## 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)



25-26 November 2011

**Brief Information Note** 

## **Background**

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) will focus on the issue of sustainable development in the Arab Region in light of preparations for Rio+20 and its possible outcomes. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 and its objectives are as follows:

- To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development;
- To assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development; and
- To address new and emerging challenges.

Rio+20 will focus on two main themes:

- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- The institutional framework for sustainable development.

UN agencies in the Arab Region, along with the League of Arab States, governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders have been engaging with Rio+20 as a significant milestone on the road to sustainable development and in working towards some regional consensus on priority issues.

## **Suggested Meeting Objectives**

The RCM, as the regional platform bringing together all regional UN entities along with the League of Arab States, regional development institutions and major financial institutions, could:

- 1. Review the Outcome of the Arab Preparatory Process for Rio+20 to assess potential directions and problematic areas (session One)
- 2. Agree on the components of a regional Guidance Note for sustainable development post Rio+20 (sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)—for example:
  - a. Target constitutional and legislative frameworks
  - b. Identify areas for capacity building
  - c. Reframing the issues and promoting terminology
  - d. Joining efforts for developing measures of sustainable development
  - e. other
- 3. Create a Joint Task Force to deliver a Guidance Note by November 2012

## **Brief Organizational Note**

The meeting will be chaired by the Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Asha Rose Migiro and will be attended by Regional Directors of all UN entities in the Region and high-level representatives from the League of Arab States and other regional institutions. Experts and Civil Society representatives will be invited to participate in specific sessions as necessary.

The meeting will be held at the UN House in Beirut, Lebanon on Friday and Saturday 25 & 26 November 2011. Working languages will be English and Arabic.

The meeting website can be accessed at <a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/index.asp">http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/index.asp</a> and will be updated regularly.