

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)****Expert Group Meeting on
“Implementing Agenda 2030: Economic Governance and National Development Planning
in the Arab Region”****9-10 May 2018,
Golden Tulip Hotel, Tunis, Tunisia****Summary of Discussions**

ESCWA organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) entitled “Implementing Agenda 2030: Economic Governance and National Development Planning in the Arab Region” in Tunis, in Golden Tulip Carthage Hotel, hosted by the Tunisian Investment Authority, during the period 9-10 May 2018 (see Annex1: Agenda). The EGM was attended by 22 participants from the Arab region and beyond, including country representatives, colleagues from UN entities and development banks (see Annex 2: List of Participants). ESCWA partnered with the Tunisian Investment Authority to implement the meeting. Throughout the meeting substantive facilitation was provided by Ms. Denise Sumpf from ESCWA.

Opening & Keynote Presentation

Mr. Khalil Laabidi, the President of the Tunisian Investment Authority, and Mr. Mohamed Moctar El-Hacene, Director of the ESCWA Division for Economic Development and Integration, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Prof. Ellen Lust, the invited keynote speaker, set the stage with a comprehensive presentation of her academic research results on governance in the Arab region. She concluded that many challenges have to be addressed to ensure good national planning and implementation of the sustainable development goals are facing in the MENA region, a region characterized by “low trust and weak state institutions”. If member countries want to work towards building a comprehensive, implementable, national plan, the governments of the region should support citizen engagement and rebuild trust in the state as well as the performance of state services. In sum, “national planning might benefit from:

- a) Recognizing and building on state and non-state actors and institutions
- b) Build institutions that foster and reward creative solutions
- c) Gather and use local information on state and non-state governance and service provision
- d) Highlight local success as inspiration, and recognize not all lessons transfer
- e) Build trust, in part by emphasizing ‘quick wins’ along with sustained, long term institutional development.”

Session 1: Setting the stage

Ms. Teresa Moreira from UNCTAD emphasised on the key distinction of competition being “a basic mechanism of the market economy that encourages companies to provide consumers products that consumers want”. In turn, competition increases a countries’ attractiveness and competitiveness. Competition laws and policy are a “Set of rules that aims to protect the process of competition in the market.” As recognized by the UN set of principles and Rules of competition, it is an essential tool to achieve economic development. Competitiveness is described as the “ability of a firm or a nation to offer products and services that meet the quality standards of the local and world markets at prices that are competitive and provide adequate returns on the resources employed or consumed in producing them”. Ms. Moreira reminded the audience that the United Nations Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices is the only internationally agreed instrument in the field of competition. She described three main pillars of UNCTAD’s work in support sustainable development: Consensus building, research and analysis on trade, finance, investment, and consumer protection and finally technical assistance.

Ms. Denise Sumpf from UNESCWA continued with the underlining mission of ESCWA’s related efforts “to support Member Countries in their efforts to improve economic governance and effective national development planning towards enabling implementation of Agenda 2030”. In partnership with UN and non-UN entities, ESCWA’s approach concentrates on knowledge transfer, policy research and analysis, capacity building and contribution to inter-regional initiatives with the objective achieve better coordinated development planning and realization of the 2030 agenda. Recognising competition policy and regulation as crucial elements, ESCWA’s work on “Competition Policy and Regulation in the Arab region” programme started in 2015 with the aim of enhancing business environment and fostering inclusive growth. Some countries have advanced competition legislation and enforcement practices, other countries lag with the implementation of required legislation and/or effective enforcement. Consequently, ESCWA’s objective for 2018-2019 is to set a regional policy dialogue on competition and regulation in support of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and as part of effective national development planning.

Session 2: The Arab experience with national development planning under existing economic governance infrastructures

Ms. Monia Braham, indicated that prior to 2016, the Ministry of Development, Investment and International cooperation worked on preparing a five-year plan for Tunisia. The new document (Tunis 2025) was prepared by The Institute for Strategic Studies and is the only reference for strategic vision now. In her presentation, she diagnosed the challenges of the Tunisian economy: The growth rate fell to 1.3% during the last six years and the decline of the investment rate by about 5 during the same period of recession for two consecutive years 2015-2016. The public debt rate increased from 40% in 2010 to 62% in 2016. And people in 2016 are saving much more than investing; a 10 % gap between savings and investments compared to a 3% in 2010. Moreover, Tunisia recorded the highest rates on the global index of competitiveness during the last decade in 2010 by 4.64 Tunisia ranked 32 out of the 131 countries in 2010 before declining in 2017 to 95th out of 137 on the index, which illustrates the impact of the country’s undesirable transformation.

However, improvements have been witnessed since the end of 2016: economic activity increased, with GDP rising by 1.9% in 2018 compared to 1% in 2016. As for the foreign direct investment flows around the sectors during the first tranche (Tunisian Dinar 1 million) the most important is the level recorded in the first trimester of 2018 which is equivalent to the level recorded in 2010. The main challenges to be addressed in the coming years are to review national policies and build consensus for reforms to be adapted through a public-private dialogue. Adding to that the need to achieve the objectives in the Economic and Social Program document, by fostering human capital and focus on implementation of the 2030 UN agenda.

Mr. Hassan Berri representing the Moroccan Competition Authority focused his intervention on the role of effective competition policy, legislation and enforcement in support of national development planning. He noted that the problem of economic governance has become critical in an era of globalization due to

globalisation's impact on developing nations. Without good governance, it is difficult to achieve economic efficiency, social justice and environmental protection, thus a review of the current economic system - the market economy system – is overdue. Linking to recent political and economic fluctuations in the region, Mr. Berri, affirmed that developing countries will have the biggest difficulties achieving the development goals simply because of their less diversified economies, significantly lower human development rate and a long way towards achieving social justice.

Mr. Berri shared the experience of his country and highlighted major achievement for Morocco since the year 2011 like the creation of institution and bodies to protect the rights and freedom of the citizens, compelling reports to discuss them in parliament and grant the Competition Council all internationally recognized powers. Morocco's ranking has improved significantly in terms of business environment, ranked first in North Africa, and third for the MENA region. He concluded that achieving the goal of sustainable development depends on the development of principles and rules of good governance. He added by saying that sustainable development objectives are a matter of work for several generations, solutions require long term strategic choices and planning. He closed with the suggestion to assess public policies and programs that are relevant to sustainable and environmental development goals by independent bodies to monitor, evaluate and control the effectiveness of such institutions and policies.

Mr. Abbas Koreina from the National Council for Strategic Planning, Sudan emphasized that the goals of sustainable development must be nationalized in national development plans and not vice versa. Sharing the experience of Sudan, also in preparation for its voluntary national review at the HLPF 2018, he detailed that the objectives of sustainable development will be implemented for Sudan under the umbrella of three five-year plans: 2016-2020, 2021-2025 and finally 2026-2030. The main steps undertaken to achieve a sustainable plan were:

- a) Determine the vision, the public position and the location of the Millennium Goals for the National Development Plan,
- b) adapt of global goals and objectives and making them appropriate to national circumstances and priorities,
- c) identify politically accountable intermediate objectives, commensurate with the national planning cycle,
- d) estimate the cost of these programs and policies.

Zooming in, Mr. Koreina stated that Sudan is committed to expand the means and resources for education in the country and tries to support as much as possible poor families. In terms of good governance Sudan works to achieve national reconciliation and strengthening national unity, adopt a balanced foreign policy that serves the interest of the state, fight corruption and develop institutions. The lesson learned was that the five-year plan is only a first step in a coherent cycle of strategy-building. In fact, the four plans (further complemented by annual and budget strategies) should be viewed as one despite the difference in timing and perspective.

With the growing number of strategic planning approaches, the interest in indicators increased in terms of definition, formulation, development and provision of statistical data to improve their use during the different phases of the strategic plans. Reports and studies prepared by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Sudan compare several economic and social indicators in different states in the country. Mr. Koreina added that the private sector as a leader in the economic environment of the country, should lead on increasing the economic activity by taking all the necessary measures to create the appropriate environment. The civil society also needs to gain more importance and be more integrated. In terms of major challenges, Mr. Koreina stated the main challenges of Sudan being high dependence on importation as well as the decline in the foreign exchange reserve.

Mr. Mohamed Teghre from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mauritania described the Mauritanian approach to implement Agenda 2030, which involved a preparatory phase with national consultations

followed by sectoral and regional consultations. As a next step the task force prepared reports according to the strategic principles taking into consideration sectoral integration. The third phase is to consolidate the preparation of a strategy document for accelerated growth and shared well-being. And finally, a consultation and ratification through regional, national workshops and meetings. While acknowledging that maternal and child mortality that has increased, Mr. Teghre noted that several other indicators are showing an improvement of the life in Mauritania. For the first time, the number of poor people decreased from 1.4 million to 1.1 million between 2008 and 2014. The life expectancy increased from 40 years in 1960 to 60.2 in 2014. Improving the access to drinking water; 58.3% had access in 2008 and that number rose to 65.4% in 2014 and finally achieving significant success at the level of disease control (HIV / AIDS, epidemics, tuberculosis and malaria). To continue on the positive development trajectory and in terms of needed financial resources, the first work plan would cost 10.5 billion USD, of which 5.5 billion USD are yet to be mobilized; 3 billion USD are available and 2 billion USD could be mobilized as public-private partnership projects.

Mr. Bashar Seifi, Manager of the Nablus Office of the Palestinian Ministry of Economy, shared the efforts towards national development planning, which are hindered by the conflict context in Palestine but lead to the formulation of the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022. He highlighted the limited capacity and resources available to formulate a comprehensive national development, the implications of the Israeli rule as well as the persistent economic problems of fragmented territories (e.g. market access). Mr. Seifi emphasized on the commitment.

Session 3: Frameworks and tools for integrated national development planning

Ms. Chantal Dupasquier from UNCTAD asserted that it is essential to increase the investment flow alongside with a vibrant local private sector to be able to enhance development impact and policies. Elements for a viable national entrepreneurship strategy would need to reflect:

- a) Design a solid regulatory framework
- b) Promoted Education and skills development
- c) Ease the access to finance
- d) Foster technology exchange and innovation
- e) Ensure awareness and monitoring

An overall strategy for a good economic governance would need to have a strong coordination with all the different institutions of the political, economic and societal sphere.

Mr. El Hacene provided an overview of ESCWA frameworks and tools that support integrated national development planning and zoomed in on the packages of quantitative tools available to help member countries. The use of economic models should help improve policymakers by analyzing different economic policy questions, as well as enable countries to weather the impact of macroeconomics and fiscal shocks. These models should help answering “what if” type of question. Nevertheless, these models should act as a compliment to policy makers not as a substitute: “CGE models are a simulation that combine the abstract general equilibrium structure of Arrow and Debreu with realistic economic data to be solved numerically”. It is a standard tool of empirical analysis and are used to analyze economic welfare and the distribution impacts of policies, however they require respect for accounting identities and equilibrium conditions.

In this context, Ms. Sumpf addressed specifically the importance of monitoring and evaluation. She introduced the dashboarding tool captioning key performance indicators developed by ESCWA and discussed challenges and success factors that need to be weighted when designing and customizing dashboards depending on the national priorities as well as capacities (e.g. completeness vs. ease of use, sectoral details vs. overview indicators, decision-support vs. decision-dependence).

Session 4: Inter-agency planning support to Arab countries - The UN Development Assistance Framework and National Development Plans in the cases of Tunisia and Libya

Mr. Diego Zorrilla, UN Resident Coordinator for Tunisia, briefed the meeting on the UN development assistance framework (UNDAF), which – due to the consequences of the Arab Spring – required a nimble approach towards the third UNDAF 2015-2020 from both the Tunisian Government and the UN. His colleague, Mr. Mahmoud Ghouil, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and Communication Officer, explained further that the UNDAF was developed between Dec 2012 and March 2014 taking into account – as per established UN best practice - an analytical process (common country assessment) leading to strategic planning base on programming principles like the human-rights based approach (HRBA), results-based management (RBM), gender equality, environmental sustainability and capacity development.

The UNDAF 2015-2020 was co-signed by the MFA and 17 agencies in March 2014 and it consists of three principle axes: Democratic governance, inclusive, sustainable plan and a social protection and have access to quality social services. The UNDAF is monitoring the outcome achievement, the UN system contribution towards the achievement of outcomes and the resources to increase performance in terms of fundraising. The framework was extended by one year to be better aligned with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. The UN system thereby supports the Tunisian “Strategic development plan 2016-2020”. Overall, the UN colleagues noted that a participative approach and an inclusive process to development planning is necessary to ensure commitment of national partners.

To highlight the integration of planning already in times of crisis as well as the leverage of interlinkages (“nexus”), Ms. Iman Shawwa from the UN Mission in Libya started with a quote: “We must also bring the humanitarian and development spheres closer together from the very beginning of a crisis to support affected communities, address structural and economic impacts and help prevent a new spiral of fragility and instability. Humanitarian response, sustainable development and sustaining peace are three sides of the same triangle.” For Libya, the integrated approach is demonstrated through complementarity in three plans: the 2018 humanitarian response plan, 2018 UNSMIL action plan and the 2019-2020 UN Strategic Framework, which – in the same way as in Tunisia - started with a joint country assessment, an analytical assessment. A joint effort dedicated to recommending priority interventions, and aiming to maximize synergy between programmatic vehicles to the UN strategic framework implementation is supposed to take place in January 2019. It will not only establish the government’s priorities as per the Coordination Framework for International Cooperation for Libya, but also embrace the humanitarian development peace nexus.

Session 5: National experiences on effective resource allocation/budgeting in support of national development planning

Mr. Ahmed Zairi from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) briefed the meeting on the role of the bank in support of national development planning. He explained that the EBRD is a financial institution supporting the development of sustainable market economies. The bank’s investment objectives include for example developing the private and public sector, promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and transition to green economies. With excellent credit rating rate (AAA) and a capital base of €30 billion, the board of EBRD decided in 2011 in the aftermath of the Arab uprising, to expand the Bank’s operation into Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to remedy economic and geopolitical instability. For example, the bank is providing support to the best SMEs for scaling-up (“Blue Ribbon programme”) and in Tunisia and Morocco, EBRD - alongside FAO - is working with public-private stakeholders in the olive oil industry to provide technical assistance and expertise. Mr. Zairi underlined that availability and allocation of financial resources to development objectives requires commitment both from lenders and creditors.

Providing insights into the current situation in Yemen, Mr. Shuaib A. Zagher from the Ministry of Planning and International cooperation, Republic of Yemen, surprised the meeting participants with an optimistic estimate by the IMF, which indicated that the GDP growth rate of Yemen in 2019 should be 17.39% and the country will record an increase in total domestic revenue and a decrease in domestic and external debt (2018-2019). He cautioned, however, that other indicators are alarming: In January 2018, 22.2 million people in Yemen

were in need of humanitarian assistance; and all different sectors of the economy need to be reconstructed. Effective resource allocation and budgeting for recovery managed to achieve that during the first half of 2017 (the second phase of the emergency response project in Yemen), some 430 projects were approved at a total cost of \$88.6 million. These different projects were aimed at securing a national economy recovery, restoring security stability and social peace, and achieving a sustainable economic and social development program. In terms of institutional arrangements, a higher committee was formed under the chairmanship of the ministry of planning and international cooperation to supervise the assessment of damage and set priorities and necessary plans. The meeting participants agreed that similar to other countries in the region, Yemen being in conflict means severe constraints on development, national planning and budget.

Session 6: Institutional infrastructure and partnerships for Agenda 2030-aligned development planning

Mr. Lootah and Ms. Hanan Ali from the UAE Competitiveness & Statistics Authority and National Committee on SDGs presented the “Institutional Mechanisms to Implement Agenda 2030 in the UAE”. The country has an effective national vision and build on four pillars: “United in responsibility, United in knowledge, United in prosperity and United in destiny”. The sustainable development goals serve as a complimentary framework to the National Agenda that guides government policy. For the UAE the Agenda 2030 is important for several main reasons: First of all to give the government a set of goals and a strategic direction for policy, monitor and communicate progress and to communicate to the global community showing the UAE’s aspiration.

Showing that five out of the top ten countries in the SDG Index are also top ten in the World Happiness Report and five out of the top ten countries in the SDG Index are also top ten in the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report (GCR), the speakers correlated sustainable development as multidimensional depending on the nexus of political, economic and social conditions. The UAE recognizes that achieving the 17 SDGs requires concerted institutional effort from different segments of society, federal entities, private sector, research and academic institution and individuals. The speakers underline that the national development planning approach which is linked to the international SDG process also contains a crucial success factor: The national communication strategy for the SDGs addressing three levels of substantive depths (“Aware, maintain and engage”). The panelists also assured that the UAE’s National Innovation Strategy Framework serves as the stimulus for innovative practices in the public sector and a catalyst for private sector innovation, thus highlighting the interplay of sectoral strategies or thematic strategies with umbrella national planning initiatives.

Conclusions & Closing - A path towards the future: Mainstreaming the SDGs into national development plans as well as successful monitoring and reporting

The meeting succeeded in providing an opportunity for regional exchange among national development planning experts. In view of the upcoming HLPF in July 2018, it allowed for knowledge-exchange on what national approaches worked well to translate Agenda 2030 into practice, especially with respect to institutional arrangements. The meeting participants agreed on a range of follow-up initiatives to continue the dialogue on national development planning, including active contribution towards the development account project “Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region”.

As result of the meeting and in an effort to implement the UN Secretary-General’s efforts to reform the UN development system, the representatives from the different UN entities agreed to deepen collaboration. For example, UNCTAD and ESCWA together will deepen the work begun on competition policy and regulation, while ESCWA and the UNCT’s will seek ways how to better support countries in the region with national development planning as well as implementation. In addition, the meeting introduced to the participants to the work of UNCTAD’s Investment Policies Review practice as well as to possible support by development banks like the EBRD to support institutions such as the Tunisian Investment Authority.

The very positive participant feedback (see Annex 3) underscores the success of the Expert Group Meeting.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Concept Outline

Under its regular work programme the Economic Governance and Planning Section at UNESCWA/EDID undertakes a series of initiatives addressing the topic of “Economic Governance and National Development Planning in the Arab Region” which aims to support UNESCWA’s Member Countries in their efforts towards integrated national development planning and ultimately the achievement of the SDGs.

The expert group meeting (Activity code P326), scheduled for 9 and 10 May 2018 (see draft agenda below) brings together a range of experts and stakeholders to discuss national development planning as both a political and socio-economic instrument necessary to achieve development gains. In the Arab region addressing the need for (sustainable) economic growth, employment creation, financial stability and sound public finances in the region ranks in priority behind politics (and the resolution of political conflicts). The emphasis of the expert group meeting is on shifting the perspective and explore conducive conditions for good national development planning, since positive socio-economic developments and sound economic governance are crucial for prevention as well as resolution of political conflicts.

Objectives of the meeting include, for example:

- To provide an opportunity for regional exchange among national development planning experts on lessons learned and challenges from recent development planning exercises;
- To revisit current planning processes that affect the implementation of Agenda 2030 (e.g. national development planning by the government vis-a-vis national development under the UN assistance frameworks) and associated challenges;
- To review goals under Agenda 2030 as guiding parameters for a tailored regional development agenda;
- To compile lessons learned to inform upcoming national development planning efforts and the design of effective partnerships at the national, the regional and the international level.

For additional information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Ms. Denise Sumpf
Officer-in-Charge, Economic Governance and Planning Section,
Economic Development and Integration Division
Tel: +961-1-978432, Fax: +961-1-978975, E-Mail: sumpf@un.org
UNITED NATIONS – ESCWA, P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad el-Solh, Beirut – Lebanon

Draft Agenda

Day 1

8:30	-	09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00	-	10:00	Welcome & Opening Session of the EGM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Khalil Laabidi, President of Tunisian Investment Authority• Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, Director, EDID, UNESCWA Keynote speech - “Socio-Economic challenges and transformation of governance in the Middle East” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Ellen Lust-Okar¹, Yale University and University of Gothenburg
10:00	-	11:00	Session 1: Setting the stage <p>Sustainable socio-economic developments and sound economic governance are enablers for prevention as well as constructive resolution of political conflicts. The consideration of political economy drivers in the Arab region are critical in national development planning efforts, both at the technical and the administrative level. For example, effective national development planning requires a legislative environment (e.g. conducive fiscal policy frameworks) for transparent budgetary processes towards the adoption of viable national budgets (with resource allocations according development priorities). Thus, the session will also discuss the role of competition policy is as an important institutional pillar for a thriving market economy, enhancing a country's attractiveness as a business location and triggering national and foreign investments.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA• Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD
11:00	-	11:30	Coffee break
11:30	-	13:00	Session 2: The Arab experience with national development planning under existing economic governance infrastructures <p>The discussion of national experiences with development planning draws out the lessons learned on challenges and best practices with respect to identifying national priorities, as well as it differentiates approaches and priorities vis-a-vis mainstreaming the SDGs. Regarding specific policies (e.g. investment), the country presentations could cover the following dimensions of national development planning: institutions, design, implementation, results, participation, link to SDGs/Agenda 2030, latent risk factors, and so on.</p> <p><i>Presentations (app. 30 min each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Monia Braham, Tunisian Investment Authority• Mr. Hassan Berri, Moroccan Competition Authority• Mr. Abbas Koreina, National Council for Strategic Planning, Sudan• Mr. Mohamed Teghre, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mauritania

¹ Founding Director of the Programs on Governance and Local Development at Yale University (est. 2013) and at the University of Gothenburg (est. 2015), and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg

- 13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Session 3: Frameworks and tools for integrated national development planning**
 Summary of ESCWA’s research on the guidelines of good planning using the case of the Arab region and introduction to ESCWA’s national development planning database. Participants to share their national development planning tools and their usage.
Speakers:
- Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, UNESCWA
 - Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA
 - Ms. Chantal Dupasquier, UNCTAD
- 15:30 - 16:30 **Session 4: Inter-agency planning support to Arab countries - The UN Development Assistance Framework and National Development Plans**
 The session will introduce and discuss the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as the most important UN country planning instrument in support of the 2030 Agenda. For example, to support Arab countries’ national development planning efforts, the United Nations also need to have a more robust planning process as a coordination tool between national, regional and international entities present and active in Arab countries. The session will highlight the experience of Tunisia (current UNDAF until 2019) in the context of additional challenges due to the Libya conflict.
Speakers:
- Mr. Diego Zorrilla, UN Resident Coordinator for Tunisia
 - Ms. Iman Shawwa, Head of Coordination Support Office, O/DSRSG/RHC/RR UNSMIL
- 16:30 - 18:00 **Reception hosted by the President of the Tunisian Investment Authority, Mr. Khalil Laabidi**
Venue: Golden Tulip Hotel

Day 2

08:45	-	09:00	Arrival
09:00	-	10:30	Session 5: National experiences on effective resource allocation/budgeting in support of national development planning The discussion of national experiences vis-à-vis allocation of resources towards effective implementation of national draws out the lessons learned (e.g. funding mechanisms) and highlights existing or possible opportunities for international and regional development support. <i>Speakers (app. 30 min each):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ahmed Zairi, Principal Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)• Antonius Verheijen, Country Manager for Tunisia, MENA, World Bank (tbc)• Shuaib A. Al Zaghir, Ministry of Planning and International cooperation, Republic of Yemen
10:30	-	11:00	Coffee Break
11:00	-	12:30	Session 6: Institutional infrastructure and partnerships for Agenda 2030-aligned development planning The discussion covers the roles and responsibilities of stakeholder institutions in the national development planning process (e.g. public, private, civil society). Participants share also views on strengths and weaknesses of current governance structures in place. <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by H.E. Abdulla N. Lootah (Director General Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority and Vice-Chair of UAEs National Committee on SDGs) and Ms. Hanan Ahli (Director of Secretariat to the National Committee on SDGs)• Presentation by Mr. Bashar Seifi, Manager of Nablus Office, Ministry of National Economy Palestine
12:30	-	13:30	Lunch
13:30	-	15:00	Session 7: A path towards the future – Mainstreaming the SDGs into national development plans as well as successful monitoring and reporting <i>Open platform for discussion:</i> With emphasis on the need for national ownership and accountability of the SDGs for success in implementing the goals, this session aims to identify lessons learned with respect to the needed national institutional infrastructure for planning, data and resource requirements as well as partnerships with due consideration of economic governance reform needs in the Arab region. <i>Moderation:</i> Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA
15:00	-	16:00	Conclusions & Closing Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, Director, EDID, UNESCWA

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Country Representatives

Mauritania

Mr. Mohamed Teghre
Director Strategies and Policies
Ministry of Economy and Finance - Mauritania
Tel: +222 45240177
Mobile: +222 36204980
E-mail: medteghre@gmail.com

Morocco

Mr. El Hassan Berri
Director of Studies & Information
Moroccan Competition Council
Tel: + 212 537 75 28 10
Mobile: + 212 661 68 46 75
E-mail: hassanberri@gmail.com,
e.berri@conseil-concurrence.ma

Palestine

Mr. Bashar Seifi
Manager of Nablus Office
Ministry of National Economy-Nablus
Tel: +970-597946287
E-mail: bashars@met.gov.ps

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Abdulla N. Lootah
Director General Federal Competitiveness &
Statistics Authority, Dubai, UAE
Vice-Chair of UAEs National Committee on SDGs
E-mail: Abdulla.lootah@fcsa.gov.ae

Ms. Hanan Ahli
Director of Competitiveness Research & Studies,
Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority,
Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 4 6080020/Fax : +971 4 3273535
E-mail : Hanan.Ahli@fcsa.gov.ae

Sudan

Mr. Abbas Koriema Mohammed El Awad
Secretariat General
National Council for Strategic Planning
Khartoum, Sudan
Tel : +249 183 798079/Fax : +249 183 7969 01
Mobile : +249 123668881
E-mail: korinasammani@yahoo.com

Tunisia

Mr. Khalil Laabidi
General Manager
Tunisian Investment Authority
Tel: +216 70241512
Mobile: +216 48353620
E-mail: Khalil.laabidi@fipa.tn

Ms. Monia Ibrahim
Head of the Policies and Reforms Department
Tunisian investment Authority
Tel: +216 70248148 / +216 54958448
Fax: +216 70248100
E-mail: monia.braham@tia.gov.tn

Yemen

Mr. Shuaib A. Al Zaghir
Technical Office General Director
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Republic of Yemen
Tel: +967-2-204152
Fax: +967-2-204153
Mobile 1: +967772934516/
Mobile 2: +201024799670
Mobile 3: +966557024686
E-mail: shooaib3@hotmail.com

B. Other Organizations

Ms. Chantal Dupasquier
Chief of Investment Policy Reviews, UNCTAD
E-mail: chantal.dupasquier@unctad.org

Ms. Teresa Moreira
Head of Competition & Consumer Policies Branch,
Division on International Trade in Goods &
Services, UNCTAD
E-mail: Teresa.Moreira@unctad.org

Ms. Iman Shawwa,
Head of Coordination Support Office,
O/DSRSG/RHC/RR UNSMIL
E-mail: shawwa@un.org

Mr. Diego Zorrilla
Resident Coordinator, UNDP Tunisia
E-mail: diego.zorrilla@one.un.org

Mr. Mahmoud Ghouil
Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and
Communication officer, UNDP Tunisia
E-mail: mahmoud.ghouil@one.un.org

Mr. Ahmed Hesham
Legal Consultant.
UNCTAD/Competition Commission Egypt

Prof. Ellen Marie Lust-Okar
University of Gothenburg
E-mail: ellen.lust@gu.se

Mr. Sami Mouley
Chief Economist, Directeur du Pôle des Etudes
Economiques & de la Coopération
Maghreb Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade
E-Mail: sami.mouley@bmice-maghreb.org

Mr. Sofiane Hazem
Head of the Sectoral Studies Department
Maghreb Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade
E-Mail: s.hazem@bmice-maghreb.org

Mr. Ahmed Zairi
Principal Banker, European Bank for
Reconstruction & Development – EBRD
E-mail: ZairiA@ebrd.com

Ms. Lydia Habhab,
Public Sector and Governance Reform Department
Middle East and North Africa, World Bank
E-mail: lhabhab@worldbank.org

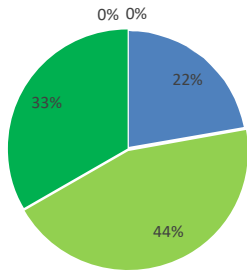
C. ESCWA

Mr. Mohamed El Moctar Mohamad El Hacene
Director, Economic Development and Integration
Division (EDID)
Tel: +9611978438/Fax: +611978975
E-mail: elhacene@un.org

Ms. Denise Sumpf
Chief (a.i), Economic Governance and Planning
Section, Economic Development and Integration,
Division (EDID)
Tel: +9611978423
E-mail: sumpf@un.org

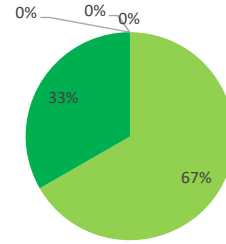
ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Overall Quality of the EGM



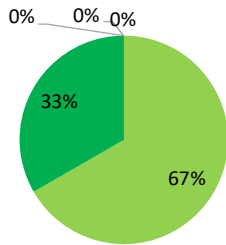
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

Importance of the subject for the field of work and experience



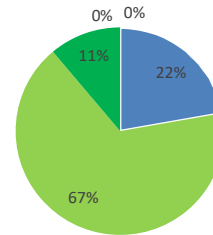
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very Good ■ Excellent

The Agenda of the EGM is well linked to the desired objectives



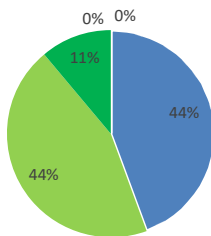
■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

Quality of the discussions during the EGM



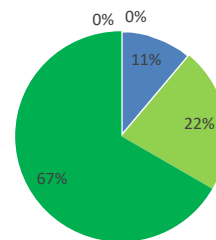
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

Quality of presentation of case studies and best practices



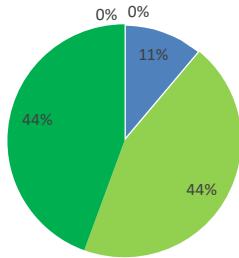
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

The information and skills gained will help you in your future work



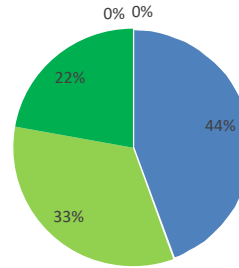
■ Very unlikely ■ Not likely ■ Neutral ■ Likely ■ Very likely

The EGM allowed for substantive information exchange among speakers and participants



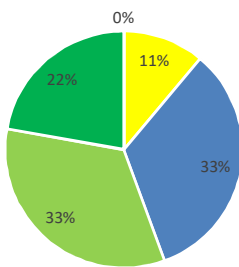
■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

The extend of presentations clarity



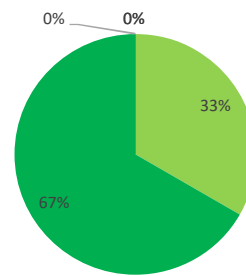
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

EGM Organizational arrangements at the hotel



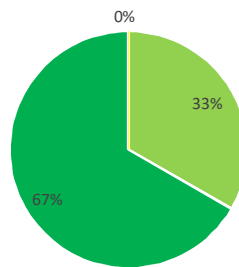
■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

Quality of communication with organizers



■ Unsatisfactory ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Very good ■ Excellent

The duration of the Meeting should be



■ Longer ■ As it is ■ Shorter

Additional participant feedback received by e-mail:

“Thank you for organizing such an informative and productive EGM. We liked the agenda and the outcome of the EGM”

Hanan Ahli
Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority, UAE

“I’d like first to thank you for your message and kind words! I’d like also to thank you as well as Diego for giving me this great opportunity to share UNDAF experience in Tunisia and its alignment to national planning and 2030 agenda -SDGs.”

Mahmoud Ghoul
Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and Communication officer, RCO Tunisia

“It was a pleasure to meeting you and Mr. El Hacene in Tunis. I greatly appreciated the discussions on national development planning and look forward to potential cooperation on some projects.”

Chantal Dupasquier
Chief, Investment Policy Reviews, UNCTAD

“Many thanks again for the invite. Although I was present only for half-day, the presentations and discussions were very interesting and of high quality. I also look forward to collaborate with you and the team on economic governance reform in our region, especially when it links to investments and financing.”

Ahmed Zairi
Principal Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, Tunis Resident Office

“First of all I want to thank you and Mr. Mohamed El Moctar and Ms. Layal Issa and all the staff from UNESCWA for your great efforts in an important meeting in Tunis and we are very interesting to development and increasing the cooperation with you.”

Bashar Seifi
Ministry of national economy, Palestine

“[...] I wanted to tell you that I enjoyed attending the beginning and intervening at your workshop, regretting I couldn't stay until the end. Nevertheless, for me it is clear that UNCTAD and ESCWA have a great opportunity of working together in the fields of Competition and Regulation and exploring its contributions for the sustainable development of the Arab world by combining efforts. Therefore, I would like very much to have an opportunity to discuss this general proposal with you as of the beginning of June. [...]”

Teresa Moreira
Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch,
Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK²

Expert Group Meeting on “Implementing Agenda 2030: Economic Governance and National Development Planning in the Arab Region” 9 and 10 May 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia

Your opinion is very important to us as we seek to develop our administrative and technical work. We would like to ensure that all workshop participants share an understanding of the workshop objectives. Your views will be used to develop our work and increase its effectiveness to achieve better results.

OPTIONAL

Name _____

Country _____

Institution/Organization _____

Please circle your response to each question

1- How do you overall assess the quality of the EGM?

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

2- How do you overall assess the importance of the EGM from the content perspective?

(a) The importance of the subject for the field of work and experience:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

(b) The agenda of the EGM is linked well to the desired objectives:

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

(c) Quality of the discussions during the EGM:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

(d) Quality of presentation of case studies and best practices related to the subject:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

(e) The information and skills gained will help you in your future work:

very likely likely neutral not likely very unlikely

(f) The EGM allowed for substantive information exchange among speakers and participants:

strongly agree agree neutral disagree strongly disagree

² Questionnaire was distributed as both English and Arabic versions

3- How do you assess the planning and logistics of the EGM?

(a) The extent of presentations clarity:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

(b) EGM organizational arrangements at the hotel:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

(c) Quality of communication with the organisers:

excellent very good good satisfactory unsatisfactory

4- Duration of the EGM, should have been:

shorter as it is longer

5- Do you have any other comments/questions/suggestions for UNESCWA?

Thank you for your feedback and your participation.
