



17th Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

10 December 2012

Beirut, Lebanon

Final Recommendations

General Recommendation: The RCM to confirm the importance of enhancing coordination between the United Nations and LAS through regular and institutionalized modalities of consultation, with special attention to support for LAS's specialized Arab Ministerial Councils and a focus on capacity building for LAS and its specialized bodies. In this regard, the meeting welcomed the resolution of the Arab Social Ministerial Council on 4 December 2012 to enhance cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies and RCM members.

Session One: Round Table on Post 2015 Agenda and Follow Up to Rio+20

1. In order to ensure that international solutions and national interests in the region are a reflection of each other, and that new development goals address regional concerns, the RCM calls on ESCWA (as the secretariat of the RCM) to coordinate with the UNDG and LAS to ensure coherence among the different initiatives and to allow for the:
 - Prioritization of Development Goals at the regional level
 - Translating the regionally-relevant demands for freedom, social justice, dignity, rule of law and inclusive growth, into concrete targets and goals

2. Building on the process already being led by Regional Commissions on the Post-2015 agenda, the Regional Commissions must take a stronger role in the consolidation of processes at the regional level. ESCWA, as the regional

arm of the UN, is called upon to work out the details of this consolidation in consultation with RCM members and in close collaboration with the R/UNDG.

Session Two: Global and Regional Processes

3. RCM Secretariat, in consultation with RCM members, to create a matrix of inputs and regional events that could feed into the global process for Post-2015 and the SDGs, aligning regional and global timelines

4. RCM to consider the creation of a time-bound Thematic Working Groups on the AMR theme to ensure a coherent UN input to the AMR. For the 2013 AMR on “Science, Technology, Innovation and the Potential of Culture for the Promoting Sustainable Development and Achieving the MDGs”, the RCM Secretariat will circulate the outcome of the Amman Regional Consultation (November 2012) to RCM members to start consultations on the TOR for the time-bound group.

Session Three, Part I: The Thematic Working Groups

Statistics Task Force: The Task Force is urged to consider coordinated UN support for specific initiatives that could be implemented by member countries.

MDGs: Following the conclusion of its current mandate after the production of the 4th Regional Arab MDGs Report, the existing TWG on the MDGs will act as an advisory board to the Arab Development Outlook, taking notes of existing thematic Arab development reports.

Food Security and Climate Change: The RCM recommends further discussion between both groups to consider possibility of a merger of mandates and functions. The RCM to consider the possibility of establishing an Arab Food Security and Nutrition Forum with LAS

Session Three, Part II: The role of Arab Development Funds

ESCWA, in cooperation with RCM members, to initiate an analysis of the mandates and priorities of Arab Funds, in addition to a documentation of UN-Arab Funds Partnerships. As a result, RCM members will be able to consider the following:

1. The preparation of a Roundtable with RCM-LAS-Arab Funds to discuss opportunities and gaps for regional development funding;
2. The preparation of a coordinated strategy of engagement with Arab Funds to support regional development priorities