



Fostering participation in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda Bahrain, 25 and 26 June 2013

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) organized the workshop entitled “Fostering Participation in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda” in Bahrain from 25 to 26 June 2013. The two-day meeting was attended by 40 international and regional participants, experts and senior government officials, who agreed that - in the context of the renewed emphasis on good governance as part of the post-2015 development agenda -



fostering public participation is critical. To this end, they highlighted the importance of utilizing the “Citizen Engagement Self Assessment Questionnaire” (CESAQ) tool about measures and/or institutional arrangements linking citizens more directly into the national decision-making processes.

Participants looked at the institutional and regulatory architecture as well as effective channels and modalities set up by governments to interact with their citizens. They learned from good practices and tools that other countries in the Arab region as well as in Asia and Latin America have adopted to engage citizens in managing development in those respective countries.

Taking cue from the five transformative shifts proposed by the Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, they called for an assessment of each of the three building blocks of government-citizen relations: provision and access to public information; engagement in consultation; and active participation of citizens in decision-making processes.

They also agreed on concrete steps to be taken, with the support of the UN DESA and UN ESCWA, including capacity building to conduct self-assessment and track progress in participatory governance through strengthening data collection and analysis. Finally, participants recommended that some selected governments be invited to pilot a self-assessment tool with support provided by regional and national United Nations offices.

For further information, please visit the following website: <http://www.unpan.org/2013unpsa>