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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

## **REPORT**

### **FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 29-30 MARCH 2005, BEIRUT**

#### **Summary**

The fifth session of the Committee on Social Development was held in United Nations House, Beirut, on 29 and 30 March 2005.

Included on the agenda of this session was the review of a set of reports on social development policies and programmes in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region, focusing principally on social policies, local development, population and development, urban development, housing and social statistics and indicators.

The agenda also included items relating to follow-up to the implementation of recommendations that were made by the fourth session of the Committee; progress made in implementing social development-related activities in the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee; the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 in the field of social development; and proposals for the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 in the same field.

This report contains a brief account of the discussions that were held and the measures recommended by the Committee in respect of each agenda item.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1-2	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	3	3
<b>II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION</b> .....	4-24	4
A. General discussion: introduction and discussion of issues.....	4-13	4
B. Social development policies and programmes: strategic framework .....	14-20	6
C. Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 in the field of social development .....	21-22	9
D. Proposals relating to the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 in the field of social development .....	23	9
E. Other matters.....	24	10
<b>III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FIFTH SESSION</b> .....	25	10
<b>IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK</b> .....	26-33	10
A. Venue and date of the session .....	26	10
B. Opening of the session .....	27-28	10
C. Participants .....	29	10
D. Election of officers.....	30	11
E. Agenda and organization of work .....	31-32	11
F. Documents .....	33	12
<b>ANNEXES</b>		
I. List of participants.....		13
II. List of documents .....		17

## **Introduction**

1. The fifth session of the Committee on Social Development was held pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 concerning the establishment of a Committee on Social Development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994; and pursuant to the recommendations of the fourth session of the Committee on Social Development, held in Beirut from 3 to 5 July 2002, which were adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-second session, held in Beirut from 14 to 17 April 2003.
2. This report outlines the most significant measures proposed in respect of each agenda item. The Committee unanimously adopted the report at its final session, which was held on 30 March 2005.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

3. The ESCWA Committee on Social Development recommended that the following measures should be taken:
  - (a) Member countries should be called upon to appoint permanent focal points to participate in the consideration of proposed integrated social policies and to adopt the measures appropriate for their implementation and follow-up;
  - (b) Member countries should be called upon to adopt the country profiles on the social situation that have been prepared by ESCWA as part of the process of documenting progress. These country profiles should be updated and submitted in their amended form to subsequent sessions of the Committee;
  - (c) Member countries should be called upon to assist the ESCWA secretariat in implementing the second phase of the integrated social policies project, which requires the cooperation of countries in finding the best ways of putting in place the social policies that are appropriate to the conditions of each country;
  - (d) Member countries should be called upon to make use of the ESCWA programme designed to build the capacities of workers, trainers and researchers in the local community development field;
  - (e) The needs of local communities should be investigated and solutions put forward to the problems that they face. Civil society organizations should be encouraged to direct their attention towards the resolution of those problems and cooperate to that end with Government institutions. Youth should be encouraged to take the initiative in contributing to development;
  - (f) Member countries should be urged to use the Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance as a guide, and to work to achieve Campaign aims by strengthening the partnerships between Governments, civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector and other partners in the Regional Campaign, as appropriate to the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, in particular, Goals numbers seven and eight, which relate to ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development;
  - (g) Member countries should be called upon to assist the secretariat in completing the third phase of the launching of the Regional Campaign, by cooperating with ESCWA in the formulation of a draft national initiative for the launching of the Campaign in member countries, and coordinating with regard to the institutional and structural framework for implementation and follow-up of the Campaign plan of action at the local and national levels;
  - (h) The League of Arab States Department of the Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development and the technical secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction should be called upon to coordinate concerning the launching of the Campaign in ESCWA member and all other Arab countries;

(i) Member countries should be called upon to implement the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 and to be guided by the principles, goals and 11 objectives of the Decade in formulating national policies and plans, including for the development of the capacities of disabled persons and their organizations and for increasing opportunities for them to participate in comprehensive development;

(j) Member countries should be urged to find mechanisms for the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of Decade activities by strengthening cooperation at the national and regional levels and involving civil society;

(k) Member countries should be called upon to strengthen their cooperation with the ESCWA secretariat by establishing a committee comprising representatives of ESCWA, national population councils and the relevant ministries, with responsibility for preparing and implementing a regional plan of action that aims to mobilize the media and ensure political support for the Population Window – Opportunity for Development project;

(l) Member countries should be called upon to adopt national statistical strategies, with a view to providing the data and indicators necessary to formulate social policies and measure the progress made by countries in achieving national and international development goals and, in particular, MDGs;

(m) Member countries should be urged to adopt the internationally-recognized statistical concepts, definitions and classifications and employ them in the collation and presentation of data and in making regional and international comparisons. They should also take action to allocate the human and material resources necessary to enable the national statistical apparatus to provide precise and reliable data for the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of development policies and programmes;

(n) Member countries should be called upon to follow up activities aimed at monitoring the progress made towards achieving MDGs and building national capacities in order to enable member countries to prepare the indicators necessary to produce national reports. Particular emphasis should be placed on strategies for the eradication of poverty and unemployment.

## **II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. GENERAL DISCUSSION: INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUES (Agenda item 5)**

4. The Committee included this item on the agenda of its fifth session in order to give the representatives of member countries the opportunity to express their opinions on various social development-related issues and to refer to the latest developments in their countries in various relevant fields of interest to participants.

#### *1. Follow-up to the recommendations made by the fourth session of the Committee*

5. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/3, which contains an explanation of all the recommendations made by the Committee at its fourth session, and the efforts that have been made by ESCWA to implement those recommendations and meet the needs of member countries. Fifteen recommendations were made, covering all Social Development Division activities and a variety of policies, programmes and projects, in addition to consultancy services.

#### *2. Review of achievements in the field of social development since the fourth session of the Committee*

6. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/4. Activities were divided up as set forth below:

(a) *The activities of the Human Development Policies Team*

7. The strategy of the Human Development Policies Team is based on integrating social policies with the demands of their implementation. On the basis of that methodology, the Team aims to strengthen the capacities of member countries and civil society organizations in the ESCWA region to produce an integrated vision of the conditions necessary for the formulation and implementation of social policies. In order to achieve that aim, work undertaken by the Team in the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee, held from 3 to 5 July 2002 and on 29 and 30 March 2005 respectively, centred on the links between activities at the general and local levels. The main focuses of social development-related activity at the general level included good governance, democracy, poverty, unemployment, the development of human resources, social security networks, globalization and the Arab family. Comparable activities at the local level included local development issues and a related comprehensive means of managing operations and programmes for the rehabilitation and training of human resources. Those focuses were considered at an integrated series of working meetings and in studies, reports, model methodologies, projects, training workshops, technical cooperation programmes and coordination networks.

(b) *The activities of the Population and Development Team*

8. The activities of the Population and Development Team in the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee, namely, 3 to 5 July 2002 and 29 and 30 March 2005, focused on the following fields: (a) monitoring the progress made by Arab countries in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994; the outcomes of the twenty-first special session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in 1999, which was devoted to a review and evaluation of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; and the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000; (b) strengthening national capacities to establish national policies and methodologies for their integration with socio-economic development, through specialized meetings and workshops; (c) increasing knowledge of the vital link between population issues and development and raising awareness of the challenges posed by the population dynamic and demographic changes, as illustrated by analytical studies; (d) disseminating population data through the Population Information Network – Western Asia (POPIN).

(c) *The activities of the Urban Development and Housing Team*

9. The activities of the Urban Development and Housing Team cover the emerging aspects and future trends of urban development in the ESCWA region. They are aimed at strengthening planning and good urban governance, achieving urban and housing development, dealing with security of tenure issues, the sustainable urban environment and the social inclusion of all groups. On the basis of the underlying principles and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which was held in Istanbul in 1996, the twenty-fifth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in 2001, which was devoted to a comprehensive review and evaluation of implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and the recommendations made by the Committee on Social Development at its fourth session, the activities of the Urban Development and Housing Team in the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee, namely, 3 to 5 July 2002 and 29 and 30 March 2005, focused on the following fields: (a) the launching of the Regional Campaign on Security of Tenure and Good Urban Governance; (b) the publication of studies and research on urban management and housing; (c) participation in the reconstruction of South Lebanon.

(d) *The activities of the Social Statistics Team*

10. The Social Statistics Team collects, analyses and disseminates statistics on such social issues as population, the labour force, education, gender, poverty and health and vital statistics. The Team also assists member countries in producing social statistics and indicators that can be used in international comparisons

and gender-disaggregated. It also provides consultancy services and assistance in building the capacities of member countries to develop their statistical systems with respect to various social fields.

### 3. *Member country reports*

11. As part of this agenda sub-item devoted to member country reports on their social development-related plans and activities, a number of issues and achievements were reviewed. The focus was on women's issues, human rights, disabled persons' rights, participation, obstacles to social development, the role of civil society in the development process, planning at the local and regional levels, ways of achieving social development in a situation of political instability, ways of strengthening social care, social security networks, curbing population growth, gains and difficulties in regard to the development of human resources, improving population statistics and, in particular, those relating to education, health care and housing, local and rural development, eradicating poverty, reducing unemployment and strengthening the position and role of the family in the local community. The delegations of Bahrain, Egypt, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic made interventions and discussed various aspects of social development-related plans and activities in the above areas.

12. National reports on the fields covered by the session were presented and distributed to participants by Bahrain, Egypt, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

13. Representatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the discussions, which focused on the following: (a) the importance of education and educational institutions in raising the awareness of civil society in general and youth in particular; (b) further development of the proposed cooperation between ESCWA and the Institute of Social Studies in respect of a study to evaluate development projects in the countries of the ESCWA region; (c) the firm establishment of Arab particularities in social development projects, given the lack of political stability that prevails in the region.

## B. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (Agenda item 6)

14. The Committee considered this item on the basis of the following documents: E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/5, E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/6, E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/7, E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/8 and E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/9, which cover a number of matters concerning social development policies and programmes.

### 1. *Report on ESCWA social policies*

15. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/5, and affirmed the important task undertaken by ESCWA with respect to policies and the setting of conditions for integration between social and economic policies. Those conditions involve a comprehensive and integrated vision of clear goals and appropriate mechanisms for coordination, suitable legislation, adequate financial credit, democratic institutions, strengthened human rights, respect for fundamental freedoms and the active involvement of civil society. The review included the achievements of phase one of the ESCWA project on integrated social policies, which include the convening of expert-group and decision maker meetings and the working papers submitted to those meetings. The focus was on the successful elements of social policies and implementation mechanisms. Also covered by the review was the contribution concerning social policies submitted by ESCWA in implementation of phase two of that project, which focused on the studies and data issued in that field, and the working meetings held and the most significant recommendations made thereat.

### 2. *Report on ESCWA policies and programmes for local development*

16. The Committee considered this item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/6, and reviewed local community development fields of concern to ESCWA, referring to methods of implementing programmes,

projects and the related field trials, which have been documented in an integrated set of references, guides and technical materials. The Committee noted that the report aimed to establish hard facts on the building of capacities, the development of participatory mechanisms, and the creation of the conditions for policy formulation, programme planning and project implementation at the community level. The representative of the secretariat expressed ESCWA's appreciation of the ongoing assistance given by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations to community development projects and programmes, and praised the support of the respective Governments of the region and their fruitful partnership with a range of regional and international organizations, academic institutions and NGOs. The secretariat representative also stressed that the aim of the report was to shed light on the expertise acquired in community development policy, projects and programmes and that member countries and relevant bodies must make use of the training programmes and technical consultancy services provided by ESCWA in that field.

### *3. Report on population policies*

17. The Committee considered this item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/7, which gives a basic summary of the general framework adopted with a view to developing work on population policies. The theoretical and structural basis for such work has become the bases and principles that were agreed by ICPD in Cairo in 1994. That Conference confirmed the need to integrate population concerns in the development process through the formulation and ratification of national policies at the macro level, with the essential aim of reaching objectives at the individual and family levels. The Committee also reviewed population policies from the perspective of Arab conferences and that of ESCWA and considered a range of activities aimed at providing information, carrying out comparisons, facilitating the tasks of national committees and reinforcing the role of researchers and policy makers. The review concluded by making several useful suggestions for the future of population policies and dealing with the challenges they pose.

### *4. Report on urban and housing development*

18. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/8, which focused on ESCWA's achievements in the field of urban development and, in particular, as related to the launch of the Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance. That Campaign originates in two globally-funded campaigns, namely, the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, which are organized in partnership with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT), the funder. The paper included a review of the most significant meetings and studies conducted by ESCWA as part of the Regional Campaign, and an outline of efforts made in the field of youth, issues concerning the social inclusion of disabled persons and an overview of a pioneer project for the reconstruction of South Lebanon.

### *5. Report on Social Indicators and Statistics*

19. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/9, which emphasized that reliable, accurate and timely statistics, that can be used in comparisons at the regional and international levels, are important to the mechanism for formulating development plans and work programmes, and that statistical indicators represent the principal means of studying the actual status of development and the progress made in achieving national and international objectives. The document defined priorities in terms of allocating foreign and local resources; explained the national strategy for the development of statistical methods, which aims to strengthen statistical capacities and provide a comprehensive framework for systematically assessing the needs and priorities of users of statistics; clarified the ESCWA activities undertaken in the context of MDGs, including related meetings, reports and guides; and defined statistical needs for national capacity-building to implement MDGs, including the most significant measures requested of member countries, ESCWA and United Nations specialist agencies.

20. The discussion included the following topics:

(a) *Integrated social policies*

- (i) The need to define the concept of and conditions pertinent to social policies, given the link between those policies and the economic and social role of the State and the importance of political commitment as an essential condition in drafting and implementing an integrated social policy;
- (ii) The importance of emphasizing the principle of partnership between civil society organizations when formulating and implementing social development policies, and of working to improve the capacities of those organizations and equipping them to carry out their role in that partnership;
- (iii) The importance of producing reports on the monitoring of social policies in member countries, with the focus on the achievements of the various sectors in respect of those policies, using an integrated approach that covers basic social issues and areas.

(b) *ESCWA local development programmes and policies*

- (i) The need to emphasize the importance of maintaining the approach of ESCWA, which relies on the local community to identify development priorities and options, and to draw up policies and formulate programmes in such a way that the central authority's role is to monitor the resources and concentrate the capacities needed to implement local community decisions;
- (ii) The importance of commending the success achieved by local development policies and programmes, especially where the outcomes relate to participatory development research methods that provide opportunities for comprehensive development planning at regional level, including the economic dimension;
- (iii) The importance of concentrating, in local development policies, on poverty eradication programmes as an essential support to the processes of change required by local development, and on bridging the development gap between urban and rural areas.

(c) *Population and development policies*

- (i) The need to establish a population monitoring system to monitor demographic changes in ESCWA member countries and support the Population Window – Opportunity for Development project that was launched by ESCWA in cooperation with the national councils on population and the representatives of sectoral ministries and in coordination with the Cairo Demographic Centre;
- (ii) Albeit increased attention is being paid to social policy formulation in the region, and the relationship between demographics and economic growth in connection with sustainable development is recognized, most countries continue to work on the constant challenge presented by development and population issues linked to improving the life of the population.

(d) *Urban development and housing*

- (i) The importance of setting standards in the field of urban development and housing that will allow member countries to compare achievements in that field;
- (ii) The need to carry out research aimed at resolving the issue of unplanned housing and linking it to poverty eradication policies and programmes;
- (iii) The need to develop capacity-building projects that can be implemented in the local community by the urban development and housing programme, and which are appropriate for local

development programmes and policies. Such projects should be incorporated into those programmes in order to avoid duplication.

C. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005  
(Agenda item 7)

21. The Committee considered this item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/10, which contained a review of subprogramme 2 concerning integrated social policies and showed the orientation of those programmes in 2004-2005, including a list of expected outcomes and indicators of success. It also covered a range of technical activities that included the provision of services to international governmental and expert organizations, and technical cooperation activities that focused on field projects.

22. Set forth below are the most important points raised in the discussion of this item:

(a) Mechanisms to coordinate work programme priorities between ESCWA and member countries should be strengthened;

(b) Partnerships between NGOs and the private and public sectors should be consolidated and appropriate mechanisms for coordinating work on integrated social policies should be designed;

(c) Social policy and local development activities should be further developed, based on the principles of the right to development, good governance and democracy;

(d) ESCWA should make housing projections and monitor demographic change in the countries of the region, and the outcomes should be used for housing and social policy activities;

(e) Action should be taken to strengthen urban and construction planning in order to ensure that suitable housing is available for all social groups and, in particular, for low income groups.

D. PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE  
BIENNIUM 2006-2007 IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(Agenda item 8)

23. The Committee considered this item on the basis of E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/11, which included an overview of the proposals for the programme of work and priorities for the 2006-2007 biennium in the field of social development. The document focused on a review of the outcomes expected by the secretariat, and indicators of success measured against the objective of strengthening local development activity in order to reduce social disparities and strengthen social stability in the region. It further concentrated on outcomes expected over the 2006-2007 biennium, which included the provision of services to Government, international and expert bodies; other technical activities relating to publications and technical resources; and such technical cooperation activities as consultancy services and training programmes. The discussion covered the following subjects:

(a) Statistical data and monitoring should be provided in order to make it possible to measure social development towards the objectives of and recommendations made by international conferences. The human resources and funding required for such projects and technical assistance activities should be made available;

(b) The issues of unemployment and poverty should be included in the ESCWA programme of work, and the necessary attention should be given to the study of those problems in order to ensure that social development is achieved in the region;

(c) An overall survey of the social situation in the Arab region should be added to the second Report on Integrated Social Policies.

E. OTHER MATTERS  
(Agenda item 9)

24. Under this item, the Committee decided that its sixth biennial session would be held at ESCWA headquarters in Beirut towards the end of 2006.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FIFTH SESSION**  
(Agenda item 10)

25. At its final meeting, held on 30 March 2005, the Committee adopted the draft report on its fifth session (E/ESCWA/SDD/2005/IG.1/L.5).

**IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE SESSION

26. The fifth session of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development was held at the permanent headquarters of ESCWA in Beirut on 29 and 30 March 2005. The Committee held five meetings during the session, in which it discussed the items as set forth in the agenda in paragraph 33 of this report.

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

27. The session was opened by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA. In her statement, she welcomed participants to the session and affirmed the importance of the role of the Committee on Social Development in discussing the programme of work of the ESCWA Social Development Division and making suggestions for the development of that programme and the coordination of its activities. The Executive Secretary focused on the Commission's concern to promote cooperation and integration, in order to strengthen integrated social and economic development at the national and regional levels. She pointed out that ESCWA was committed to the full implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session, and confirmed the Commission's resolve to follow up on its commitments, including with respect to the recommendations made at the current session. Ms. Tallawy concluded her statement by wishing the session every success and the participants a pleasant stay in Lebanon.

28. On behalf of the sponsor of the session, Mr. Ghazi Zeaitar, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Ms. Neemat Kanaan, General Director of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, made a statement in which she affirmed the importance of the subjects on the agenda of the fifth session of the Committee, given that they covered the areas of human and urban development and housing in addition to social indicators and statistics. In her opening statement, Ms. Kanaan noted that the programmes of work that member countries aimed to implement covered the essential issues facing human society in the modern age, including the achievement of equality with respect to income and its distribution, the provision of employment opportunities in order to confront the unemployment crisis and reduce poverty; the eradication of illiteracy; and the provision of suitable housing. She added that implementation of those programmes would depend on a range of mechanisms and, in particular, information and partnership with civil society. Ms. Kanaan concluded her statement by referring to the need to benefit from international experience and expertise, which is what the Ministry of Social Affairs aimed to achieve through partnership projects and programmes with the relevant organizations.

C. PARTICIPANTS

29. Representatives of the following 11 ESCWA member countries participated in the session: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives from various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies also attended, as did representatives of intergovernmental organizations and their agencies, other

international and regional NGOs, and civil society organizations. The list of participants appears in annex I of this report.

#### D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA provides that “Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. Pursuant to that rule, Mr. Mohammad Ghadieh, the representative of Palestine, took the chair for the session. The Committee elected Ms. Neemat Kanaan of Lebanon and Ms. Wafaa Mohamad Ahmad Eid of Egypt as Vice-Chairmen and Ms. Badria Al Jib of Bahrain as Rapporteur. Mr. Ibrahim al-Souri, League of Arab States, and Ms. Najlaa’ al-Na’mi, Yemen, were elected to the drafting committee and representatives of the ESCWA secretariat were also appointed to that committee.

#### E. AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

31. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda for its fifth session in the form in which it appears in document E/ESCWA/SSD/2002/IG.1/L.2. Set forth below is the agenda in the form in which it was adopted:

1. Opening of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Proposed organization of work.
5. General discussion:
  - (a) Follow-up to the recommendations made by the fourth session of the Committee on Social Development;
  - (b) Review of accomplishments in the field of social development since the fourth session of the Committee on Social Development;
  - (c) Member country reports.
6. Social development policies and programmes: strategic framework:
  - (a) Integrated social policies;
  - (b) Community development policies and programmes in the ESCWA region;
  - (c) Population policies and development;
  - (d) Report on urban development and housing policies;
  - (e) Report on social statistics and indicators;
7. Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 in the field of social development.
8. Proposals relating to the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 in the field of social development:
  - (a) Strategic framework in the field of social development for the biennium 2006-2007;
  - (b) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2006-2007.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session.

32. At that meeting the Committee also adopted the proposed organization of work in the form in which it appears in document E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/L.2.

#### F. DOCUMENTS

33. Annex II of this report comprises the documents submitted to the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development.

## Annex I

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

##### Bahrain

Ms. Badrya Yusuf Al-Jaib  
Director, Local Communities Development  
Directorate  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Muhammad Hasan Ramadan  
Head of the Financial and Administrative Services  
Department  
Labour Force Development Directorate  
Ministry of Labour

Ms. Kawkab Yacoob Mubarrak  
First Specialist in Housing Studies  
Ministry of Works and Housing

Mr. Abd al-Jalil Muhammad Ali al-Sayyid  
First Civil Engineer  
Ministry of Works and Housing

Ms. Afifa Baqir Rida  
First Housing Studies Researcher  
Ministry of Works and Housing

##### Egypt

Ms. Wafaa Mohamad Ahmad Eid  
Head of Central Administration for the Office of  
the Minister  
Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs

Ms. Amira Mohie Eldin Fahmy  
Second Secretary  
Human Rights Directorate  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt

##### Iraq

Mr. Khalid Muhammad Al-Mashhadani  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of Iraq, Beirut

##### Kuwait

Mr. Hamad Munwar Habib Munwar  
Deputy Secretary for the Planning Sector  
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Jaber Qabazard  
Supervisor of External Coordination in the  
Planning Sector

##### Lebanon

Ms. Neemat Kanaan  
General Director  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Dr. Mariana Al-Khayat Al-Sabbouri  
Head of the Office for Public Relations and  
Conferences  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Ghazi Mahmoud Saab  
Head Officer of the Rural Development  
Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Hashim Al-Husaini  
Head officer of the Competence-building Project  
for Poverty Reduction  
Ministry of Social Affairs/UNDP

Mr. Mazhar Harakeh  
Project coordinator for the Competence-building  
Project for Poverty Reduction  
Ministry of Social Affairs/UNDP

##### Palestine

Mr. Mohammad Ghadih  
Director General of Human Development  
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Yusuf Isma'il  
Director General of Statistical Coordination  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

##### Qatar

Mr. Nasir Abd Al-Rahman Al-Jabir  
First Researcher in Technical Cooperation  
Secretariat General of the Planning Council

Mr. Mohammad Saeed Al-Mohannadi  
First Specialist in Statistics  
Secretariat General of the Planning Council

Saudi Arabia

His Excellency Mr. Mutlaq bin Mutlaq  
Al-Hantush  
Undersecretary for Social Welfare  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Abd Allah bin Umar Al-'Amudi  
Director General of Social Development  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Abd al-Aziz bin Hamad Al-Shahin  
Specialist in Social Affairs  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Dardari  
Head of the State Planning Commission

Mr. Jomaa Hijazi  
Press Advisor, Human Development  
State Planning Commission

Ms. Wahba Tatou  
Director of Public Relations  
State Planning Commission

Mr. Sulaiman Al-Khatib  
Deputy to the Minister for Education

Mr. Talal Bakfalouni  
Director General of the Centre for Strategic  
Health Studies  
Ministry of Health

Mr. Anas Dobosh  
Head of the Associations Department  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Ms. Linda Majeed Adso  
Director of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

Mr. Ma'la Al-Khudr  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Housing and Construction

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Haj Abdulla B. Aljabri  
Director, External Cooperation Directorate  
Ministry of Economy and Planning  
Abu Dhabi

Yemen

Professor Amin Ma'ruf Al-Jund  
Secretary General  
National Population Council

Ms. Najlaa' Yahya Al-Na'mi  
Director General of the General Coordination and  
Follow-up Administration  
National Population Council

B. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Adeb Nehmeh  
Advisor  
Beirut

Ms. Renée Sabagh  
National Expert/Officer in Charge  
United Nations House  
Beirut

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights

Mr. Nabil Rawda  
Regional Secretary of the Human Rights  
Programme  
Regional Office  
Beirut

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for  
Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Ms. Leila Kaissi  
Deputy Chief of Relief and Social Services  
Bir Hassan – Ghoreiri  
Beirut

### C. UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

#### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Ms. Nour Dajani Shehabi  
Programme Specialist/Literacy  
Regional Office for Education in the Arab States  
Beirut

#### World Health Organization

Mr. Jawad Mahjour  
Representative  
Beirut Office

### D. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### League of Arab States

Mr. Ibrahim Ghafar Al-Souri  
Director, Development and Social Policies  
Directorate  
Technical Secretariat to the Council of Arab  
Ministers of Social Affairs

#### Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council States

Mr. Mahmood Ali Hafed  
Social Affairs Manager  
Executive Bureau

### E. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Cairo Demographic Center

Mr. Abd Al-Ghani Muhammad Abd Al-Ghani  
Centre Director

Mr. Mahmud Faraj  
Demographic Advisor

#### Central Administration for Statistics, Lebanon

Ms. Lara Badre  
Specialist in Social Sciences

### F. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### 1. *Regional and international organizations*

#### The Arab Center for Strategic Studies

Mr. Munir Al-Hamsh  
Director General

#### Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Ms. Badia Baydoun  
Public Relations

#### International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions

Mr. Hayef 'Ajami  
Assistant Secretary General for Economic and  
Social Affairs

#### 2. *Local organizations*

#### Imam Sadr Foundation

Ms. Maha Maarouf Abou Khalil  
Public Relations Department

Mr. Muhammad Abd Al-Amir Al-Bassam

#### Association Amel – Lebanese People's Action Association

Dr. Kamel Mohanna  
President

Azm and Saade Association

Mr. Mustapha Adib  
General Manager  
Centre for Strategic Studies in the Middle East

Dar al Tanmia

Mr. George F. Kossaifi  
Director

National Rehabilitation and Development Center

Mr. Khalid Al-Mihtar  
General Manager

Mr. Nidal Afif Shoukeir  
Communications Development Coordinator

Nahran Social and Cultural Association

Ms. Samira Jasim Al-Bayati  
Legal Expert

G. RESEARCH CENTRES AND UNIVERSITIES

Lebanese University

Professor Hoda Rizk  
Researcher

Professor Najib Issa  
Faculty of Social Sciences

Lebanese American University

Professor Hassan Hammoud  
Professor of Social Science

Beirut Arab University

Mr. Sa'id Abd Al-Aziz Uthman  
Dean of the Faculty of Commerce  
Faculty of Commerce and Business  
Administration

American University of Beirut

Professor Nabil Dajani  
Professor of Social Science  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences,  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Qatar University

Ms. Kulthum Ali Ghanim Al-Ghanim  
Associate Professor, Department of Social  
Science

Ms. Haya Ali Ghanim Al-Ghanim  
Family Counsellor  
Family Counselling Centre

Institute of Statistical Studies and Research, Cairo  
University

Professor Atef M. Khalifa  
Professor of Population Statistics

Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands

Professor James Warner Bjorkman  
Specialist in Social Policy and Development

H. EXPERTS

Dr. George Kordahi  
LBC Television

Mr. Antoine J.K. Haddad  
Social Development Consultant  
Former ESCWA Chief of Programme, Planning  
and Technical Cooperation Division

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/INF.1	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/INF.2	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/1	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/L.2	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/3	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/4	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/5	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/6	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/7	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/8	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/9	
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/10	2005-2004
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/11	2007-2006
E/ESCWA/SDD/2004/IG.1/L.12	