

**Expert Group Meeting on Multidimensional Inequality in Arab Countries
Committee Room I, UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon, 18-19 February 2019**

Day One – 18 February 2019

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:45 Opening Session

ESCWA Speech, *Mr. Mounir Tabet, Acting Executive Secretary/Deputy Executive Secretary for Program, ESCWA*

Introductory Remarks, *Mr. Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Director, Economic Development and Integration Division, ESCWA*

Introductory Remarks, *Mr. Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum*

Overview and Objective of the Expert Group Meeting

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

09:45–11:00 Session I- Inequality of Outcome in Health

Chair: Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Ms. Verena Gantner, Junior Researcher, German Development Institute

Discussant: Ms. Myra Yazbeck, Associate Professor, Department of Economics University of Ottawa

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30 Session II – Inequality of Outcome in Education

Chair: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Ms. Verena Gantner, Junior Researcher, German Development Institute

Ms. Manuella Nehme, Individual Contractor, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: Ms. Rana Hendy, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Economics, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

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14:00 - 15:15 Session III- Inequality of Opportunity in Education

Chair: Ms. Racha Ramadan Mohamed, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics & Political Science, Cairo University

Ms. Rana Hendy, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Economics, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Discussant: *Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa*

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 - 16:45 Session IV- Inequality of Opportunity in Health

Chair: Mr. Marwan Khawaja, Chief, Social Statistics Section, ESCWA

Mr. Mesbah Sharaf, Faculty Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Alberta, Canada

Discussant: *Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa*

Day Two – 19 February 2019

09:00–10:15 Session V – Gender Inequality

Chair: Ms. Zahra Langhi, First Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA Center for Women, ESCWA

Ms. Racha Ramadan Mohamed, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics & Political Science, Cairo University

Ms. Hanan Nazier, Research Associate/Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics & Political Science, Cairo University

Discussant: *Ms. Sahar Taghdisi Rad, Lecturer in Economic, School of Oriental and African Studies*

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:45 Session VI – Poverty Correlates and Social Policy

Chair: Ms. Gisela Nauk, Chief, Inclusive Social Development Section, ESCWA

Mr. Bilal Al-Kiswani, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: *Mr. Rami Tabri, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University of Sydney*

11:45 – 13:15 Lunch break

13:15 – 14:30 Session VII – Inequality Drivers: The role of Economic Policies



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Chair: Mr. Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum

Mr. Niranjan Sarangi, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Salim Araji, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: *Mr. Ghassan Dibeh, Professor/Chair of the Department of Economics, Lebanese American University*

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break

14:45 – 16:00 Session VIII – Political Economy Considerations

Chair: Mr. Samir Makdisi, Professor, American University of Beirut

Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Discussant: *Ms. Sahar Taghdisi Rad, Lecturer in Economic, School of Oriental and African Studies*

16:00 – 17:00 Session VIII – Closing Session

Chair: Mr. Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum

Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, ESCWA

Mr. Paul Makdissi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa