20th Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

November/December 2014

UN House, Beirut, Lebanon

Context

The Regional Coordination Mechanism is mandated by ECOSOC to hold "regular interagency meetings in each of the 5 regions with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system in each region". Since 1999, ESCWA has organized 19 meetings of the RCM with participation by regional UN development organizations, the League of Arab States and other regional partners. Its five inter-agency working groups have collectively coordinated regional responses to emerging issues, prepared and implemented joint projects and produced regional reports.

The 20th meeting of the RCM in 2014 comes at a watershed moment in the Arab region. 2014 has seen unprecedented levels of crisis, conflict and instability that have threatened to compromise development gains in several countries, and that have put issues of good governance, human rights and social justice front and centre in the debate. The RCM will also be taking place a few months ahead of the 4th Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Tunisia in January 2015, where important decisions on the regional priorities will be made and commitments pledged. Globally, the UN and Member Countries are inching towards agreement on a sustainable development agenda for the post-2015, one that will provide a blueprint for development programming and cooperation for the next 15 years. Partnerships, financing and accountability to deliver on the ambitious development goals will be critical for their achievement.

The RCM offers a platform for UN entities and their regional partners to discuss their common support to member states and to review coordination and coherence on priority development issues for the Arab region.

Draft Options for the Agenda

The RCM agenda has in the past been built on three distinct, but interrelated pillars and objectives: 1) Enhancing Policy Coherence; 2) Enhancing Coordination among RCM Members on Key Priority Issues; and 3) Engaging in Regional and Global Processes.

Using the above framework, **the following <u>Options</u> for agenda items** are presented to all RCM members for their consideration and feedback. It is understood that there may not be sufficient time to cover all suggested items, and as such, RCM members are requested to indicate priority themes. **RCM members are also invited to suggest possible alternative items that they consider to be priority issues at this time**.

1.5 Days				
Time		**Session and objectives**		**Speakers**
		Opening Remarks **Approval of the agenda**		**ESCWA, UNDP, LAS, DSG**
		Promoting Sustainable Development and Social Justice in Crisis and Transition *Session objectives:* Informed by interventions of keynote speaker(s), and the ESCWA Ministerial Declaration on Social justice this session aims to: (a) explore the development impact of national and trans-national conflict and crisis; (b) discuss the changing face of development under chronic crisis; (c) identify priority areas for regional inter-agency regional action.		**Moderator:** **Presentations:** Keynote Speakers (TBD) ESCWA (on Declaration)
		Engaging the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development *Session objectives:* This session aims to: (a) review a summary of the draft SG Synthesis Report; (b) arrive at a common understanding of the role and mandate of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development; (c) use the RCM as a platform/vehicle to transmit priority issues to the upcoming 2015 HLPF .		**Moderator:** **Presentations:** DESA
		United Nations and the Arab Economic & Development Summit *Session objectives:* This session aims to: (a) agree on key strategic priorities and processes in preparation for the 4th Arab Economic and Social Development Summit; and (b) coordinate future support to anticipated Summit decisions / resolutions.		**Moderator:** **Presentations:** LAS
		Development Cooperation & Financing for Development *Session objectives:* With special focus on Arab Funds and traditional donors, this session aims to: (a) identify prospects for future development programming and funding; (b) explore areas of convergence and synergy; and (c) recommend modalities for future cooperation and coordination.		**Moderator:** **Presentations:** Arab Fund Bilateral Donor

		Progress of Work of the RCM *Session objectives:* Using brief progress reports in lieu of oral presentations, this session aims to: (a) review progress against recommendations of the 19th Meeting of the RCM; (b) review progress of work of the five RCM Working Groups (MDGs/SDGs, Climate Change, Food Security, International Migration, Statistics) with reference to established workplans and past recommendations; (c) provide direction and put forward recommendations to support the coordination work of the groups.		**Moderator:** **Presentations:**