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

2
3 *Recognizing* the goals and challenges presented in the *Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030* (2016) and the need
4 for a collaborative effort to achieve these the goals,

5
6 *Understanding* that Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 30 on “The role of
7 participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development” was adopted to enhance the commitment to
8 civic and social participation of different social groups, such as youths and women within the Member States of
9 ESCWA to achieve sustainable development by reducing poverty, generating employment, and encouraging youth
10 involvement,

11
12 *Recognizing* the importance of partnering with international financial institutions and non-governmental
13 organizations (NGOs) to achieve economic development, regional stability, and the promotion of education by
14 contributing funding, research, and expert knowledge,

15
16 *Applauding* the creation of the Arab Development Portal (ADP) through the collaborative work of United Nations
17 (UN) agencies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the region in their pursuit to inform policymakers and
18 citizens about demography and infrastructural impediments across the Arab region, such as regional food insecurity
19 and undiversified energy sourcing, to facilitate the creation and evaluation of policies,

20
21 *Recognizing* that the actions taken in response to ESCWA resolution 296 on “Enhancing public sector institutions
22 and resources to attain national development goals” enhanced governmental and political institutions and assisted
23 Member States in attaining development goals, falling in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, which
24 focuses on industry, innovation, and infrastructure,

25
26 *Recalling* the *Regional Cross-Border Trade Facilitation and Infrastructure Study for Mashreq Countries* (2011) by
27 the World Bank, and the *Evaluation of the Benefits of a Common Transport Area* of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon
28 presented at the Second Mediterranean Transport Logistics Forum in Barcelona by ESCWA, about the importance
29 of facilitating cross-border trade by building trans-border infrastructure,

30
31 *Acknowledging* the previous work of ESCWA members on drafting the *Doha Declaration on “Quality of Education
32 for All”* (2010), which emphasized equity and equality in access to education at a primary, secondary, and tertiary
33 level, stressed the need to create a culture of quality and accountability in the same levels of education, and affirmed
34 the intention to establish a joint Arab evaluation system on education quality by monitoring and evaluating students
35 learning regularly so that relevant information and feedback can be provided to stakeholders and decision makers,

36
37 *Encouraging* the focus on educating women of the Arab Region in accordance with the *Muscat Declaration* (2011),
38 which aimed to increase the literacy rate of the overall population by 2030, thereby reducing the gender injustice
39 faced by Arab women, to expedite the economic and academic advancement of all the Arab nations,

40
41 *Recognizing* the need for facilitating and promoting access to education for both, women, and youth of the Arab
42 region, and to consolidate life and employability skills within the curricula of vocational and academic training in
43 the youth,

44
45 Underlining the importance of integrating programs promoting economic and academic advancement, thus
46 contributing to the overall development of the nations and social justice within our regional areas,

47

48 *Recognizing* the initiatives taken by the United States of America Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable
49 Energy to move to sustainable energy by implementing the Solar Training and Education for Professionals (STEP)
50 program for hiring opportunities,

51
52 *Noting* General Assembly resolution 275 (XXIV) on “Technical cooperation and partnership development and
53 resource mobilization,” which encourages resource movement and partner cooperation between the Arab region
54 countries to promote trade and development, and encourages more coordination between regional commissions, as
55 well as support work to promote economic and social development for Member States, and requests the
56 development of Member States’ analytical capacities to further support country-level development initiatives,

57
58 *Remembering* the 2011 *Istanbul Plan of Action* (IPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Arab region,
59 which charts out Western Asia’s vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs for the next decade,
60 with a strong focus on developing their economic utility for individuals, and ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of
61 2003, which established the ESCWA Committee on Women, and their role in the implementation of women in the
62 workforce,

63
64 *Recalling* ESCWA resolution 1997/214, on “Establishing the ESCWA Technical Committee on Liberalization of
65 Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in Countries,” which tests and recommends strategic changes to the
66 Financing for Development (FFD) framework that overarches all ESCWA Member States,

67
68 *Guided* by the International Road Union (IRU), an NGO that supports Member States through trade, economic
69 growth, jobs, and safety, which can lead the way concerning trade within the Arab region, which will help countries
70 to enhance their economic development, by providing direction and funding,

71
72 *Bearing in mind*, the establishment of ESCWA resolution 1818, regarding the collaboration and harmonization
73 among the ESCWA Member States, and to stimulate the economic activity in countries involved, as well as
74 strengthening the cooperation between them,

75
76 1. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage the civic and social participation of youths, women, and other social
77 groups to build public, private, and civic partnerships aimed at enhancing the accessibility of social services
78 such as social security protection and access to employment, and focusing on accountability and transparency
79 for the sake of sustainable development, by:

80
81 a. Encouraging partnerships with organizations such as the World Bank and NGOs like Mercy Corps, to
82 inform youths on the importance of civic participation;

83
84 b. Working to create an environment of collaboration and encouragement between all Member States;

85
86 c. Establishing partnerships aimed at reducing poverty, generating employment, and other social issues,
87 by partnering with relevant organizations such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific
88 Organization (ALECSO), the Arab Monetary Fund, and the Islamic Development Bank;

89
90 2. *Appeals* to Member States to increase communication and sharing of information regarding topics such as
91 economy, education, and demography across the region, asserting the unity of the Arab people by:

92
93 a. Advising governments to make use of the tools provided by the UN Development Programme (UNDP)
94 and other UN agencies;

95
96 b. Reviewing policies restricting cross-border information flows and communication;

97
98 c. Endorsing governments to encourage citizens to use already existing intra-regional platforms for
99 education and trade to unite the people of the Arab region;

100
101 3. *Encourages* Member States to improve their infrastructure and their institutions to strengthen internal stability
102 by:

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- a. Reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of their political and governmental institutions by a governmental agency;
 - b. Developing modern institutions that fit the difficulties of the modern time and are resilient against disruption from inside and outside the country;
 - c. Investing in infrastructure in cooperation with governmental institutions and specialist organizations (Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, Arab Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank) to:
 - i. Encourage cooperation with other members deeply in the construction of cross-border infrastructure;
 - ii. Recommend, in severe cases, to organize a conference about infrastructure and reconstruction similar to the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq;
 - iii. Encourage cooperation with agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) to ensure food security and work towards eliminating hunger;
4. *Recommends* the establishment of educational partnerships between Arab nations and relevant NGOs, such as Reach Out Asia, which works with Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria;
5. *Requests* the establishment of the Better Equipment and Technology Program by the Committee of Technology for Development to update the equipment needed in education related to the advancement of methods regarding the economic advancement, quality of life, food, water, energy security, and green energy technology development by:
 - a. Setting the program in traditionally underprivileged areas of the Arab region, with the help of more advanced countries on this matter by:
 - i. Requesting an agreement be made if larger NGOs cannot provide funding;
 - ii. Proposing larger NGOs with interest in the regional situation fund the program before seeking the assistance of Member and Observer States;
 - iii. Offering the equipment in the universities for lease to ease the strain of debt;
 - b. Mandating that the equipment and technology be sent only to schools where the official language used is Arabic;
6. *Invites* Member States to take measures, such as:
 - a. Setting quotas within vocational and collegiate level education, reflecting the percentage of the population of women to cultivate a more efficient society;
 - b. Developing transports to make sure students can easily access their school;
7. *Suggests* the implementation of a tax relief system, with the discretion of each Member and Observer State, for companies looking to set their headquarters and/or sub-branches within the states where these companies are subsequently required to provide financing of scholarships, which are allocated and implemented by the respective Member State, depending on their annual revenue, for students looking to work in their industry or company;
8. *Encourages* the Committee on Energy of ESCWA to create and implement STEP using the United States blueprint, which educates workers in relevant professions on installing and using solar panels;
9. *Expresses its hope* to reduce national debt to Growth Domestic Product (GDP) ratio of its Member States by 13% by 2030, by:

- 159 a. Encouraging a collaboration amongst Members States, the World Bank, and International Monetary
160 Fund (IMF), whom would invest in the development of infrastructures that would generate a profitable
161 economic development to individual Member States through the development of schools, real estate,
162 and trading centers;
- 163
- 164 b. Reinforcing bilateral and regional trading arrangements within the Arab region;
- 165
- 166 c. Increasing Members States' commitments to trade with the European Union, United States, and China;
- 167
- 168 d. Encourages Member States to engage in free trade as it is conducive to growth;
- 169
- 170 10. *Supports* the creation of 60 million jobs of low and high skills in the manufacturing, servicing, administrative,
171 agricultural, and trading industries by 2030 amongst the ESCWA Member States, by:
- 172
- 173 a. Designating the need for the involvement of youth in the workforce;
- 174
- 175 b. Emphasizing the importance for the Arab Customs Union (ACU) to relocate some of their funding to
176 the conversion of non-trade barriers into customs duties;
- 177
- 178 c. Partnering with organizations such as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of
179 Women (UN-Women), that will be able to provide equipment and the training of women on human
180 rights and social justice by increasing the presence of females in the workforce by 2030;
- 181
- 182 11. *Encourages* each ESCWA member State to aid in the sponsorship of a regional commission charged with
183 promoting and teaching transparency in financial institutions and intensifying trade ties in the Arab region by:
- 184
- 185 a. Suggesting subsequent analysis of the technical results with the guidance of rotating financial advisors
186 from Member State governments who are familiar with the specific fiscal framework of Western Asia,
187 and;
- 188
- 189 b. Recommending courses of action based on the analyzed financial data that will lay the foundation for
190 harmonizing regional tariffs, and strengthening long-term prospects of creating an Arab Customs
191 Union;
- 192
- 193 12. *Urges* Member States of ESCWA to help the LDCs within the region, to increase their productivity by
194 providing technical support, as well as the methods and tools to help increase their trade volume;
- 195
- 196 13. *Further requests* the Member States of ESCWA to finance infrastructure projects through public-private
197 partnerships (PPP) by highlighting the need for capacity building and knowledge sharing that provides
198 appropriate support for LDCs, through its mandate to help establish better infrastructure, such as roads, to build
199 stronger inter-Arab regional cooperation in trade;
- 200
- 201 14. *Recommends* strengthening the existing collaboration between Member States and organizations, such as UNDP
202 and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in LDCs, by:
- 203
- 204 a. Improving the situation of the LDCs, such as Mauritania, Sudan, and Yemen, by providing water to
205 securing stability in these countries;
- 206
- 207 b. Improving agriculture in LDCs, such as Mauritania, Sudan, and Yemen, will provide jobs within the
208 agriculture sector, and expand trade among Member States.



Code: ESCWA/2/1

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence

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

2
3 *Guided by the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations (1945), especially in Article 1 recognizing the*
4 *equality of all human beings,*

5
6 *Reaffirming its commitment towards achieving the goals set out by the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of*
7 *Action regarding the empowerment of women and the need for continued progress towards the equality and safety of*
8 *women,*

9
10 *Applauding the ambitious work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Centre For*
11 *Women in conducting research on gender equality, evaluating policies, and providing recommendations to*
12 *governments,*

13
14 *Recognizing the importance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as International Women's Tribune*
15 *Center, Women's Committee on Refugee Women, Children and Women's International League for Peace and*
16 *Freedom, and other international institutions in helping to provide services and partnerships that help the victims of*
17 *Gender Based Violence (GBV) by providing services such as health care and counseling,*

18
19 *Remembering the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),*
20 *which charts out the agenda for national action to end such discrimination, and provides the basis for realizing*
21 *equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political*
22 *and public life, as well as education, health and employment,*

23
24 *Further emphasizing the United Nations (UN) Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development for 2016-*
25 *2020, which is a comprehensive roadmap to promote youth empowerment for sustainable development, the young*
26 *population of the Arab region, and their potential as agents of change in their participation at all levels,*

27
28 *Recognizing the daunting situation of victims of GBV in the Arab Region and the need to provide remedies for those*
29 *victims affected,*

30
31 *Guided by the Strategy for the Implementation of the National Anti-GBV in refugee camps, about the measures*
32 *aimed at education against Violence Against Women directly in camps,*

- 33
34 1. *Recommends* strengthening the cooperation of all Arab Member States with relevant UN bodies such as the
35 Commission on the Status of Women, World Health Organization, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the
36 Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and NGOs working to address GBV by:
37
38 a. Encouraging the implementation of an effective framework such as the Convention to Combat
39 Violence against Women in the Arab Region, proposed by the League of Arab States (LAS) to provide
40 social services such as healthcare, counseling for victims of GBV and an informational service
41 regarding remedies for victims of GBV by:
42
43 i. Partnering with NGOs to set posts throughout the region targeting unmarried women and
44 children in danger of GBV;
45 ii. Calling upon NGOs to set up safety nets for women fleeing domestic violence;
46
47 b. Encouraging active NGOs in the region to inform the ESCWA Centre for Women on their work to
48 facilitate cross-border coordination of efforts;
49

- 50 2. *Request* that Member States collaborate with the ESCWA Centre for Women to promote existing programs in
51 the name of combating the precursors of GBV, through:
52
53 a. Enabling an increase in young girls' involvement in physical activity and sport;
54
55 b. Lowering existing barriers for young women to access education and ensuring that this education is
56 guaranteed;
57
58 c. Mentorship programs that empower young women through exposure to women leaders in their
59 communities;
60
61 3. *Mandates* ESCWA's Social Development Division monitor the occurrence of GBV in the Arab Region by
62 collecting and analyzing data on its occurrence within Member States, and make available this information to
63 ESCWA's Committee on Women;
64
65 4. *Urges* all Member States that have yet to sign the CEDAW agreement to join the other Member States in doing
66 so.



Code: ESCWA/2/2

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Topic: Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence

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

2
3 *Recognizing* the gender disparity present in the Arab Region due to cultural norms, making gender-based violence
4 (GBV) a common and normal occurrence,

5
6 *Keeping* in mind the need for independence of women and promoting their access to the work market for them to
7 flourish and subsequently reducing the violence against them,

8
9 1. *Suggests* the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Committee on Social Development
10 create a council to educate families, specifically targeting men, on gender equality by:

11 a. Starting gender equality education in primary school;

12 b. Offering family counseling to alleviate tensions within the household;

13
14 2. *Requests* the ESCWA Committee on Women initiate and oversee a vocational training program to encourage
15 women to enter the workforce, thus gaining a stronger status as a provider within their family, which:

16 a. Can promote the training for women in various divisions with a focus on:

17 i. Agricultural development;

18 ii. Law enforcement;

19 iii. Governmental representation;

20 b. Will create some volunteer opportunities to promote community involvement, such as:

21 i. Aftercare programs;

22 ii. Domestic upkeep.

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