General Assembly

Seventy-eighth session
Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2024

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2024

**Part V
Regional cooperation for development**

**Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia**

**Programme 19
Economic and social development in Western Asia**

Contents

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* A/78/50.

** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 77/267, the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information (part II) is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the Assembly.

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*** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 77/267, the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements (part III) is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly.

Foreword

As this proposed programme budget for 2024 is being considered, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia enters the sixth decade of its service to the peoples of the Arab region, peoples who aspire to live in just and thriving societies anchored in shared prosperity.

The potential for achieving this ambition is there, but many challenges, including climate change, limited economic diversification and high dependence on extractive industries, increased unemployment especially among the fast-growing youth populations, as well as conflict and occupation, to name only a few, continue to jeopardize progress against the national development targets set within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2024, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will continue to deploy its in-house expertise and know-how to provide its member States with relevant evidence and actionable policy options in support of decision-making, while fostering regional consensus and cooperation on transboundary issues. Technology- and artificial intelligence-enabled, contextualized, "on-demand" policy impact simulation tools remain pivotal in this regard and will be amplified by enhanced knowledge resources, accessible to broader audiences through the e-learning modality.

The proposed programme plan's formulation was guided not only by the principle of "leaving no one behind", but also with the aim to empower and enable all the peoples of the Arab region, including those in the most vulnerable situations, to contribute to shared development outcomes. Further investment in partnerships, including with civil society, academia and the private sector, is essential as ESCWA strives to ensure such a "whole of society" approach.

The 2024 ESCWA programme of work is backed by the strong commitment to effective delivery on the Commission's mandate, while ensuring efficient use of resources in support of its objectives and member States' priorities. To this effect, ESCWA programme managers embarked on a comprehensive spending review, to optimize their planned resource use; the outcome of this review is reflected in part B of the current proposal.

(*Signed*) Rola **Dashti**
Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

A. Proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

22.1 The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is responsible for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions, including Council resolution 1818 (LV) establishing the Commission and resolution 1985/69 amending its terms of reference to emphasize its social functions. At the seventh special session of the Commission, held in December 2022, member States welcomed the request by Djibouti to join the Commission, and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it accept the request. If endorsed by the Council, the membership of ESCWA will represent 21 out of the 22 member States of the League of Arab States (LAS).

22.2 Achieving all facets of sustainable development demands concerted efforts, underpinned by universal principles and evidence-based analysis, allowing for the enacting of short-, medium- and long-term solutions within national, regional and global trajectories. Although the Arab region holds all the human capital and resources vital for achieving shared prosperity and a dignified life for all its peoples, social, economic and environmental challenges and conflict continue to have an adverse impact on its progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Within the mandates entrusted to it, ESCWA is uniquely positioned to support national and regional efforts in this regard, in particular through the collection of evidence, the convening of dialogue around key development issues, the provision of policy advice and the building of government capacities. The Commission remains committed to do so in coordination with relevant stakeholders, ensuring a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Strategy and external factors for 2024

22.3 In line with its mandate and to deliver on its commitment to member States, the Commission will focus on the following: promoting, brokering and advocating for viable development solutions in the Arab region, championing a regional perspective through a global lens; defining and tabling novel policy options; and facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges. It will harness modern technologies and good practices and leverage all available resources for more effective and efficient programme delivery, and elevate its expertise to anticipate and match stakeholders' needs to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The Commission will focus on areas such as natural resource and transboundary water management and sustainability under changing climate conditions; the transition to new and renewable sources of energy and the circular economy; multidimensional poverty reduction and social protection; equitable and inclusive social development, with particular consideration of the needs of persons in vulnerable situations, such as women, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and as part of the commitment to "leave no one behind"; equitable economic growth and prosperity supported by improved regional integration and opportunities for trade and small and medium-sized enterprises; innovative financing for development solutions; information technology and statistics as a means to improve the availability and accessibility of evidence, participation and inclusion; as well as governance, strengthening of public institutions and the assessment and mitigation of transboundary risks, including conflict.

22.4 ESCWA will also ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of least developed and middle-income countries and countries in conflict are appropriately considered and addressed, including by supporting five Arab least developed countries, members of ESCWA, in meeting the commitments of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031.

22.5   As part of its concerted efforts in support of member States' achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Commission will continue to analyse trends and generate and disseminate knowledge, good practices and data related to a variety of sustainable development issues. It will further enhance and consolidate its suite of interactive, artificial intelligence- and technology-based modelling tools, which will enable government officials, policymakers, experts and practitioners, as well as the private sector and civil societies at large, to utilize data in new and more intelligent ways, such as simulation models and tailored-to-context policy options with impact forecasting for informed decision-making.

22.6   ESCWA will also continue to leverage its convening role to serve as a regional forum for setting norms and building consensus at the sub-, intra- and interregional levels, in particular, to promote durable solutions for transboundary issues that impede the progress of individual member States towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It will also promote South-South and triangular cooperation and act as an active advocate for the needs and priorities of the Arab region at the global level.

22.7   With regard to cooperation with other entities, the Commission will continue to consolidate its strategic partnerships at the global, interregional, regional, national and local levels to deliver results. At the core of this enhanced approach to partnerships is the understanding that no development intervention can succeed in a silo. Against this backdrop, further investments will be made in strategic engagement with intergovernmental organizations, such as LAS or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee; international financial institutions, for example the Islamic Development Bank; academia and think tanks, through the established Academic Network for Development Dialogue platform; civil society organizations; and the private sector, so as to create maximum synergy and coherence and to ensure that no one is left behind. In addition, new opportunities and initiatives will be pursued with existing and potential partners to expand the range of services and support available to member States, in particular by securing access to innovation and new technologies, knowledge, data and expertise, as well as financing.

22.8   With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ESCWA will continue to play a lead role in the Arab region in implementing the Secretary-General's reform agenda, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/279. In this context, the Commission will further strengthen its cooperation and coordination with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, among others. It will continue to work closely with the United Nations Development Coordination Office and Resident Coordinator Offices of the United Nations and through the regional collaborative platform in the Arab region to support common country assessments and to ensure greater complementarity and synergy of its own projects with those implemented by the United Nations country teams as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

22.9   With regard to external factors, the overall plan for 2024 is based on the following planning assumptions:

(a)   The national and regional development and political landscapes remain conducive for ESCWA to provide integrated policy advice and technical support and to build member States' capacities;

(b)   Arab member States, and Member States at large, remain committed to sub-, inter- and intraregional collaboration on transboundary issues;

(c)   Development partners remain engaged and interested in joint initiatives and projects in support of member States and sustainable development solutions.

22.10   ESCWA will continue to integrate a gender perspective in its activities, deliverables and results, by supporting member States in developing inclusive, gender-sensitive policy frameworks aimed at tackling a wide range of social and economic issues for women's empowerment, as outlined in

result 3 under subprogramme 2 and result 2 under subprogramme 3. In addition to generating the required evidence and ongoing advocacy, the Commission will continue to build the capacity of national actors and promote peer-to-peer learning on gender justice, population and inclusive development, as part of the global accountability framework for gender equality, in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/16.

22.11   In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Commission will continue to intensify its efforts to advance the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities in its programmes, working, inter alia, towards enhancing their access to labour markets and basic services. It will also continue to engage with government representatives through the established Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability as part of its efforts to foster policy discussions, peer-to-peer learning and cooperation for achieving greater disability inclusion.

22.12   ESCWA remains committed to advocacy for a greater empowerment and addressing the unique concerns and needs of young people and the elderly, as vital conditions for a successful and inclusive socioeconomic development of the Arab region; as outlined in results 1 and 3 under subprogramme 2.

Impact of the pandemic and lessons learned

22.13   The continuation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic into 2022 did not have a significant impact on the implementation of mandates and did not result in the need to reprogramme planned ESCWA activities for 2022. The lifting of travel restrictions allowed ESCWA to resume in-person engagements, which have proved much more effective for the transfer of knowledge, capacity-building as well as advocacy and consensus-building at the regional level, and peer-to-peer learning. While these activities had not ceased during the pandemic, online modalities of their delivery had proved less effective.

22.14   In addition, in order to support member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, within the overall scope of the objectives, ESCWA ensured that considerations and support to member States related to socioeconomic recovery from the pandemic continued to be mainstreamed into the Commission's overall programme of work and used as anchors and opportunities for contextualized support with the aim of accelerating progress against national Sustainable Development Goals targets and emerging, post-pandemic priorities linked to the Goals. For example, as indicated in result 1 under subprogramme 5, ESCWA engaged with member States to promote a closer alignment between national Sustainable Development Goals agendas and recovery and post-COVID-19 development planning.

22.15   The Commission continues to mainstream lessons learned and good practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme, both substantively and with respect to modalities of delivery, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, the use of modern technologies during the pandemic allowed ESCWA to maintain engagement and dialogue with member States and other relevant stakeholders. ESCWA will further invest in the use of modern technologies, where appropriate, to complement more traditional methods of programme delivery with the aim of further broadening the range of stakeholders partaking in its consultative processes and promoting a whole-of-society approach to development. On the basis of the positive feedback from end users, also in the context of effective programme delivery during the pandemic, ESCWA will place greater emphasis on anticipatory analysis of trends and of related policy advice needs of its member States and address them proactively through the production and dissemination of timely, contextualized and concise knowledge products, such as policy briefs and technical materials. It will also further consolidate and develop additional interactive, artificial intelligence-enabled policy simulation tools, which when paired with capacity-building, will continue to boost the ability of policy- and decision-makers to generate "on demand", customized policy scenarios and alternatives.

Legislative mandates

22.16   The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme:

General Assembly resolutions

68/196	United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development	74/230	Culture and sustainable development
68/211	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	75/4	Special session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	76/258	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development	77/156	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	77/183	Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
		77/185	South-South cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1818 (LV)	Establishment of an Economic Commission for Western Asia	2016/10	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
1985/69	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women	2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system
		2020/23	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2014/36	Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the Executive Committee and amendment of its terms of reference	2021/3	New strategic vision of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
2015/10	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme	2022/23	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ministerial declarations and resolutions

Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region (2014)		334 (XXX)	Adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2016)			
Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region (2018)		335 (S-VI)	Programme Plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for 2021
Arab Declaration on Progress in Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 25 Years (2019)		337 (S-VII)	Request from Djibouti for membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
286 (XXV)	Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women	340 (S-VII)	Proposed programme plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for 2024
296 (XXVI)	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals	341 (S-VII)	Adoption of the session reports of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
331 (XXX)	Comprehensive approaches to technical cooperation in response to member States' emerging needs		

Subprogramme 1
Climate change and natural resource sustainability

General Assembly resolutions

71/222	International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018–2028	75/219; 77/167	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
72/178	The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	75/222	Combating sand and dust storms
72/242	Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	75/235	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
73/226	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028	75/271	Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use
74/215	Agricultural technology for sustainable development	75/280	International meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity"
75/179	The right to food	77/164	Disaster risk reduction
75/212	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018–2028	77/165	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
		77/170	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/218; 77/166	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa		

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

281 (XXV)	Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region	329 (XXX)	Establishment of the Arab centre for climate change policies in the Arab region
305 (XXVII)	Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference	339 (S-VII)	Establishment of a centre for advancing carbon emissions reduction under the Commission

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

5/11	Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production

Subprogramme 2
Gender justice, population and inclusive development

General Assembly resolutions

66/130	Women and political participation	69/236	World Survey on the Role of Women in Development
66/131	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	71/256	New Urban Agenda
68/143	Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa	73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
68/181	Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders	74/120	Promoting social integration through social inclusion
		74/121	Policies and programmes involving youth
		74/126	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
68/191	Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls	74/127	Violence against women migrant workers

74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/134	The girl child
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/148	Protection of migrants
74/253	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system

75/161	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
77/176	International migration and development
77/179	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
77/181	Women in development
77/188	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
77/190	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Security Council resolutions

1325 (2000)

2535 (2020)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2014/5	Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
2015/21	Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
2017/12	Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2019/6	Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies
2020/15	Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2021/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2021/8	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia declarations and resolutions

Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region (2016)

Arab Declaration on Progress in the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 25 years (2019)

| 304 (XXVII) | The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development |

Subprogramme 3
Shared economic prosperity

General Assembly resolutions

69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
74/205	Financial inclusion for sustainable development
74/231	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/299	Improving global road safety
75/182	The right to development

77/151	International trade and development
77/152	International financial system and development
77/153	External debt sustainability and development
77/154	Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development
77/174	Towards a New International Economic Order
77/175	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

214 (XIX)	Establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region	332 (XXX)	Developing the work of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development
303 (XXVII)	Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries	338 (S-VII)	Establishment of an Arab integrated road safety observatory
308 (XXVII)	The regional dimension of development		
313 (XXVII)	Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region		

Subprogramme 4
Statistics, the information society and technology

General Assembly resolutions

68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
70/125	Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society	75/316	Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2019/19	Promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information-sharing
2011/24	Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management		
2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	2019/24	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2014/35	Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	2020/13	Science, technology and innovation for development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

276 (XXIV); 287 (XXV)	Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region	294 (XXVI)	Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre
283 (XXV)	ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems	306 (XXVII)	Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

Subprogramme 5
2030 Agenda and SDG coordination

General Assembly resolutions

74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly		Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
75/290 A; 75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council		

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

314 (XXVIII)	The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development	327 (XXIX)	Working mechanisms of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

**Subprogramme 6
Governance and conflict prevention**

General Assembly resolutions

68/303	Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution	77/25	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine
69/291; 75/328	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa	77/26	The Syrian Golan
		77/187	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources
69/327	Promoting inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development	77/208	The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
75/126	Assistance to the Palestinian people	77/216	Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all
77/22	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People		

Security Council resolution

1947 (2010)   2461 (2019)

2429 (2018)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2021/1	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

271 (XXIV)	Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development		committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings
282 (XXV)	Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries	307 (XXVII); 316 (XXVIII); 330 (XXX)	Support for the Palestinian people
292 (XXVI)	Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental	326 (XXIX)	Justice for the Palestinian people: fifty years of Israeli occupation

Deliverables

22.17   Table 22.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 22.1
Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**9**	**10**	**12**	**10**
1. Reports for the ESCWA ministerial session (special session)	1	10	–	–
2. Reports for the Executive Committee	8	–	12	10
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**16**	**13**	**17**	**15**
Meetings of:				
3. The ESCWA ministerial session (special session)	–	4	–	–
4. The Executive Committee	6	–	8	6
5. The ESCWA Advisory Committee	3	2	2	2
6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
7. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
8. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
9. The Regional collaborative platform	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Publications (number of publications)	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
10. ESCWA annual report	1	–	1	1
11. Arab Vision 2045	–	1	–	–
12. Performance of the United Nations development system in the Arab region	–	–	1	–

C. **Substantive deliverables**

Databases and substantive digital materials: Manara (knowledge platform providing artificial intelligence-enabled public access to all United Nations knowledge resources, tools and analysis for improved decision-making), ESCWA Learn (a global and innovative learning platform to provide training and knowledge and increase capabilities and skills).

D. **Communication deliverables**

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: newsletters; celebration of special international days and weeks, such as International Women's Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities and World Environmental Day; brochures, leaflets, posters and other promotional material on ESCWA activities; briefings, lectures and awareness-raising activities with schools, universities and visitors on the work of the United Nations and ESCWA; ESCWA Stories, a comic book for children on the 2030 Agenda and accompanying outreach programme.

External and media relations: press conferences, interviews and briefings by the Executive Secretary and other senior officials and for the launch of flagship publications and events; ESCWA live television broadcasting services; press releases and media coverage on ESCWA activities and meetings.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: videos and other visual content on ESCWA activities and daily ESCWA news on the ESCWA website and social media accounts; ESCWApod (podcast series).

Evaluation activities

22.18   The following evaluations completed in 2022 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2024:

(a)   Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluation of subprogramme 3: shared economic prosperity;

(b)   Two thematic evaluations conducted by ESCWA of: (i) the ESCWA e-learning portfolio; and (ii) the Commission's approaches to supporting and influencing policymaking at the national and regional levels (phase II).

22.19   The results and lessons of the evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the programme plan for 2024. For example, the evaluation of the e-learning portfolio informed its ongoing enhancement to match the substantive demand by civil servants in member States and the optimization of the modes of delivery. Going forward, e-learning has been adopted as an efficient and effective means of building capacity, which makes it possible on the one hand to reach broader audiences and on the other hand to prepare target audiences for more focused capacity-building activities. Phase II of the evaluation of ESCWA approaches to policy influence resulted in the development and roll-out of hands-on internal guidance on good practices in knowledge production and dissemination, as well as capacity-building and consensus-building activities for more concrete policy results in the region. In addition, ESCWA has been working on addressing the recommendations of OIOS developed in connection with the evaluation of its subprogramme 3: shared economic prosperity, in particular those referring to enhanced communication with member States and partners on ongoing programmes and services provided.

22.20   The following evaluations are planned for 2024:

(a)   Thematic evaluation conducted by the entity of ESCWA communication function;

(b)   Thematic evaluation conducted by the entity of one additional area of the Commission's work.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1
Climate change and natural resource sustainability

Objective

22.21   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance climate action and integrated and sustainable policies in the areas of water, energy and food security.

Strategy

22.22   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Deploy in-house expertise and, where relevant, collaborate with experts to assess the impact of and analyse trends, challenges and opportunities, and subsequently disseminate science-based knowledge products pertaining, but not limited, to issues such as transboundary management of water resources; extractive industries and transition to cleaner energy, also as means of economic diversification; sustainable production and consumption; climate action and climate adaptation, including pathways to reducing climate vulnerability and innovative and accessible solutions for financing climate- and resilience-related interventions; and developing interactive, data-driven, modelling platforms;

(b)   Provide technical and policy advice and expertise to member States and build human and institutional capacities at the national and local levels to use the knowledge, as well as evidence and tools to identify and operationalize immediate, medium- and long-term solutions; mainstream climate- and natural resource management-related considerations into national development plans and budgets; and identify opportunities for financing climate change action and adaptation;

(c)   Convene intergovernmental platforms and technical bodies to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue and peer-to-peer exchanges between policymakers and practitioners, experts, civil society and other development partners from within and outside the Arab region with the aim of promoting sub-, intra- and interregional cooperation and coordination, and of fostering consensus on priorities and actions, towards the development of national, transboundary and regional normative frameworks that will support and promote: (i) the sustainable management of water

and other natural resources; (ii) sustainable production and consumption pathways; (iii) improved access to affordable, reliable and sustainable sources of energy; and (iv) improved resilience of individuals and livelihoods, all in the context of climate change and required adaptation;

(d) Advocate with national Governments, regional intergovernmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders, including through supporting integrated, regional reporting and monitoring of the progress against specific Sustainable Development Goal targets, for a greater uptake of identified solutions; and leverage existing and build new partnerships in support of implementing such commitments and securing the necessary resources;

(e) Through the newly established centre for advancing carbon emissions reduction, foster opportunities for regional collaboration to accelerate the reduction of emissions and facilitate the implementation of the circular carbon economy as a key component for addressing carbon emission management towards more sustainable and equitable development.[1]

22.23 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) The adoption by member States of national policy frameworks and regional agreements related to climate action and adaptation, allowing for: (a) greater access to climate finance; (b) surface and groundwater resource management; (c) the transition to sustainable energy and the circular economy; (d) resilient food systems supported by sustainable agriculture; and (e) reduced emissions;

(b) Strengthened sub- and intraregional cooperation on issues outlined in paragraph 22.22, supported by inclusive networks and participatory coordination mechanisms and platforms.

Programme performance in 2022

Arab member States pitch investable proposals for climate action financing

22.24 There is a shortfall of climate finance in the Arab region. In response, the subprogramme led the first ever Arab regional forum on climate initiatives to finance climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. The event, hosted by ESCWA, aimed to support its member States in leveraging financial support for climate action, particularly for improved availability of water, energy and food under changing climate conditions. The forum enabled member States to engage with a broad set of donors and investors from the public and private sectors, articulate their financing needs and seek feedback on planned projects. In addition, to assist with identifying opportunities for private sector investment, blended finance and bilateral support, the subprogramme supported seven Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Tunisia) with the preparation of 26 investable projects, on the basis of country-driven priorities. The proposals focused on climate change adaptation in the areas of water supply and sanitation, flood control, irrigation management, agricultural resilience and forests and coastline management, as well as climate change mitigation through new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, transport and co-benefits. Furthermore, to foster understanding among national stakeholders, further inform climate finance dialogues and support access to and the mobilization of climate finance for its member States, ESCWA published a policy brief highlighting climate finance flows and needs in the Arab region and contributed to the development of the Arab States Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy 2022–2030, as well as its annex, the technical assessment of climate finance in the Arab States.

22.25 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.2).

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[1] See ESCWA resolution 339 (S-VII), on the establishment of a centre for advancing carbon emissions reduction under the Commission.

Table 22.2
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
Identification of the shortfall in financing as a key factor impeding progress on climate action	Member States have access to the technical assessment of climate finance	7 member States (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Tunisia) developed and presented 26 climate change finance projects to potential investors

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: improved groundwater management in transboundary settings under the changing climate

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.26   The subprogramme's work contributed to five member States (Algeria, Jordan, Libya, the State of Palestine and Tunisia) recognizing the importance of transboundary groundwater for securing their medium- to long-term freshwater needs, which met the planned target.

22.27   In addition, the subprogramme's work contributed to 12 member States (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) having access to a regional digital database on groundwater resources, which exceeded the planned target of 10 member States.

22.28   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.3).

Table 22.3
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
A diverse range of stakeholders benefited from webinars on groundwater-related topics, structured around shared priority concerns and addressing knowledge gaps	2 member States (Iraq and Mauritania) joined transboundary water cooperation arrangements	5 member States (Algeria, Jordan, Libya, the State of Palestine and Tunisia) recognized the importance of transboundary groundwater for securing their medium- to long-term freshwater needs	At least 2 member States develop arrangements to address transboundary groundwater challenges within the context of climate change	At least 1 additional member State develops arrangements to address transboundary groundwater challenges within the context of climate change
Regional guidelines for improved groundwater abstraction and management, vetted by at least 5 member States	4 member States (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and the State of Palestine) conducted an assessment of climate change impact on their	12 member States (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and	At least 5 member States contribute data for the regional digital database on groundwater resources	At least 3 additional member States contribute data for the regional digital database on groundwater resources

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
	groundwater resources	Yemen) acknowledged and benefited from the launch of a regional digital database on groundwater resources		

Result 2: increased use of regional knowledge platforms for informed climate action

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.29　The subprogramme's work contributed to 32,453 visits to the regional knowledge platforms and 7,904 downloads, which exceeded the planned target of 28,500 visits, but did not meet the target of 26,000 downloads. The target was not met owing to maintenance and overhaul work being conducted, which prevented downloads during part of the reporting period.

22.30　Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 22.I).

Figure 22.I
Performance measure: number of visits to the regional knowledge platforms and number of downloads (annual)
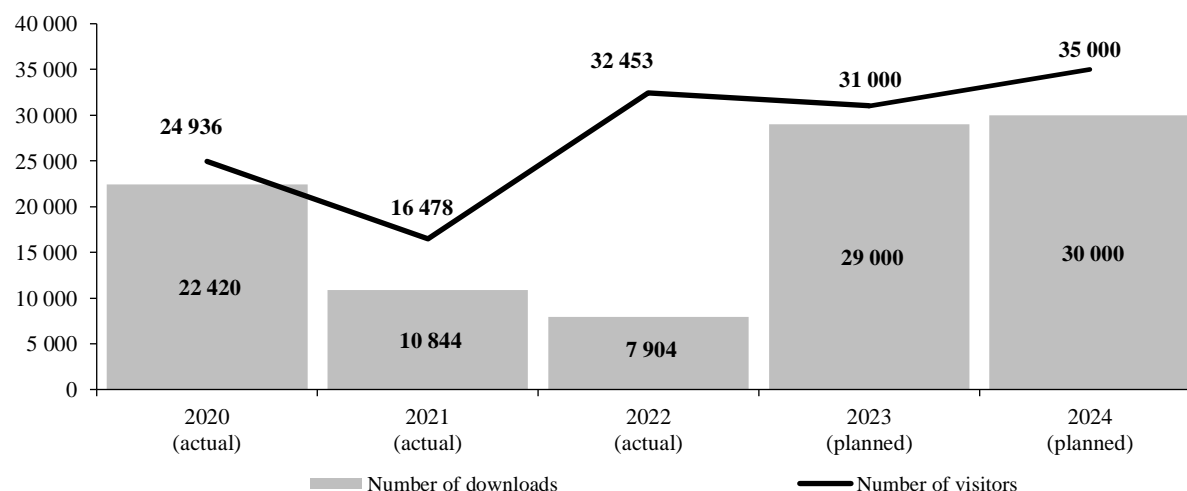
Result 3: sustainable transition to new and renewable sources of energy underpinned by a transformed extractive industries sector

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.31　Extractive industries underpin economic development for many countries in the Arab region; yet, in the context of rapidly changing climate and the urgent need to adapt, the sector's transformation is critical and, if approached strategically, can play a key role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the importance of the issue, in 2021, member States established the regional group of experts on extractive industries, a platform aimed at fostering regional consensus in the context of the global conversation on extractive industries.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.32   The lesson for the subprogramme was that a holistic approach that considers the distinct needs of resource-rich developing countries in the region and, at the same time, enables greater long-term diversification and targeted support to people in vulnerable situations, including women, indigenous communities, young people and those who will be initially affected by the transition, is required, in order to foster the desired transformation of the extractive industries sector in the Arab region. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will leverage the group of experts to foster inclusive, multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and information exchange and to ensure that regional- and national-level initiatives support, enhance and fill the gaps in ongoing efforts to transform extractive industries globally. Concurrently, the subprogramme will engage with member States to identify and utilize opportunities for capacity-building, foster partnerships and coordinate interventions and resources in line with "net-zero emission" targets, enabling a just, inclusive, equitable and secure energy transition.

22.33   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (table 22.4).

Table 22.4
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
–	Regional group of experts on extractive industries established	Member States have access to information on extractive industries in the Arab region Strategic framework and road map for enabling a just, inclusive, equitable and secure transition of the energy sector, on the basis of the circular carbon economy framework, is developed for one member State (Kuwait)	Member States have access to a suite of knowledge products and evidence on key pillars of the extractive industries sector and pathways to transition to sustainable energy systems Member States utilize the group of experts to exchange expertise and good practices, and coordinate national actions at the regional level	Member States formulate national policy frameworks in support of transforming extractive energy sector towards a transition to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern, energy systems

Deliverables

22.34   Table 22.5 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.5
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	–	–	**12**	–
1. Documents for the Committee on Energy	–	–	6	–
2. Documents for the Committee on Water Resources	–	–	6	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**30**	**30**	**38**	**30**
3. Meetings of the Committee on Water Resources	–	–	4	–
4. Meetings of the Committee on Energy	–	–	4	–
5. Meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and its committees of experts on electricity in Arab countries and on renewable energy and energy efficiency	6	6	6	6
6. Session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and of its Technical, Scientific and Advisory Committee	6	6	6	6
7. Sessions of the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate and of its Permanent Committee for Meteorology, and the Sub-Committee on Weather and Climate Risk Information Management	10	10	10	10
8. Sessions of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and its Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region	8	8	8	8
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**4**	**7**	**6**	**5**
9. Climate resilience through regional cooperation for inclusive sustainable development (expansion of the Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-scale Renewable Energy Application in Rural Areas of the Arab Region)	1	1	1	1
10. Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies	1	1	–	1
11. Centre for Advancing Emissions Reduction	–	–	–	1
12. Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab region (RICCAR)	1	1	1	1
13. Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET)	1	1	1	1
14. Increasing the resilience of both displaced persons and host communities to climate change-related water challenges in Jordan and Lebanon	–	1	1	–
15. Increasing watershed resilience to climate change	–	1	1	–
16. The Mashreq water knowledge series	–	1	1	–
Publications (number of publications)	**2**	**–**	**2**	**1**
17. Publications on topics related to climate action and sustainable natural resource management	2	–	2	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	**6**	**11**	**6**	**8**
18. Materials on topics related to climate action and sustainable natural resource management	6	11	6	8
C. Substantive deliverables				

Consultation, advice and advocacy: substantive advice to global and regional meetings, including sessions of ministerial councils convened by LAS and meetings of standing and ad hoc expert groups on environment, water, electricity, meteorology and climate; joint ministerial meetings on agriculture and water; meetings of standing and ad hoc expert groups on climat e change; sustainable technology adaptation; sustainable consumption and production; water security; transboundary groundwater; resource efficiency; agriculture and food security; energy management; and other issues relating to sustainable natural resource s.

Databases and substantive digital materials: RICCAR regional knowledge hub on climate change and water for approximately 5,000 users.

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: briefs, fact sheets and booklets on climate change, digital and sustainable technologies, water security, resilient food systems, good agriculture practices, food security, sustainable energy, extractive industries and emissions reduction, as well as other related issues; side events during the sessions of conferences and committees, as well as global and regional events; and webinars for at least 2,000 regional stakeholders.

Subprogramme 2
Gender justice, population and inclusive development

Objective

22.35   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve equitable and inclusive social development and reduced inequality, poverty and unemployment in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

Strategy

22.36   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Develop knowledge products and policy recommendations, underpinned by an analysis of trends, challenges and opportunities, as well as international norms and standards, on a wide range of issues pertaining, but not limited, to the following: social inclusion and protection; social and gender justice; reduction of multidimensional poverty and unemployment; and socioeconomic participation and the empowerment of women, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other groups in vulnerable situations, as a key pillar of inclusive and sustainable development;

(b)   Provide technical and policy advice and expertise to member States and build national and local, human and institutional capacities to assess existing policy frameworks and social protection systems, to identify and operationalize viable legislation and solutions and to mainstream into national development plans and budgets considerations related to the greater inclusion and equal participation, the protection and the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations;

(c)   Enhance the existing methodology for analysis of multidimensional poverty and of the impact of shocks on inclusive development trajectories; and further develop interactive, intelligent, data-driven tools to facilitate policymaking, in particular with respect to unemployment and labour markets;

(d)   Engage member States and relevant stakeholders and development partners in dialogue and exchange of good practices, including by promoting South-South collaboration and peer learning, on issues such as migration, social protection and inclusion, and rights and social and economic empowerment of women, young people and persons with disabilities.

22.37   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   National policy frameworks developed and implemented by member States on various topics, including social protection systems, poverty alleviation, employment and labour markets, aimed at reduced structural inequalities and greater inclusion and socioeconomic empowerment and participation, while addressing the specific needs of women, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants and other groups in vulnerable situations;

(b)   Enhanced coverage of peoples of the Arab region, and in particular persons in vulnerable situations, by social protection systems, and their improved access to employment opportunities.

Programme performance in 2022

Common ground and strengthened dialogue for improved national migration policies

22.38   The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration mandated the United Nations regional commissions to support the follow-up and review process to ensure progress towards achieving the set objectives. In this context, the subprogramme and its partners led the first regional review of the Global Compact (2020–2021), including the development of its methodology, which was endorsed by member States, and the provision of technical support to member States. The applied whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, which brought together government officials, trade unions and migrant representatives, enabled the identification of national challenges and potential ways forward to tackle migration issues. Subsequently, the subprogramme facilitated a regional dialogue and peer-to-peer exchanges to promote regional, intraregional and cross-border collaboration between concerned countries. In 2022, together with partners, the subprogramme facilitated the articulation of common concerns and positions by Arab member States ahead of the International Migration Review Forum and an interregional dialogue between African and Arab States in relation to the existing migration corridors between the two regions, focused on identifying possible solutions and areas for collaboration. It also joined other regional commissions in exploring the means to accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact at the regional level.

22.39   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.6).

Table 22.6
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
Arab member States agreed on methodology for national reviews against the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	11 member States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, the Sudan and Tunisia) completed their first national migration reviews First regional migration review completed	Arab member States developed a common position by which they commit to ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration for everyone, ahead of the International Migration Review Forum Strengthened dialogue and cross-border collaboration on migration between Member States in Africa and the Arab region

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: accelerated coherent ageing policies in the Arab region

Programme performance in 2022 and planned target for 2024

22.40   The subprogramme's work contributed to three additional policies having been developed in the Arab region (Iraq, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic), which exceeded the planned target of two additional policies.

22.41   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 22.II).

Figure 22.II
Performance measure: number of Arab countries with coherent ageing policies (cumulative)
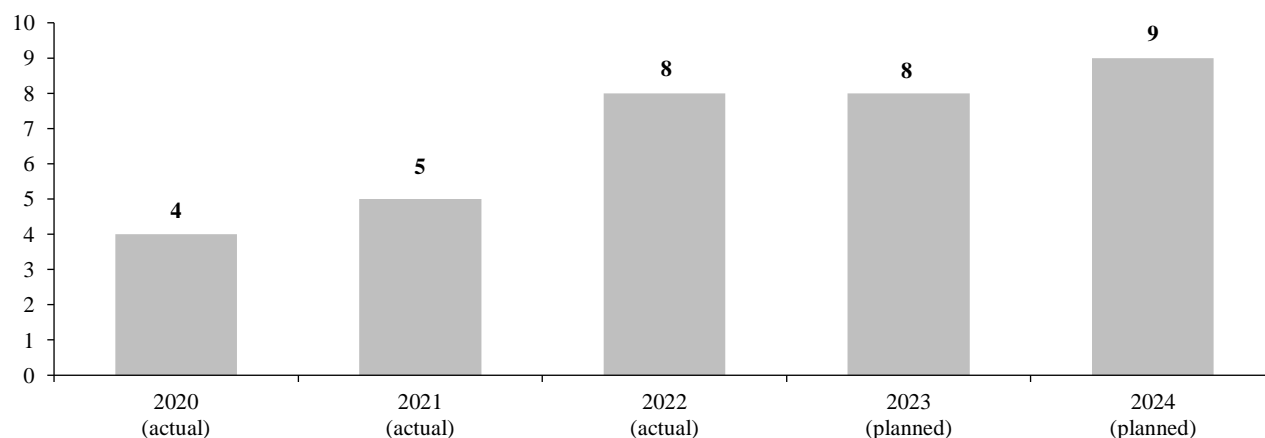
Result 2: increased effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems in the Arab region

Programme performance in 2022 and planned target for 2024

22.42   The subprogramme's work contributed to civil servants and social assistance professionals from three member States (Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania) having been trained on the social protection programme rapid assessment framework tool to increase the inclusiveness of social protection systems, which met the planned target.

22.43   In addition, the subprogramme's work contributed to two member States (Egypt and Jordan) identifying enhancements required to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems, which met the planned target.

22.44   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.7).

Table 22.7
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
During COVID-19, at least eight member States (Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, the Sudan and Tunisia) rapidly channelled additional assistance to households covered by social insurance and social assistance and set up temporary emergency programmes directed at informal workers who were covered neither by social	179 people (66 men and 113 women) from 17 member States trained on tools to increase inclusiveness of social protection systems 1 member State (Jordan) analysed the inclusiveness of its social protection systems	Civil servants and social assistance professionals from 3 member States (Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania) trained on the social protection programme rapid assessment framework tool to increase inclusiveness of social protection systems 2 member States (Egypt and Jordan)	2 additional member States identify enhancements required to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems	2 member States adopt measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
assistance nor social insurance		identified enhancements required to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems, in particular those related to effective coverage of currently excluded groups		

Result 3: skills-focused approaches to boost access to employment opportunities

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.45   The COVID-19 pandemic compounded the issue of unemployment in the Arab region, where, as of 2022, nearly 15.3 million individuals remained without jobs, putting additional pressure on policymakers to develop immediate, medium- and long-term solutions to address the stagnant labour force participation and ensure sustainable and inclusive employment creation. The subprogramme examined the underlying causes of the persisting lack of employment opportunities in Arab economies, while focusing on the mismatch of skills as a key factor. In this context, the Commission developed an interactive tool – Skills Monitor – which tracks labour market needs and skills deficits in the region and supports the development of targeted national labour market policies, by providing information on required upskilling, reskilling and skills diversification.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.46   The lesson for the subprogramme was that an early, commensurate action by Governments, academic institutions and concerned individuals requires an anticipatory analysis of changes in skill sets, including skills driven by the fourth industrial revolution, and unexpected shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will further enhance its artificial intelligence-based Skills Monitor tool with the aim of enabling Arab policymakers to monitor skills that are "in demand", evaluate factors and shocks affecting the evolution of the job market and design relevant policy frameworks. The tool, which will be enhanced to capture implicit and explicit gender bias in the job market, will also be made available to Arab universities in support of decision-making on curricula offered, in order to better prepare individuals for the requirements of the labour market.

22.47   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.8).

Table 22.8
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
–	Prototype of the artificial intelligence-based skills-to-jobs matching portal is piloted by 1 member State (Qatar)	Working-age populations in 4 member States (Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Qatar) were able to identify job	Arab policymakers have access to evidence on factors affecting the job market (skill sets in demand, inclusiveness)	At least 10 academic institutions in the Arab region utilize the Skills Monitor as part of their career-planning support to graduates

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
		opportunities based on their skills through the artificial intelligence-based Skills Monitor portal		

Deliverables

22.48   Table 22.9 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.9
Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**4**	**–**	**13**	**–**
1. Documents for the Committee on Women	2	–	7	–
2. Documents for the Committee on Social Development	2	–	6	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**–**	**–**	**11**	**1**
3. Meetings of the Committee on Social Development	–	–	4	–
4. Meetings of the Committee on Women	–	–	4	–
5. Meetings of subcommittees on social protection, gender and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the intersessional group of experts on disability	–	–	3	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**
Projects on:				
6. Migration governance framework	1	1	–	–
7. Ageing policy framework	1	1	–	–
8. Assessing skills and skills matching techniques	1	1	–	1
9. Towards Beijing +30 review	–	–	1	–
10. Women and peace and security: moving from plans to actions	–	–	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**3**	**5**	**26**	**20**
Workshops on:				
11. Social justice, including integrating social justice principles into public policies and programmes, social entrepreneurship	–	–	11	8
12. Gender justice and women's empowerment	3	3	1	4
13. Population development, aging	–	–	4	–
14. Multidimensional poverty, social protection	–	2	6	6
15. Migration	–	–	4	2
Publications (number of publications)	**4**	**4**	**10**	**2**
16. On the realization of human rights for women; social protection; poverty; inequality; the future of work; and migration	4	4	10	2

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
Technical materials (number of materials)	**15**	**18**	**16**	**22**
17. On the realization of human rights for women; social protection; poverty; inequality; the future of work; and migration	15	18	16	22

C. **Substantive deliverables**

Consultation, advice and advocacy: meetings of standing and ad hoc expert groups on violence against women; women and peace and security; women's economic empowerment; social protection; poverty; inequality; fiscal policy; informality and the labour market; the future of work; urban development; disability; migration; ageing, youth; and other social issues.

Databases and substantive digital materials: social protection programme rapid assessment framework; ESCWA Skills Monitor; virtual portal on gender justice and equality in law in the Arab region.

D. **Communication deliverables**

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: campaign, promotional material and closing ceremony for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign[a] event on gender justice for at least 50 regional stakeholders; events, campaigns and promotional materials on International Women's Day for at least 50 regional stakeholders; materials on violence against women; information graphs on key results of publications and expert group meetings; advocacy campaigns on International Day of Older Persons, International Migrants Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

External and media relations: commentaries on violence against women; commentaries on women economic empowerment.

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[a] See General Assembly resolution 67/144.

Subprogramme 3
Shared economic prosperity

Objective

22.49 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve equitable economic growth, amplify regional interconnectedness and integration, and advance the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Strategy

22.50 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Develop and make available knowledge products and evidence for policymaking related to trade, logistics and transport, including: opportunities for greater regional integration; economic diversification and macroeconomic stability; fiscal practices and frameworks as a means of increasing resources available for investment in identified social priorities; and financing of development initiatives, including the development of integrated national financing frameworks, debt management and sustainability, and debt-swap for climate change action;

(b) Enhance existing and develop new interactive, data-driven platforms and policy simulation models pertaining to trade flows, taxation, social expenditure and development investments, the impact of policies towards gender equality on economies and contextualized economic modelling, among others; and promote the application of modern technologies, such as blockchain, as means of facilitating trade and logistics;

(c) Make available to its member States technical and policy advice and expertise and build national and local, human and institutional capacities to deploy available modelling, forecasting and impact simulation tools in support of decision-making and policy development processes aimed at providing immediate, medium- and long-term solutions to a range of national development challenges in the areas identified in paragraph 22.50 (a);

(d) Promote greater collaboration and coordination at the national and regional levels, including through the exchange of good practices; and foster consensus on priorities and actions, as well as joint initiatives aimed at improving regional integration, facilitating trade and securing funding for development initiatives.

22.51 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) National policy frameworks developed and enacted by member States to tackle structural economic challenges, including debt management and sustainability; boosting trade opportunities and economic diversification, including by enhancing operational environment for small and medium-sized enterprises; and creating fiscal space for social investment and provision of expanded range of basic social services;

(b) A greater contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises to national and regional economies, and a greater economic participation and empowerment of individuals, including those in vulnerable situations.

Programme performance in 2022

Arab small and medium-size enterprises engage in conducting business online

22.52 A significant proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises in Arab the region remained unable to tap into online marketplaces, owing to a lack of know-how and connectivity to e-payment systems and logistics networks, as well as a scarcity of information on markets, among other things. This, in turn, affected their income and growth, and employment opportunities overall. As part of its plan to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, The subprogramme launched a pilot programme – the "e-commercial acceleration programme" – which supported such enterprises in the digitalization process. The subprogramme conducted three training modules, developed using the available information and communications technology, focused on building capacities in commercial and promotion strategies for online merchandizing, website development, marketplace analysis and other infrastructure necessary to conduct an online business.

22.53 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.10).

Table 22.10
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
–	–	100 small and medium-sized enterprises, including 46 women-owned businesses, from 15 Arab member States and sectors such as agriculture, retail and services, engaged in conducting business online

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: debt swap for improved resources for climate and development finance

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.54   The subprogramme's work contributed to one member State (Jordan) developing a debt-swap programme proposal estimated at $1 billion to finance climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals over the period 2022–2030, and two additional member States (Egypt and Tunisia) initiating the process to operationalize the debt-swap for climate finance initiative, which did not meet the planned target of one or more additional member States agreeing to set aside an amount of debt to swap for a climate or development finance initiative. The target was not met owing to the slower-than-expected progress in negotiations between the different stakeholders and the shifting priorities in view of emerging global crises in 2022.

22.55   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.11).

Table 22.11
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
3 member States (Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia) expressed interest in operationalizing the debt-swap mechanism	1 member State (Jordan) established a national task force to operationalize a debt swap for a climate or development finance initiative	1 member State (Jordan) developed a debt-swap programme proposal estimated at $1 billion to finance climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals over the period 2022–2030 2 additional member States (Egypt and Tunisia) initiated the process to operationalize the debt-swap for climate finance initiative	1 additional member State increases expenditure on climate or Sustainable Development Goals initiatives, utilizing funds from the debt swap	Member States exchange experiences and best practices on debt-swap for climate and development finance

Result 2: improved effectiveness of economic policies from a gender perspective

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.56   The subprogramme's work contributed to two member States (Morocco and the United Arab Emirates) developing new policies to improve women's economic participation, which met the planned target.

22.57   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.12).

Table 22.12
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Global Gender Gap Index scoring by member States ranged between 0.494 and 0.655, compared with the global average of 0.686	Global Gender Gap Index scoring by member States ranged between 0.492 and 0.716 compared with the global average of 0.677	2 member States (Morocco and the United Arab Emirates) developed new policies to improve women's economic participation	Improved ranking on the Global Gender Gap Index scoring of at least 1 of the 2 member States that developed new policies to advance women's economic participation	Arab policymakers have access to a tool and the capacity deploy it to simulate the broader impact of policies towards gender equality on national economies

Result 3: contextualized economic modelling informs development of economic, social and trade policies

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.58   Due to its complexity, economic modelling can be underutilized by policymakers in the region, often owing to limited expertise in the use of complex and sophisticated economic models. As a result, some Governments do not use them while others rely on external consultancies to run simulations during the preparation of national budgets and plans.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.59   The lesson for the subprogramme was that models built by external consultants, although vital for decision-making, have often been abandoned by member States owing to their complexity and the limited capacity of their end users. The challenge was to create a tailored, sustainable approach to economic modelling, anchored in ownership by member States, and a related building of capacities at the national level to ensure its uptake, keeping in mind that a "one-size-fits-all" solution would weaken its effectiveness and uptake. In applying the lesson, ESCWA developed an interactive, user-friendly economic modelling tool that can be customized to specific context and needs. The model has already been piloted in Jordan, the State of Palestine and Yemen. To further increase the use of economic modelling in policymaking across the Arab region, the subprogramme will engage with civil servants in member States to adapt the methodology and design and deliver commensurate capacity-building programmes to meet the specific needs of countries. When rolled out, the models will enable on-demand, interactive simulations of a set of economic, social and trade policies and their effects on growth, unemployment and specific sectoral policies.

22.60   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.13).

Table 22.13
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Desktop version of the computable general equilibrium model used by Tunisia	Pilot web-based computable general equilibrium model used by Jordan	2 national computable general equilibrium models used by the State of Palestine and Yemen	4 additional member States use computable general equilibrium models	3 additional member States use computable general equilibrium models

Deliverables

22.61   Table 22.14 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.14
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**10**	**13**	**12**	**12**
1. Documents for the Committee on Trade Policies	5	8	–	6
2. Documents for the Committee on Transport and Logistics	4	4	6	6
3. Documents for the Committee on Financing for Development	1	1	6	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**6**	**8**	**8**	**8**
4. Meetings of the Committee on Trade Policies	4	4	–	4
5. Meetings of the Committee on Transport and Logistics	2	4	4	4
6. Meetings of the Committee on Financing for Development	–	–	4	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**1**	**1**	**4**	**2**
7. Arab Integrated Road Safety Observatory	–	–	–	1
8. National Agenda for the Future of Syria – Phases II and III	1	1	1	1
9. Transformative actions for safe motorcycles in Tunisia	–	–	1	–
10. Reducing road deaths and injuries in Jordan	–	–	1	–
11. Strengthening evidence-based interventions for road safety in the Arab region through effective and reliable data recording, processing and analysis	–	–	1	–
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**–**	**–**	**–**	**8**
12. Seminars and workshops on transport and logistics, economic modelling and the use of policy simulators	–	–	–	8
Publications (number of publications)	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
13. On issues relating to economic development	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	**19**	**22**	**20**	**22**
14. On the economy of the future; public finance and inclusive fiscal policy, including fiscal space challenges for low- and middle-income countries and climate finance; trade and industrial policy; trade negotiation and trade facilitation; transport connectivity and logistics; productive capacity of Arab least developed countries; illicit financial flows, financing for development and other issues related to economic development	19	22	20	22

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations of ad hoc and standing expert groups on the economy of the future; public finance and inclusive fiscal policy; trade and industrial policy; trade negotiation and trade facilitation; transport connectivity and logistics; the productive capacity of Arab least developed countries; illicit financial flows; financing for development and other issues relating to economic development; and strategic advice to the United Nations Road Safety Fund Steering Committee.

Databases and substantive digital materials: the Arab Trade Gateway (comprising a trade agreement portal, a trade cost portal, a digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures portal, a logistics performance portal, a system for measuring, monitoring and evaluating Arab economic integration, an index simulator for policymakers in the Arab region; an Arab trade simulation interface), a Sustainable Development Goals financing resources knowledge portal; a financing for development gateway and data analytics; a Sustainable Development Goals costing calculator for the Arab region; a dynamic financing for development simulator; a Sustainable Development Goals interlinkages tool; computable general equilibrium models; a social expenditure monitor tool.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: side event in the margins of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 4
Statistics, the information society and technology

Objective

22.62   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the development of official statistical frameworks, improve the quality and availability of statistics and advance the information society by accelerating the integration of technology and innovation for sustainable development in the Arab region.

Strategy

22.63   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Enhance the capacity of national statistical offices in Arab member States for the implementation of international statistical standards and best practices and of innovative data science-enabled non-traditional data sources;

(b)   Provide policymakers and practitioners in member States with policy recommendations, underpinned by analysis of challenges and opportunities stemming from the emergence and increasing availability of emerging technologies and digital solutions pertinent to: digital governance, accessibility and inclusion; and digitalization and a just digital transformation;

(c)   Provide technical expertise and enhance national human and institutional capacities to utilize the available data-driven evidence, emerging and existing technologies and innovation as enablers for sustainable solutions supporting digital and open government aligned with national development plans and priorities;

(d)   Convene intergovernmental and technical forums to foster consensus and facilitate dialogue and exchanges between policymakers and practitioners, experts, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders from within and outside the Arab region, to incentivize investments in data and technology and promote intra- and interregional cooperation, partnerships and coordination to increase value created from statistic, geospatially enabled data and digital technologies in support of the regional perspective towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

22.64   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   Improved availability of official statistics and smart, geospatially-enabled data, compliant with international statistical and data protection standards, as well as Sustainable Development Goals data and their use by member States and development partners for evidence-based decision- and policymaking;

(b)   Member States designing and implementing sound national and regional policy frameworks, catalysing synergies between science, technology and innovation for digital transformation and governance; digital accessibility and inclusion; and enhanced citizens' engagement in decision-making, enabling economic diversification and inclusive social development, while ensuring cybersecurity.

Programme performance in 2022

Localized geospatial analysis enhances response to future natural disasters in Egypt

22.65   The increasing frequency and severity of disasters, especially disasters related to climate change, mainly drought, floods and dust storms, have added to the existing challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, significant gaps still exist on disaster-related data in most member States. The integration of new technologies, such as satellite imagery and remote sensing, and social media platforms with official statistics to produce more timely, frequent

and disaggregated disaster indicators, has a significant potential to prevent the loss of life and livelihoods. In this context, the subprogramme worked with a satellite imagery and geospatial data sets analytics provider to build the capacity of the Egypt national statistical office on the use of remote sensed data and data analytics and their integration with different free data sets and official statistics with the aim of filling data gaps. Although the pilot focused on localized areas in one member State (Egypt) and one type of natural disaster (floods), the application of the flood estimation algorithms and flood localization tools can be applied by any other national statistical or disaster management authority in the region, while the project's methodology allows for it to be scaled up to encompass more types of natural hazards.

22.66   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.15).

Table 22.15
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	*2021 (actual)*	*2022 (actual)*
Strengthened capacities of civil servants in the Egypt national statistical office to use free remote sensed data and coding	Detailed geospatial assessments of past flood events conducted in one member State (Egypt)	Disaster management authority in 1 member State (Egypt) gained access to localized, geospatial analysis that will allow for improved response to future natural disasters
		Member States have access to regional platform based on satellite imagery and tools for floods mapping

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: improved production and communication of data on the Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.67   The subprogramme's work contributed to improving the percentage of Arab States with country data available in the official global database on the Sustainable Development Goals, including disaggregation of data, to 60 per cent in 2022, which exceeded the planned target of 50 per cent.

22.68   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 22.III).

Figure 22.III
Performance measure: percentage of country data available for the Arab States in the official global database on the Sustainable Development Goals
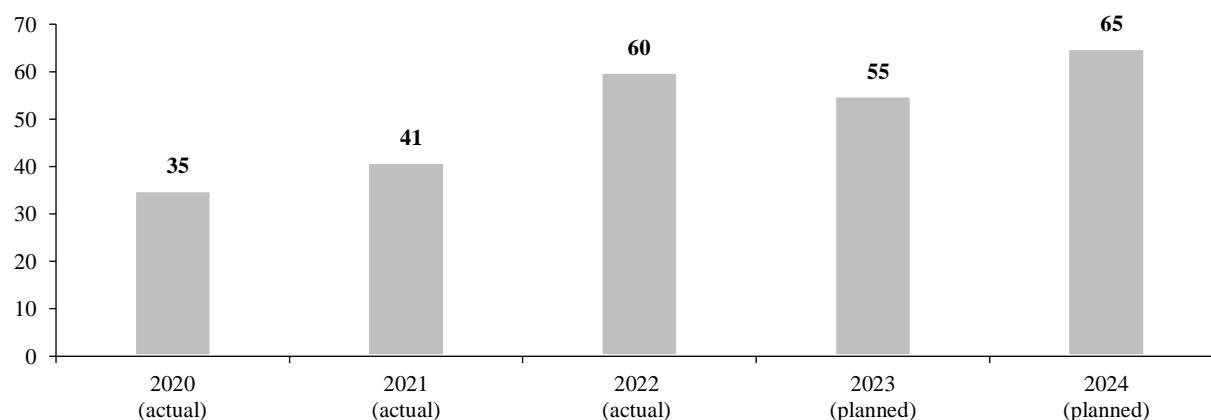
Result 2: advancement of digital development assessments and strategies at the national and regional levels in the Arab region

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.69   The subprogramme's work contributed to three member States (Iraq, Mauritania and the State of Palestine) designing digital development strategies, which met the planned target.

22.70   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 22.IV).

Figure 22.IV
Performance measure: number of member States that undertook biennial national digital development reviews and design digital development strategies (cumulative)

■ Digital development reviews   ▨ Digital development strategies
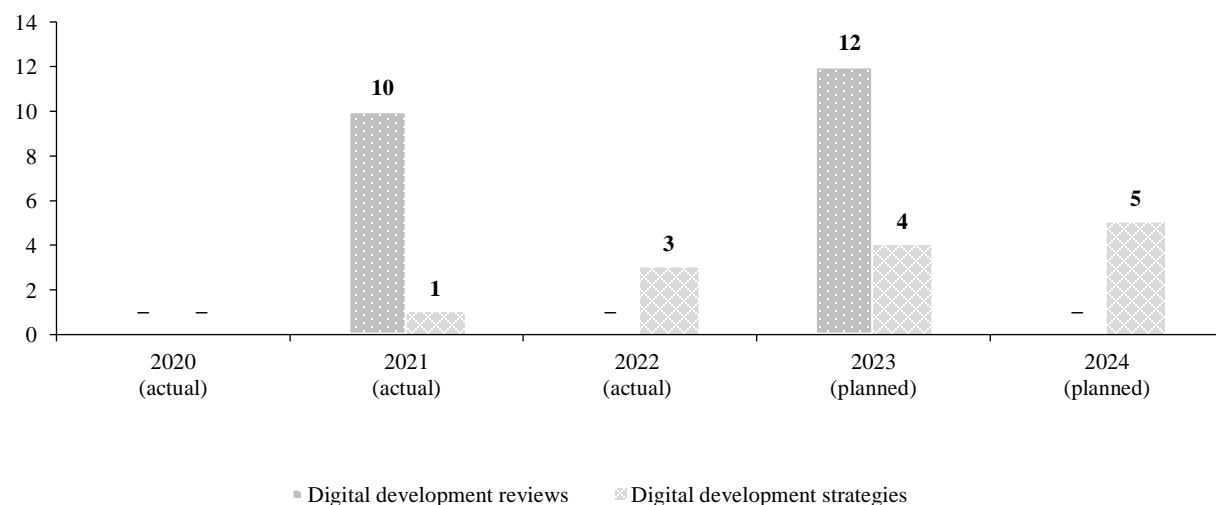
Result 3: Arab policymakers gain access to on-demand, reliable evidence enabled by artificial intelligence and geospatial capacities

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.71   Policymakers, who often rely on data to inform the development of intended frameworks, sometimes lack sufficient relevant data in certain critical areas or may have to work with large quantities of data from multiple sources with different attributes and quality dimensions. In recent years, ESCWA has engaged with member States and partners to improve the availability of quality data and developed several interactive, digital policy simulation tools in support of evidence-based decision making in the region.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.72   The lesson for the subprogramme was that inconsistent data and the unavailability of relevant data have proved counterproductive to policymaking processes. In addition, many new technologies in the field of data science, big data and machine learning provide an opportunity to address some of the traditional data challenges policymakers face in developing evidence-based policies. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will scale up the "data ecosystem", which will deploy, inter alia, artificial intelligence and geospatial capacities to enhance and harness the evidence available from local, national, regional and global sources. The resulting regional data hub will support the interactive generation of policy options by streamlining the different technology- and data-driven regional tools and platforms, developed by ESCWA, within a unified and structured repository. Such an ecosystem will promote and standardize data analytics approaches to deliver complementary, modular knowledge and policy support products with the goal of providing high-quality and reliable evidence. The approach will allow member States to save time and other resources currently required to mine for data "in-house."

22.73   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.16).

Table 22.16
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Member States have access only to (statistical) data produced by ESCWA and certain Arab national statistics offices	Member States gained access to 8 interactive policy simulation tools	Member States gained access to additional national, regional and global (statistical and non-statistical) data sets	Member States have access to centralized, regional data management and analytics platform	Member States generate evidence and simulate (impact of) policy options through at least 5 artificial intelligence- and geospatial-enabled, interactive tools

Deliverables

22.74   Table 22.17 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.17
Subprogramme 4: deliverables for 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**–**	**12**	**10**	**10**
1. Documents of the Committee on Technology for Development	–	5	4	4
2. Documents of the Statistical Committee	–	7	6	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**23**	**31**	**26**	**27**
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Technology for Development	–	4	4	4
4. The Statistical Committee	–	4	4	4
5. The ESCWA Technology Centre Advisory Board	1	1	2	1
6. The ESCWA Technology Centre Technical Committee	2	2	2	2
7. The Bureau of the Statistical Committee	2	2	2	2
8. The standing working groups of the Statistical Committee on economic statistics, demographic and social statistics and disability in the Sustainable Development Goals	8	8	4	6
9. The Task Force on SDG Data of the Regional Coordination Platform for Arab States	4	4	2	2
10. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States	2	2	2	2
11. The LAS on Internet governance; automated digital network systems; the digital economy; innovation policies; enhanced information and communications technology (ICT) cooperation; ICT strategy; science, technology and innovation; and ICT for the Sustainable Development Goals	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**
12. ESCWA Technology Centre	1	1	1	1
13. International Comparison Program, including on the harmonized consumer price index	1	1	–	–
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**–**	**20**	**30**	**24**
14. Workshops on statistics, including gender and disability statistics	–	6	6	6
15. Workshops on big data and open data	–	2	2	2
16. Seminars and workshops on Sustainable Development Goals measuring and reporting	–	4	8	4
17. Workshops and seminars on the information society, ICT governance and infrastructure, digital cooperation and digital inclusion	–	4	8	6
18. Workshops on digital transformation, emerging technologies, digital government, digital economy, e-commerce, innovation and entrepreneurship	–	4	6	6
Publications (number of publications)	**4**	**3**	**4**	**2**
19. On statistics and indicators; non-traditional data sources; national accounts; monitoring of and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda; Arab digital development; and technology and innovation for sustainable development	4	3	4	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	**7**	**7**	**7**	**6**
20. On statistics and indicators; non-traditional data sources; national accounts; monitoring of and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda; Arab digital development; and technology and innovation for sustainable development	6	6	6	6
21. Development and testing of a methodology to identify clear and accurate baselines for national targets and relevant indicators	1	1	1	–

Category and subcategory	*2022 planned*	*2022 actual*	*2023 planned*	*2024 planned*

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: meetings of experts on digital development; regulation and legislation to promote the information society; Internet governance; innovation policies; frontier technologies; technological entrepreneurship; technology transfer; innovation; and other issues relating to technology for development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCWA Online Statistical Information System, ESCWA data portal (comprising databases and data visualization dashboards related to economics, social and demographic matters, environment and energy, population, gender statistics, education and employment); Sustainable Development Goals database; country profiles, each providing access to information, knowledge, and capacity-building to all 21 member States and international stakeholders; ESCWA data ecosystem.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: annual statistics newsletter; technology bulletin.

Subprogramme 5
2030 Agenda and SDG coordination

Objective

22.75   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in the Arab region in line with the 2030 Agenda and to advance intraregional collaboration and a multi-stakeholder approach to key regional and subregional sustainable development issues.

Strategy

22.76   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Advocate for the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the commitment to leave no one behind and the people-centred approach to development; and leverage existing and build new and non-traditional partnerships with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, civil societies, academic institutions and think tanks, and the private sector, to promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach;

(b)   Engage with relevant national and local authorities and stakeholders, including ministries of planning and finance, supreme audit institutions and parliaments, to support cross-sectoral cooperation and the alignment of national development priorities and plans with both the 2030 Agenda and the resources available for their implementation;

(c)   Convene, and ensure ongoing support to and follow-up on, various platforms, within and in connection with the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and peer-to-peer exchanges within and outside the Arab region, fostering consensus on national and regional sustainable development priorities and actions and promoting sub-, inter- and intraregional (South-South) and triangular collaboration and coordination;

(d)   Support, and build individual and institutional capacities to conduct, integrated monitoring and reporting, at the local, national and regional levels, of the progress against specific Sustainable Development Goals targets, including by building national and institutional capacity to conduct voluntary national reviews; compile and disseminate policy recommendations; and ensure that the Arab region's perspective is reflected through the global lens.

22.77   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   An enhanced commitment to the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by policymakers and practitioners, regional intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, academia and think tanks, civil society organizations and the private sector in the Arab region and beyond;

(b)   The adoption by member States and development stakeholders of a more participatory, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the implementation of and follow-up to Sustainable Development Goals priorities and related actions;

(c)   The improved utilization by Arab member States and relevant stakeholders of available dialogue platforms as a means of promoting consensus, peer-to-peer learning and coordination at the national (institutional and cross-institutional) and sub-, intra- and interregional as well as global levels for an accelerated achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Programme performance in 2022

Improved alignment of national budgets with national development plans and the 2030 Agenda

22.78   Effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires development priorities and targets to be aligned with the resources required for their achievement. While the former are usually determined by ministries of planning, making the latter available falls under the responsibility of ministries of finance, which can lead to the misalignment of procedures and cycles. The subprogramme identified improved cooperation between those two national entities as a means for member States to accelerate their progress towards the Goals. In that context, the subprogramme established a regional platform, within the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development framework, to promote dialogue and alignment on the Goals implementation between ministries of finance and ministries of planning. The Forum allowed the five participating member States (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen) to exchange good practices on the alignment of national budgets with national development plans and the Goals. Three priorities were identified as a result: (a) the design and implementation of integrated national financing frameworks; (b) more effective Sustainable Development Goals budgeting, with national budgets geared to achieving the Goals as opposed to post-assessments of budgetary allocations related to the Goals; and (c) greater coordination with and among international financial institutions. The platform also enabled peer-to-peer advocacy across the Arab region on the importance of the issue, highlighting the urgent need to link budgeting processes to national development plans and the Goals.

22.79   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.18).

Table 22.18
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	*2021 (actual)*	*2022 (actual)*
–	–	Ministries of planning and finance from 5 member States (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen) identify priorities to improve alignment of national budgets with national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: recovery and post-COVID-19 development planning integrates the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.80   The subprogramme's work contributed to one COVID-19 recovery plan in the Arab region (Jordan) integrating the 2030 Agenda to accelerate progress on the Goals, and the assessment by one member State (State of Palestine) of the extent to which it had integrated the Goals into its sectorial recovery plans and strategies, which met the planned target.

22.81   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.19).

Table 22.19
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
–	1 member State (Egypt) integrated the 2030 Agenda to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals into its COVID-19 recovery plan	1 COVID-19 recovery plan in the Arab region (Jordan) integrated the 2030 Agenda to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals 1 member State (State of Palestine) assessed the extent to which sectorial recovery plans and strategies integrate the Goals	2 additional national development plans aligned with the 2030 Agenda	Integrated approach to implementation in the national development plan of 1 additional member State

Result 2: improved voluntary national review process through formalized intraregional and interregional peer learning

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.82   The subprogramme's work contributed to two member States (Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic) engaging in a twinning exercise (pilot voluntary national review peer-learning initiative) to discuss solutions to challenges and identify best practices throughout the voluntary national review process, which met the planned target.

22.83   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.20).

Table 22.20
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Informal interaction between member States in workshops focusing on regional issues of concern	Member States benefit from the first peer-learning activity on methodological issues of reporting on the 2030 Agenda	2 member States (Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic) engaged in a twinning exercise (pilot voluntary national review peer-learning initiative) to discuss solutions to challenges and identify best practices throughout the voluntary national review process	2 additional member States benefit from peer-learning approaches to voluntary national reviews (twinning and issues-based focus groups)	2 more member States apply voluntary national review peer-learning approaches (twinning and issues-based focus groups)

Result 3: university graduates play a part in a whole-of-society, principled approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.84   ESCWA has been supporting government and non-government stakeholders to partake in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda in Arab countries. For the region to achieve the Goals by 2030, a whole-of-society approach is needed; where Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and citizens at large contribute to sustainable development outcomes. Universities are well placed to inform young people and equip them with the awareness, knowledge, skills and motivation to contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.85   The lesson for the subprogramme was that engaging with academic institutions, including through the Academic Network for Development Dialogue to promote dialogue between the United Nations and academia and Sustainable Development Goals-focused research, was not sufficient and that, in order for the desired result to be achieved, the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda principles and the Goals across academic curricula or initiatives is required, so as to allow member States to tap into the power of engaged university graduates for positive change. In applying this lesson, the subprogramme will support university faculties in member States to incorporate the shared principles and commitments of the Goals into their academic programmes through the provision of frameworks, guidelines, examples and suggestions. The subprogramme will subsequently leverage its existing networks to support peer learning and the dissemination of good practices among universities in the region.

22.86   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.21).

Table 22.21
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Academic Network for Development Dialogue is established	Systematic dialogue between ESCWA and academia is established, promoting academic institutions' participation in Sustainable Development Goals-related discussions	Sustainable Development Goals-focused research by Arab academic institutions contributed to regional and national dialogues on achieving the 2030 Agenda	1 university faculty in a member State commits to incorporating the shared principles and commitments of the Goals into its programmes	2 academic institutions in the Arab region incorporate shared principles and commitments of the Goals into their programmes

Deliverables

22.87   Table 22.22 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.22
Subprogramme 5: deliverables for 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**8**	**8**	**9**	**8**
1. Meetings of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development	8	8	9	8
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	–	**4**	**3**
2. Voluntary national review workshops	–	–	4	3
Publications (number of publications)	–	–	–	**1**
3. Arab sustainable development report	–	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	**2**	**6**	**4**	**3**
4. Annual Sustainable Development Goals review	–	3	–	1
5. On sustainable development	2	3	4	2
C. Substantive deliverables				

Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultation with the taskforce of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, which is attended by more than 1,000 participants; advice to global and regional events on the 2030 Agenda for approximately 2,000 participants, and the Arab Sustainable Development Week, attended by over 1,000 participants; advocacy to universities on the 2030 Agenda; advice to the community of practice on voluntary national reviews in the Arab region: twinning and issues-based focus groups.

Databases and substantive digital materials: Sustainable Development Goals knowledge and learning platform, including training material on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and guidelines on the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Subprogramme 6
Governance and conflict prevention

Objective

22.88   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance just, peaceful and inclusive societies, especially for people living under occupation or in conflict or post-conflict settings; to improve governance and strengthen effective, efficient and accountable public institutions; and to enhance service delivery.

Strategy

22.89   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Develop and make available evidence and policy recommendations to member States and relevant stakeholders and partners aimed at addressing challenges and utilizing opportunities to accelerate human development, with a particular focus on: mitigating the impact of conflict and occupation on the capacity to achieve the Goals, and transboundary risks; improving governance and institutional capacities to deliver basic services and respond to shocks; and boosting the competitiveness of the business environment, including consumer protection mechanisms;

(b)   Provide technical expertise and build human and institutional capacities to identify and operationalize immediate, medium- and long-term solutions, aimed at: lowering the risks associated with emerging socioeconomic, environmental and governance challenges and potential shocks; enhancing transparency and accessibility, as well as efficiency of State-run services; and more effective competition and consumer protection;

(c)   Foster consensus on the priorities and actions required to minimize the impact of conflict and any transboundary risks and shocks, inter alia, on the ability of member States to advance their national development agendas;

(d)   Support the five Arab least developed countries, within the framework of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, in enhancing their institutional capacities for achieving the 2030 Agenda and graduating from the least developed country category;

(e)   Enhance the capabilities of Palestinian institutions to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on service delivery and social and economic development, including decreasing the asymmetric dependency of the Palestinian economy.

22.90   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   Improved prevention of transboundary risks, including conflict, and mitigation of their impact on national development trajectories;

(b)   More effective public institutions, in particular in the five Arab least developed countries, and their enhanced ability to deliver basic services in a transparent, accessible and inclusive way;

(c)   A more competitive business environment and more effective consumer protection.

Programme performance in 2022

Contextualized support to the four Arab least developed countries in the context of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031

22.91   The four Arab least developed countries – Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen – did not graduate from their status within the previous decade, as per the Istanbul Programme of Action for

the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, and continue to face serious challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the context of the formulation of the Doha Programme of Action, the subprogramme engaged with the four Arab least developed countries to map out those challenges and promote an agreement on a common and most adequate way forward. As a result, the four member States committed to the Programme and engaged with the Commission on such priority areas as: (a) addressing the root causes of conflict; (b) inclusive and rapid socioeconomic development; and (c) rebuilding more resilient national institutions and their capacities. In that context, the subprogramme provided public institutions in the four Arab least developed countries with guidance on fostering an integrated approach for humanitarian development and peace in countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. In addition, the subprogramme facilitated an inclusive, technical dialogue on a vision for recovery and development in Yemen and piloted an institution-building and capacity-development e-platform for the same State. Concurrently, the subprogramme supported the strengthening of partnerships among development entities working on building the capacities of public institutions in Arab least developed countries.

22.92   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.23).

Table 22.23
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
Gaps and challenges that prevented least developed countries from graduating from the least developed country status, as per the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, are assessed	Challenges particular to the 4 Arab least developed countries were mapped out and informed the development of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031	The 4 Arab least developed countries agreed to emphasize the need for recovery led by national institutions for an integrated approach for humanitarian-development and peace, as part of the Doha Programme of Action
	4 Arab least developed countries defined foundational elements to achieve the commitments of the Doha Programme of Action	1 Arab least developed country (Yemen) conducted inclusive, technical dialogue on a vision for recovery and development
		National institutions and international development partners in 1 member State (Yemen) used a dedicated e-platform to coordinate capacity development programming

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: enhanced integration of transboundary risk planning, management and prevention into national development plans and policies

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.93   The subprogramme's work contributed to the integration by one additional member State (Lebanon) of the developed risk assessment tools that address transboundary conflict and non-conflict drivers of hazards and vulnerability into its national development strategy, which met the planned target.

22.94   The subprogramme's work also contributed to the launch of the regional technical dialogue platform enabling peer exchanges among member States on transboundary risk management, which met the planned target.

22.95   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.24).

Table 22.24
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Arab States gained access to contextualized (for the region) risk assessment tools and gained a better understanding of qualitative risk assessment approaches	1 member State (Jordan) integrated a developed risk assessment tool that addresses transboundary conflict and non-conflict drivers of hazards and vulnerability into its national COVID-19 response strategy	1 additional member State (Lebanon) integrated the developed risk assessment tools that address transboundary conflict and non-conflict drivers of hazards and vulnerability into its national development strategy Regional technical dialogue platform was launched and enabled peer exchanges among member States on transboundary risk management	Policies developed in the 3 member States in which the initiative is piloted take into consideration the effects of transboundary conflict and non-conflict drivers of hazards and vulnerability	At least 3 member States use the upgraded and contextualized (for the region) tool to assess multidimensional risks to their development trajectories

Result 2: policymakers determine development challenges at the national level

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

22.96   The subprogramme's work contributed to access to a toolkit that allows member States to assess the impact of improvements to specific dimensions and indicators on the overall performance of the global development challenges index, and a tool that allows member States to design and tailor their own national development challenges indices, which did not meet the planned target of four member States having endorsed the measurement framework for the global index. The target was not met owing to a shift in focus from the endorsement of a methodology to the actual roll-out of the toolkit in support of member States' ability to assess their development challenges.

22.97   Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.25).

Table 22.25
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
–	Countries use global indices, such as the human development index, to evaluate the effectiveness of their national development plans	Member States gained access to a toolkit that made it possible to assess the impact of improvements to specific dimensions and indicators on the overall performance on the global development challenges index, and a tool that allowed them to design and tailor their own national development challenges indices	3 countries develop national assessments and national human development challenges reports, on the basis of the findings from the global development challenges index	Civil servants in at least 3 member States use national development challenges indices and integrate those indices in national development planning processes

Result 3: improved consumer protection in the Arab region

Proposed programme plan for 2024

22.98   National and regional economic prosperity depends largely on the competitiveness of the business environment, which remains a challenge for many countries in the Arab region. ESCWA has been working with its member States to enhance relevant policy frameworks to boost competition. In 2020, ESCWA convened the joint ESCWA-UNCTAD-OECD Competition Forum for the Arab Region, serving as a platform for member States to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices in this regard. By 2022, all 20 States members of the Commission had attended the forum. As a result, by the end of 2021, Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia had implemented new competition legislation. In 2022, Oman expanded its competition authority, while Lebanon, with support from ESCWA, adopted its first-ever competition law.

Lessons learned and planned change

22.99   The lesson for the subprogramme was that, although progress has been achieved with respect to national competition policy frameworks, legislation around consumer protection to safeguard consumers rights was inconsistently adopted across the region. In applying the lesson, ESCWA will support member States in building capacity in this area and, in particular, promote development of related and relevant national policy frameworks and legislation. Specifically, in 2023, ESCWA will conduct assessments of national and regional legislative frameworks on consumer protection. A dedicated regional platform will be convened in the subsequent year aimed at enabling member States' dialogue, networking and peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge and good practices on consumer protection.

22.100   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 22.26).

Table 22.26
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Competition Forum for the Arab Region is launched in partnership with OECD and UNCTAD 1 member State (Kuwait) implemented new competition law	Second joint Competition Forum for the Arab Region is attended by 16 member States 3 member States (Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia) implemented new legislation on competition	All 20 Arab member States participated in the third Competition Forum for the Arab Region 1 member State (Lebanon) introduced competition legislation and 1 additional member State (Kuwait) introduced further legislation on competition 1 member State (Oman) expanded its dedicated competition authority	Arab policymakers have access to recommendations on how to improve national consumer protection frameworks	Member States exchange knowledge and good practices on consumer protection 2 member States establish or reform their consumer protection laws

Deliverables

22.101   Table 22.27 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 22.27
Subprogramme 6: deliverables for 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
1. Note of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	1	1	1	1
2. Report to the ESCWA ministerial session on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation: thematic focus	1	–	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**–**	**–**	**4**	**–**
3. High-level meeting of LAS/Arab Administrative Development Organization/ESCWA	–	–	4	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**2**	**2**	**4**	**4**
4. Country specific and regional projects (Arab least developed countries, Libya, State of Palestine and Yemen)	2	2	4	4

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**4**	**4**	**1**	**8**
5. Training exchange platform on competition in the region	1	1	–	–
6. Workshop on competition	–	–	1	1
7. Workshops on governance and digital transformation; and major subindices (governance, human development index, conflict, environment)	2	2	–	1
8. Workshop on comprehensive risk assessment framework	1	1	–	1
9. Workshops on development strategy for Palestine; strategic planning in fragile contexts; developing, improving and increasing the effectiveness of basic service delivery; fostering an integrated approach for humanitarian development and peace in countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries	–	–	–	5
Publications (number of publications)	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**
10. On governance and conflict prevention	–	1	1	1
11. *Palestine under occupation*	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	**8**	**8**	**8**	**8**
12. On durable peace; vulnerability assessments and risk (associated with conflict, climate change, water scarcity, food security and forced displacement) mitigation; institution-building to strengthen resilience, performance and service provision; innovation in the public sector; open government; economic governance; mitigating the impact of occupation; sustainable development of countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries; impact of competition reforms on trade policy; human development and human security (see General Assembly resolution 66/290); and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals	8	8	8	8

C. **Substantive deliverables**

Consultation, advice and advocacy: annual Competition Forum for the Arab Region; consultative meetings on post-conflict and durable peace; vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation; institution-building to strengthen resilience, performance and service provision; innovation in the public sector; public service delivery; open government; economic governance; and mitigating the impact of occupation, advocacy for policy dialogue and issues concerning sustainable development of countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries; consultative meeting with member States at the OECD global forum on competitiveness.

Database and other substantive digital materials: portal on open government and open data in the Arab region; portal on Arab business environment legislative framework, including competition provisions and legislation; prototype platform for policymakers to help formulate responses and implement and monitor adopted policies (during a crisis) by leveraging new kinds of data and analytical approaches; ESCWA violence early warning system portal; regulatory reforms tracker.

D. **Communications deliverables**

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people; wallchart on the impact of conflict and occupation on the socioeconomic development of the Palestinian people; analysis and information material on governance, conflict prevention and the impact of occupation on development outcomes; regional technical dialogue platform (periodic meetings) for member States on the assessment of risks associated with transboundary conflict and non-conflict drivers of hazards and vulnerability.

B.   Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2024

Overview

22.102   In January 2020, pursuant to the request of its member States, [2] ESCWA embarked on the implementation of its new operational model. The new model aims to harmonize processes and improve synergies across functional and administrative units for the streamlined delivery of the development and regional integration mandate. To support the new operational model, a new programmatic structure was adopted after a comprehensive business analysis (A/76/6 (Sect. 22)). This was the first step towards a better alignment of resources in the light of emerging strategic priorities. After three years of implementing those changes, ESCWA carried out a spending review pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 77/262, as part of its proposed budget exercise for 2024. With the engagement of all programme managers, a review was carried out for each subprogramme and component of ESCWA including an in-depth analysis of the latest post complement and functional profiles, as well as non-post resource types and distribution, with a view to determining the optimal level and types of resources required to implement the mandates of ESCWA, as set out in the programme plan for 2024.

22.103   The outcome of the spending review points to several opportunities for the better utilization of resources and further investment in new skills, profiles and ways of doing business. It highlighted the need for the continuous review of the workforce and work processes in order to keep pace with the evolving demand for innovative tools to support data-driven policy solutions, and to maintain a vibrant work environment. The review highlighted the need to direct the available resources across subprogrammes in a manner that reflects the multidisciplinary and interlinked nature of the mandate, mirroring the complexity of the goals and themes of the 2030 Agenda. Hence, the Commission will focus its resources to work on innovative information technology solutions, now a strategic function at ESCWA, and modernize the existing platforms using the latest technologies and concepts, including the development and maintenance of interactive policy simulation and e-learning tools, and the production of data in the implementation of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General using a well-integrated data ecosystem. ESCWA will attract new talent, acquire new skills and enhance internal capacity, in order not only to engage individuals with specific professional technical skills, including the capacity to develop applications and portals, but also to allow for prompt responsiveness to the needs of member States for up-to-date and customized decision-making policy tools and platforms. ESCWA will redirect resources towards emerging targets to better support the region, including the least developed member countries (Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen) at national levels in policy assessment, formulation and implementation.

22.104   Under the new operational model, which introduces the project approach in programme delivery and promotes cross-subprogramme initiatives, ESCWA will be in a position to direct available staff and non-staff resources in a way that addresses the needs of member States more effectively. The Commission has identified opportunities for the reclassification of posts to enhance internal capacity in quality control and validation of official documents and various types of content, including digital, using the latest technology. ESCWA also proposes the conversion of two data analysis assistant posts from temporary to established in order to stabilize internal capacity in data analytics, data science, emerging technologies, to provide support in developing interactive policy analytics and simulation tools and to maintain and upgrade the state of-the-art in-house data ecosystem. This approach allows for adjustments to accommodate emerging demands and unforeseen needs. In its budget proposal formulation exercise for 2024, ESCWA considered the costs and benefits of various conferencing, communication and content dissemination models, to ensure that the formats and techniques employed support programme delivery in the most effective and efficient way. The proposed resource changes – under Executive direction and management, Programme support and all subprogrammes – which are the outcome of the spending review, are presented under "Other

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[2] See E/ESCWA/S-6/17/Report, available at www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/final_report_of_the_sixth_special_session.pdf.

changes" in paragraph 22.109 below, as part of the section of the present report on "Overall resource changes".

22.105   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 22.28 to 22.30.

Table 22.28
Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
Object of expenditure	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Posts	36 765.4	38 209.3	99.2	–	214.4	313.6	0.8	38 522.9
Other staff costs	1 682.8	1 132.5	–	–	309.8	309.8	27.4	1 442.3
Hospitality	7.9	9.9	–	–	–	–	–	9.9
Consultants	963.9	759.4	–	–	–	–	–	759.4
Experts	1 520.2	1 482.8	–	–	–	–	–	1 482.8
Travel of staff	503.9	295.6	–	–	126.0	126.0	42.6	421.6
Contractual services	1 823.5	1 718.4	–	–	(253.0)	(253.0)	(14.7)	1 465.4
General operating expenses	1 821.0	4 818.2	–	–	(262.4)	(262.4)	(5.4)	4 555.8
Supplies and materials	66.2	201.1	–	–	(134.8)	(134.8)	(67.0)	66.3
Furniture and equipment	1 119.0	304.3	–	–	–	–	–	304.3
Grants and contributions	3.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	**46 277.3**	**48 931.5**	**99.2**	**–**	**–**	**99.2**	**0.2**	**49 030.7**

Table 22.29
Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2024
(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2023	255	1 USG, 2 D-2, 8 D-1, 25 P-5, 35 P-4, 32 P-3, 18 P-2/1, 1 FS, 4 NPO, 129 LL
Conversion from GTA	2	2 LL in programme support
Reclassification	–	2 Arabic Translators (2 P-3) to Arabic Revisers (2 P-4) in programme support
Reassignment	–	1 P-5 and 1 LL in executive direction and management, 1 LL in subprogramme 1 and 1 LL in programme support
Proposed for 2024	257	1 USG, 2 D-2, 8 D-1, 25 P-5, 37 P-4, 30 P-3, 18 P-2/1, 1 FS, 4 NPO, 131 LL

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Note: The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Table 22.30
Overall: proposed posts by category and grade*[a]*
(Number of posts)

| Category and grade | 2023 approved | Changes | | | | | 2024 proposed |
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
Professional and higher						
USG	1	–	–	–	–	1
D-2	2	–	–	–	–	2
D-1	8	–	–	–	–	8
P-5	25	–	–	–	–	25
P-4	35	–	–	2	2	37
P-3	32	–	–	(2)	(2)	30
P-2/1	18	–	–	–	–	18
Subtotal	**121**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**121**
General Service and related						
FS	1	–	–	–	–	1
NPO	4	–	–	–	–	4
LL	129	–	–	2	2	131
Subtotal	**134**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**136**
Total	**255**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**257**

[a] Includes four temporary posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 Local level), which were approved pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A.

22.106   Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in tables 22.28 to 22.30 and figure 22.V.

22.107   As reflected in tables 22.31 (1) and 22.32 (1), the overall resources proposed for 2024 amount to $49,030,700 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $99,200 (or 0.2 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2023. Resource changes result from technical adjustments and other changes. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 22.31

Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme

(Thousands of United States dollars)

    (1)   *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	*2022 expenditure*	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*2024 estimate (before recosting)*
				Changes				
A. Policymaking organs	57.1	117.9	–	–	–	–	–	117.9
B. Executive direction and management	5 742.9	6 021.4	–	–	(99.6)	(99.6)	(1.7)	5 921.8
C. Programme of work								
1. Climate change and natural resource sustainability	4 107.8	4 337.9	–	–	(21.3)	(21.3)	(0.5)	4 316.6
2. Gender justice, population and inclusive development	6 220.3	5 729.9	–	–	–	–	–	5 729.9
3. Shared economic prosperity	4 777.1	4 798.4	–	–	47.8	47.8	1.0	4 846.2
4. Statistics, the information society and technology	5 319.1	4 804.8	99.2	–	308.5	407.7	8.5	5 212.5
5. 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination	1 821.5	2 266.2	–	–	–	–	–	2 266.2
6. Governance and conflict prevention	3 116.8	3 379.6	–	–	19.4	19.4	0.6	3 399.0
Subtotal, C	**25 362.7**	**25 316.8**	**99.2**	**–**	**354.4**	**453.6**	**1.8**	**25 770.4**
D. Programme support	15 114.6	17 475.4	–	–	(254.8)	(254.8)	(1.5)	17 220.6
Subtotal, 1	**46 277.3**	**48 931.5**	**99.2**	**–**	**–**	**99.2**	**0.2**	**49 030.7**

    (2)   *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	*2022 expenditure*	*2023 estimate*	*Change*	*Percentage*	*2024 estimate*
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	539.2	–	–	–	–
C. Programme of work					
1. Climate change and natural resource sustainability	1 024.5	1 831	1 832.3	100.1	3 663.3
2. Gender justice, population and inclusive development	309.9	622.2	(67.0)	(10.8)	555.2
3. Shared economic prosperity	1 642.4	1 518	(667.7)	(44.0)	850.3
4. Statistics, the information society and technology	199.2	301.8	–	–	301.8
5. 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination	–	–	–	–	–
6. Governance and conflict prevention	158.1	241.9	(111.8)	(46.2)	130.1
Subtotal, C	**3 334.1**	**4 514.9**	**985.8**	**21.8**	**5 500.7**
D. Programme support	6 748.4	4 912.0	300.0	6.1	5 212.0
Subtotal, 2	**10 621.6**	**9 426.9**	**1 285.8**	**13.6**	**10 712.7**
Total	**56 898.9**	**58 358.4**	**1 385.0**	**2.4**	**59 743.4**

Table 22.32
Overall: proposed posts for 2024 by source of funding, component and subprogramme
(Number of posts)

(1)   *Regular budget*

		Changes				
Component/subprogramme	*2023 approved*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*2024 proposed*
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	33	–	–	–	–	33
C. Programme of work						
1. Climate change and natural resource sustainability	23	–	–	–	–	23
2. Gender justice, population and inclusive development	29	–	–	–	–	29
3. Shared economic prosperity	27	–	–	–	–	27
4. Statistics, the information society and technology	28	–	–	–	–	28
5. 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination	10	–	–	–	–	10
6. Governance and conflict prevention	17	–	–	–	–	17
Subtotal, C	**134**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**134**
D. Programme support	88	–	–	2	2	90
Subtotal, 1	**255**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**257**

(2)   *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	*2023 estimate*	*Change*	*2024 estimate*
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	–	–	–
C. Programme of work			
1. Climate change and natural resource sustainability	8	8	16
2. Gender justice, population and inclusive development	–	1	1
3. Shared economic prosperity	3	2	5
4. Statistics, the information society and technology	1	–	1
5. 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination	–	–	–
6. Governance and conflict prevention	–	–	–
Subtotal, C	**12**	**11**	**23**
D. Programme support	23	2	25
Subtotal, 2	**35**	**13**	**48**
Total	**290**	**15**	**305**

Table 22.33
Overall: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	36 765.4	38 209.3	99.2	–	214.4	313.6	0.8	38 522.9
Non-post	9 511.9	10 722.2	–	–	(214.4)	(214.4)	(2.0)	10 507.8
Total	**46 277.3**	**48 931.5**	**99.2**	**–**	**–**	**99.2**	**0.2**	**49 030.7**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		121	–	–	–	–	–	121
General Service and related		134	–	–	2	2	1.5	136
Total		**255**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**0.8**	**257**

Figure 22.V
Distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
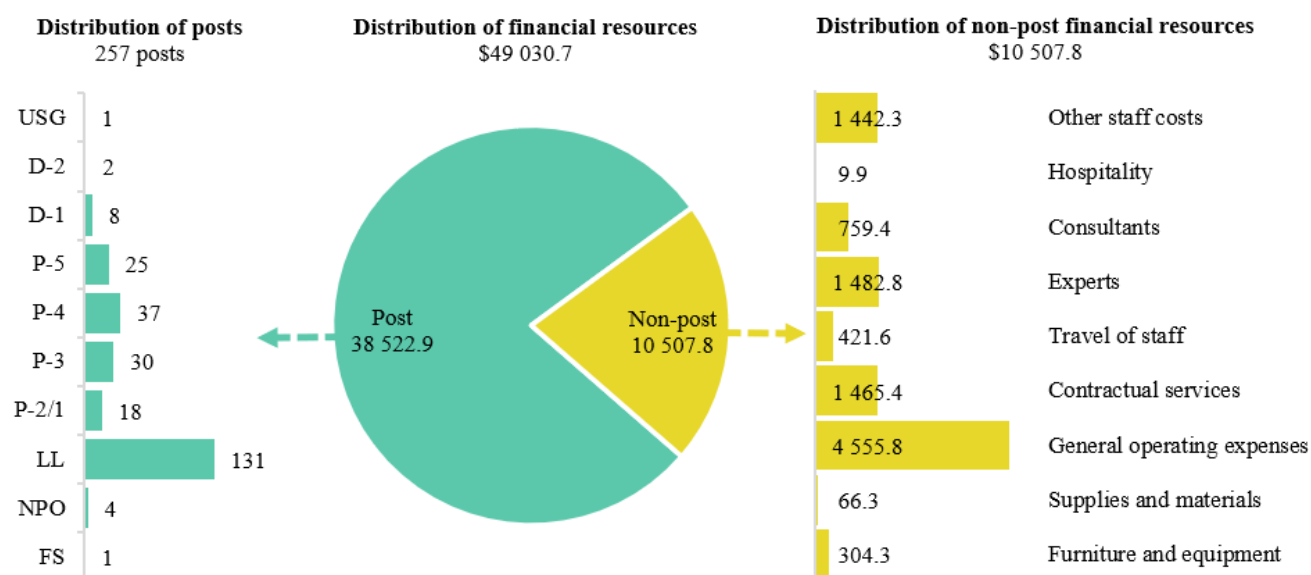
Explanation of variances by factor, component and subprogramme

Overall resource changes

Technical adjustments

22.108   As reflected in table 22.31 (1), resource changes reflect an increase of $99,200 under subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology, due to the delayed impact of the reassignment of one Statistician post (P-4) as Data Scientist, which was subject to a 50 per cent vacancy rate in accordance with the established practice for reassigned posts.

Other changes

22.109   As reflected in table 22.31 (1), resource changes reflect cost-neutral changes, as follows:

(a)   **Executive direction and management**. The net decrease of $99,600 reflects: (i) reduced requirements under supplies and materials ($114,600) due to lower use of office supplies and materials and library-related subscriptions following the introduction of an internally developed knowledge repository and digitization efforts; (ii) increased requirements under travel of staff ($15,000), reflecting additional partnership initiatives and more proactive engagement with member States; and (iii) the proposed reassignments (cost-neutral), as reflected in annex II, of one Senior Programme Officer (P-5) post as Chief of Staff and one Library Assistant (LL) post as Graphic Design Assistant post. The spending review identified that the development of the ESCWA knowledge repository, an online database that collects, organizes and preserves all ESCWA knowledge products and provides open access to a wide range of intellectual products, had reduced the need for office supplies and materials and library-related subscriptions and allowed for the redeployment of resources within the component and to subprogrammes 3, 4 and 6. In addition, informed by the digital transformation strategy deployed by the Commission, the spending review identified the need to reassign two posts, mainly for: (i) strengthening workforce planning and building new data skills and innovative capabilities required by ESCWA to adapt to new technologies and challenges; and (ii) enhancing the capacity to develop and produce innovative content and support timely and effective dissemination of information.

(b)   **Subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability**. The net decrease of $21,300 relates: (i) to lower requirements under other staff costs ($36,300), reflecting the consolidation of data compilation-related requirements under subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology; (ii) to increased requirements under travel of staff ($15,000), reflecting a higher anticipated need for contextualized policy and capacity-building support at the national level; and (iii) to the proposed reassignment (cost-neutral), as reflected in annex II, of one Senior Programme Management Assistant (LL) post to a Data Analysis Assistant post, which would enhance capacity in modelling the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations. The spending review, informed by the inputs of programme managers engaged in the review process, identified that the consolidation of activities related to digital transformation, (geospatial) data production and analytics under subprogramme 4 would enhance the effectiveness of data production and dissemination on climate-related issues.

(c)   **Subprogramme 2, Gender justice, population and inclusive development**. The cost-neutral changes relate: (i) to reduced requirements under experts ($23,200) and contractual services ($43,900), reflecting anticipated streamlining of activities and publications into interrelated events, back-to-back meetings, and joint flagship publications on various topics relating to gender and social justice; and (ii) to increased requirements under other staff costs ($46,100) and travel of staff ($21,000), reflecting higher anticipated needs for enhanced, customized technical and policy tools on gender and social justice, poverty reduction and social protection, and their subsequent transfer to member States through capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels. The spending review considered that the expert meetings held had resulted in a joint agreement on the road map for customized policy solutions for the region and thus concluded that future meetings could be further streamlined while still delivering the mandate in full. In addition, it was identified that the subprogramme needed to adjust its resources to focus more on providing member States with real-time data and artificial intelligence-based policy formulation tools on gender and social justice, poverty reduction and social protection, as well as in-person policy advice to new member States, including the least developed countries, to further implement the agreed policy road map.

(d)   **Subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity**. The increase of $47,800 relates: (i) to higher requirements under other staff costs ($58,400) to enable the development and enhancement of digital guidance and customized policy recommendation tools, such as the Arab trade simulator interface and the computable general equilibrium models; (ii) to increased requirements under

travel of staff ($15,700), reflecting additional capacity-building activities required to further policy formulation, adoption and implementation at the national level; and (iii) to reduced requirements under contractual services ($26,300) due to lower anticipated printing jobs, reflecting new production formats, including the digitization of technical materials and publications. The spending review identified the need to adjust resources to address the increasing requests for support and guidance on issues related to financing for development and trade and regional integration through customized policy recommendations and by supporting their implementation at the national level.

(e) **Subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology**. The increase of $308,500 relates to higher requirements under: (i) other staff costs ($185,100), reflecting the need to design, develop and maintain specialized data solutions for member States, such as the United Nations Arab Region Data and Policy Support Hub; (ii) experts ($23,200) due to additional expert group meetings planned on issues related to digital policies and data strategies; (iii) travel of staff ($25,000), reflecting the roll-out of the data production and analysis tools at the national level and related capacity-building activities, as well as attending the World Data Forum; and (iv) contractual services ($75,200) relating to requirements for the servicing of additional expert group meetings and an increased need for analytical capabilities in support of big data compilation, artificial intelligence analytics and dissemination. The spending review, informed by the strategy of the subprogramme under part A of the present report, concluded that there was a need: (i) to transform the skill sets, competencies and culture at ESCWA towards a modern, data-driven organization in the context of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General; and (ii) to provide additional support, through dedicated specialized profiles and individual contractors, for the development, deployment and operationalization of the many new technology- and artificial intelligence-driven policy (impact) simulation tools developed under other subprogrammes and encompassed by the ESCWA data ecosystem, as a key means of supporting national development trajectories.

(f) **Subprogramme 5, 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination**. The cost-neutral changes reflect increased requirements under travel of staff ($5,000) to carry out additional policy tool-customization and related capacity-building activities at the national level and the expanding activities related to the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, offset by reduced requirements under contractual services ($5,000) due to lower printing requirements, reflecting the page limits assigned to all forms of content and the digitization of technical materials, promotional campaigns and publications. The spending review, informed by the digital transformation strategy deployed by the Commission, concluded that use of hard copy materials could be reduced while ensuring the effective dissemination of information. This allowed the redeployment of resources to increase the focus on supporting member States at the national level, in order to optimize efficient and effective mandate implementation.

(g) **Subprogramme 6, Governance and conflict prevention**. The increase of $19,400 under travel of staff relates to the need for increased support for member States in policy formulation and implementation on topics related to institutional reforms and governance. The spending review identified the need to adjust resources to provide for increased contextualized policy formulation and implementation support to member States, particularly the least developed countries and new member States, at the national level.

(h) **Programme support**. The net decrease of $254,800 relates to reduced requirements under:

(i) General operating expenses ($262,400), reflecting the anticipated reduction in requirements for ad hoc maintenance following the recent renovations of ESCWA premises;

(ii) Contractual services ($253,000) mainly due to lower revision and ICT support requirements, reflecting the introduction of new technologies, including a "one-stop shop" portal for planning and requesting documents and meeting services, which helped to simplify business processes;

(iii) Supplies and materials ($20,200), reflecting the anticipated reduction in the use of paper and other office supplies in line with the digital transformation strategy of the Commission.

Offset in part by increased requirements under:

(iv) Posts ($214,400), relating to the proposed upward reclassifications, as reflected in annex II to the present document, of two Arabic Translator (P-3) posts to Arabic Revisor (P-4) posts; and to the proposed conversions, as also reflected in annex II, of one Senior Information Systems Assistant (LL) and one Information Systems Assistant (LL) general temporary assistance positions to established posts;

(v) Other staff costs ($56,500) to enable the development of new analytics and data management capabilities to maintain the United Nations Arab Region Data and Policy Support Hub and to establish a comprehensive cybersecurity programme and governance structure;

(vi) Travel of staff ($9,900), reflecting increased requirements for participating in training and workshops related to capacity-building on business continuity and risk management and on innovative artificial intelligence tools to optimize the impact of programme support function.

In addition, the following cost-neutral change is proposed:

(vii) As reflected in annex II, the reassignment of one Property Control and Inventory Assistant (LL) post as a Data Analysis Assistant post.

Extrabudgetary resources

22.110   As reflected in tables 22.31 (2) and 22.32 (2), ESCWA expects to continue to receive cash contributions amounting to $10,712,700. The resources would complement the regular budget and would be used mainly: (a) to implement activities related to climate mainstreaming, climate change adaptation to address water scarcity, and the centre for the advancement of emission reductions, under subprogramme 1; (b) to support Egypt in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of its national social protection system, as well as the organization of the second Arab Forum for Equality, and the "Josour initiative: To a better future for youth in the Arab Region" and its related activities, under subprogramme 2; (c) to enhance the operationalization of the initiative for additional member States, help ESCWA to strengthen the capacity of project countries in advancing finance for climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals and improve the outreach of ESCWA in order to advocate for the results of the initiative to regional and global stakeholders, deliver technical assistance to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, integrate analysis related to the Syrian Arab Republic in ESCWA regional work and provide a holistic approach to tackling social, economic and political challenges and provide lessons learned and comparative material for other countries in a conflict context (Iraq, Libya and Yemen) under subprogramme 3; (d) to provide technical support and advice for the development of a sustainable system of national accounts in Jordan under subprogramme 4; and (e) to provide technical expertise, build human and institutional capacities, mainstream peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies and enhance the capabilities of Palestinian institutions, to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on social and economic development under subprogramme 6. The expected increase of $1,285,800 is attributed to an increase in the level of contributions for the above-mentioned projects.

22.111   The authority to oversee the use of extrabudgetary resources rests with the secretariat of ESCWA, which has delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

Policymaking organs

22.112   The resources proposed under this component would provide for requirements relating to the servicing of standing intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes. The provisions for

intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes are in accordance with the rules of procedure of ESCWA and related amendments. ESCWA reports to the Economic and Social Council and the sessions of the Commission provide overall direction to the work of the secretariat.

22.113   Table 22.34 provides information on the standing intergovernmental organs and expert bodies and related resource requirements under the regular budget.

Table 22.34
Policymaking organs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Policymaking organ	Description	Additional information	2023 appropriation	2024 estimate (before recosting)
Executive Committee	The Committee develops interaction and consultation among members of ESCWA and the secretariat on substantive development issues. It facilitates direct and timely communication with member States and submits resolutions to the Economic and Social Council between ESCWA ministerial sessions.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 320 (XXVIII) Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 2	30.0	30.0
Statistical Committee	The Committee follows up on the progress of member States in the development of their statistical systems, provides technical advice, proposes training programmes and organizes workshops and seminars to strengthen their statistical capacity. It also assists member States in the standardization of national statistics for greater comparability at the regional and international levels and supports them in coordinating statistical data and information with the Statistical Commission and with other member countries, in particular, in surveys and censuses.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 1	–	18.5
Committee on Transport and Logistics	The Committee contributes to the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programmes of work and medium-term plans in the field of transport, monitors developments in the field of transport in ESCWA member States, monitors progress achieved in the activities of the ESCWA secretariat in the field of transport, ensures the participation of member States in international and regional conferences and coordinates efforts of member States relating to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 213 (XIX), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/11, and ESCWA resolution 229 (XXI) Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 1	22.0	22.0
Committee on Technology for Development	The Committee follows up on regional priorities in the field of technology for development, including ICT, Internet governance, the digital economy and the information society, as well as areas related to scientific research and technology transfer. It also follows up on relevant regional and international processes, conferences and forums and coordinates regional efforts to implement the decisions and recommendations of those conferences, and supports cooperation with regional organizations, including LAS and other specialized organizations.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 315 (XXVIII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2014/35 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 1	–	18.5

Policymaking organ	Description	Additional information	2023 appropriation	2024 estimate (before recosting)
Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	The Committee is mandated to discuss priorities under the programme of work and medium-term action plans of the Commission in the field of trade policies; to follow up on progress in trade policies in member States and make recommendations in that regard; and to monitor developments in regional and international forums, conferences and processes with regard to trade policies and coordinate regional efforts to implement related resolutions and recommendations emanating from such platforms.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 332 (XXX), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2019/30 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 1	–	18.5
Committee on Energy	The Committee participates in the planning, development and monitoring of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of energy. It follows up on developments in the energy sector and their impact on socioeconomic development in member States. It also ensures close regional cooperation among member States to improve their capacity to manage energy sources in an efficient and effective manner and to use renewable energy in achieving sustainable development.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 204 (XVIII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/25 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: –	13.0	–
Committee on Water Resources	The Committee participates in the planning, development and monitoring of the ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. It follows up on regional and global developments in the water sector and their impact on socioeconomic development in member States. It also ensures close regional cooperation between member States to improve their capacity to manage water resources in an efficient and effective manner to achieve sustainable development.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/26 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: –	13.0	–
Committee on Social Development	The Committee participates in defining priorities for social programmes and activities and in formulating and developing the ESCWA programme of work in the area of social development; monitoring progress in social programmes and activities in ESCWA member States; adopting recommendations to strengthen regional social development processes; and following up on international and regional conferences and coordinating regional efforts to implement resulting resolutions and recommendations.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 198 (XVII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: –	13.0	–
Committee on Financing for Development in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	The Committee is mandated to discuss priorities under the programme of work and medium-term action plans of the Commission in the field of financing for development; to follow up on progress in financing for development policies in member States and make recommendations in that regard; and to monitor developments in regional and international forums, conferences and processes with regard to financing for development and coordinate regional efforts to implement related resolutions and recommendations emanating from such platforms.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 332 (XXX), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2019/30 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: –	13.0	–

Policymaking organ	Description	Additional information	2023 appropriation	2024 estimate (before recosting)
Committee on Women	The Committee is mandated to follow up on global and regional conferences addressing women's advancement and facilitate the participation of member States in related global discussions. It is also tasked with the coordination of regional efforts to implement resolutions and recommendations.	Mandate: ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/9 Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: –	13.9	–
ESCWA session	The ESCWA session, composed of a senior officials segment and a ministerial segment, is the highest governing body of ESCWA and is responsible for broad direction-setting. It follows up on programmatic implementation and technical cooperation activities and addresses salient development issues in the region, such as financing for development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate change, young people and labour, social policies and technology for development.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) Membership: 21 government officials Number of sessions in 2024: 1	–	10.4
Total			**117.9**	**117.9**

22.114   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $117,900 and reflect no change compared with the appropriation for 2023. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.35 and figure 22.VI.

Table 22.35
Policymaking organs: evolution of financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	2024 estimate (before recosting)
					Changes			
Non-post	57.1	117.9	–	–	–	–	–	117.9
Total	**57.1**	**117.9**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**117.9**

Figure 22.VI
Policymaking organs: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Thousands of United States dollars)
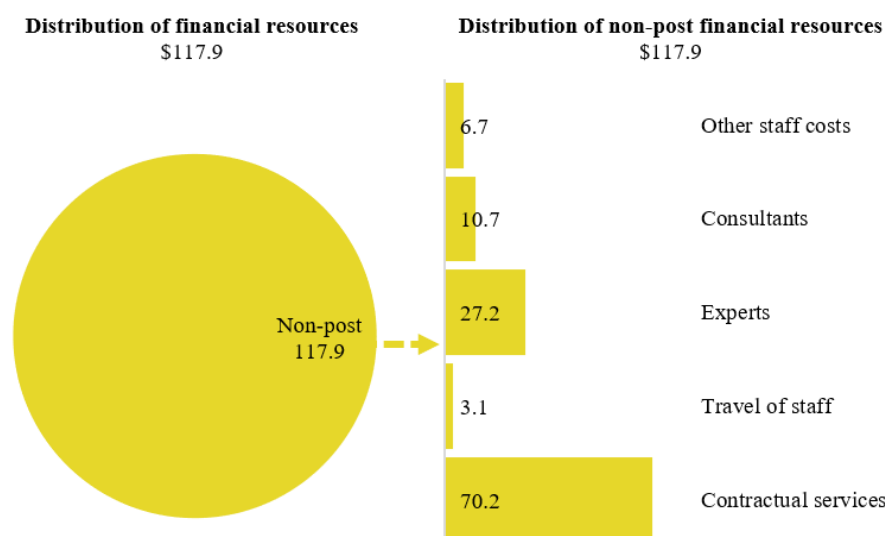
Executive direction and management

22.115   Executive direction and management is under the responsibility of the Executive Secretary, supported by the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support and the Secretary of the Commission. It comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Strategy, Planning, Accountability, Results and Knowledge Section and the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Section.

22.116   The Office of the Executive Secretary is responsible for coordinating and providing overall leadership, policy direction and management of the ESCWA secretariat to support member States, in collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system, with strategic analysis, policy guidelines and capacity-building activities to address key development challenges and issues and to implement innovative solutions for region-wide equitable and inclusive economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability. The Office provides leadership and policy orientation and establishes criteria to coordinate follow-up in the region on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and the empowerment of women, and sustainability perspectives, throughout ESCWA substantive programmes.

22.117   The Strategy, Planning, Accountability, Results and Knowledge Section will continue to promote dynamism and innovation in the ESCWA business model and medium-term strategy and to act as a focal point for the annual results framework and related applications in Umoja. The Section will continue to be the basis for organizational learning processes, focusing accountability on the attainment of results and ensuring the operational excellence of ESCWA through risk reduction and change management processes. The Section will continue to manage the broader knowledge and dissemination processes of ESCWA.

22.118   The Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Section will continue to strengthen relationships with funding agencies and donors; maintain up-to-date regional and global donor mapping; coordinate and support project development, budgeting and fundraising; support and track implementation of extrabudgetary projects; assist ESCWA cluster leaders in building and enhancing institutional partnerships (regional and global); support cluster leaders' relationships with civil society and non-State actors and partners; and develop and negotiate legally binding partnerships and donor agreements.

22.119   In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 72/219, the Commission integrates environmental management practices into its operations. In 2024, the Commission expects to reduce its carbon footprint by 4 per cent of current carbon emissions.

22.120   Information on the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 22.36. ESCWA has made efforts to raise awareness among staff of the requirement to comply with the advance purchase guidance and, in this context, has put in place a procedure whereby travel requests not compliant with the advance booking policy have to be cleared by the Office of the Executive Secretary to hold project managers accountable for the late travel-related submissions. ESCWA will continue to pursue efforts to achieve its targets in 2024.

Table 22.36
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Planned 2023	Planned 2024
Timely submission of documentation	38	55	70	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	38	65	57	100	100

22.121   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $5,921,800 and reflect a decrease of $99,600 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 22.109 (a). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.37 and figure 22.VII.

Table 22.37
Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 912.1	5 443.3	–	–	–	–	–	5 443.3
Non-post	830.8	578.1	–	–	(99.6)	(99.6)	(17.2)	478.5
Total	**5 742.9**	**6 021.4**	**–**	**–**	**(99.6)**	**(99.6)**	**(1.7)**	**5 921.8**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		17	–	–	–	–	–	17
General Service and related		16	–	–	–	–	–	16
Total		**33**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**33**

Figure 22.VII
Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1
Climate change and natural resource sustainability

22.122   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $4,316,600 and reflect a decrease of $21,300 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 22.109 (b). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.38 and figure 22.VIII.
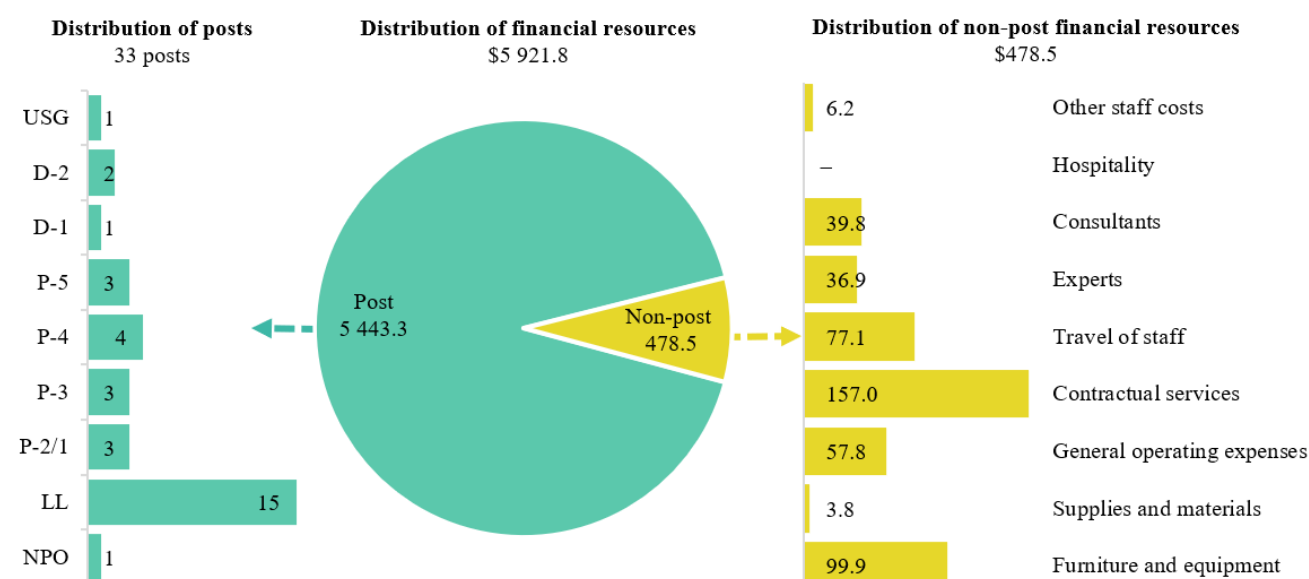
Table 22.38
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 931.4	3 790.3	–	–	–	–	–	3 790.3
Non-post	176.5	547.6	–	–	(21.3)	(21.3)	(3.9)	526.3
Total	**4 107.8**	**4 337.9**	**–**	**–**	**(21.3)**	**(21.3)**	**(0.5)**	**4 316.6**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	–	–	–	–	–	13
General Service and related		10	–	–	–	–	–	10
Total		**23**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**23**

Figure 22.VIII
Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
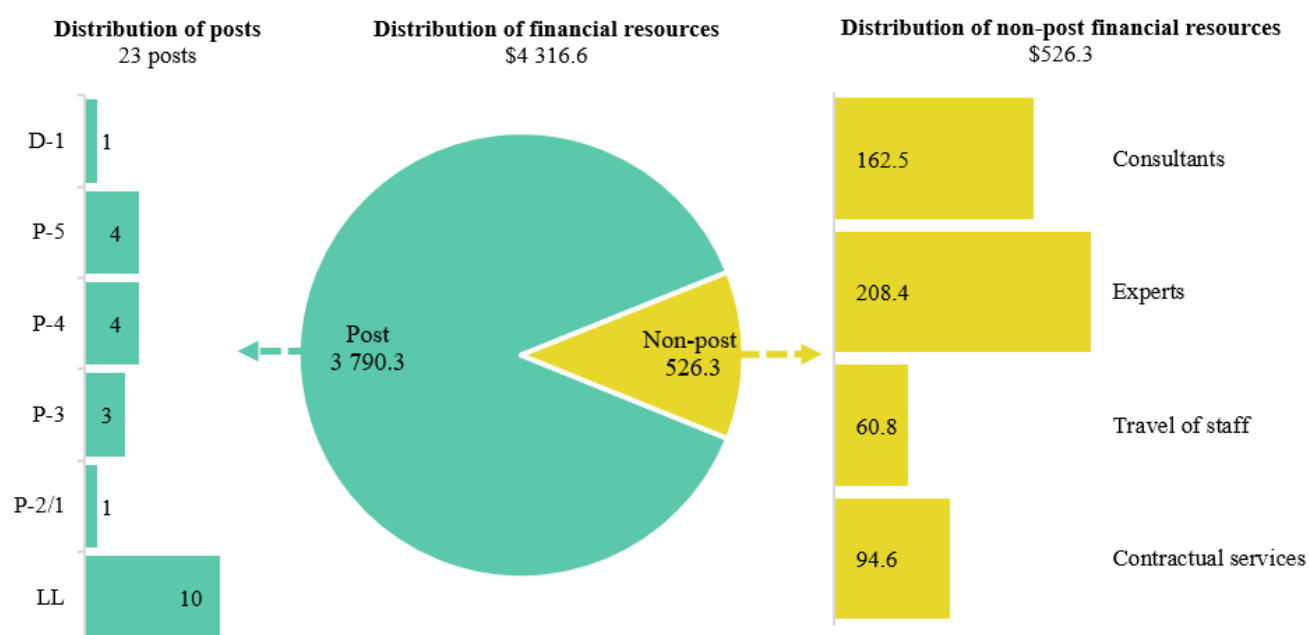
Extrabudgetary resources

22.123   Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $3,663,300. The resources would be used mainly to support activities related to climate mainstreaming and capacity-building on climate change, sustainable energy systems, food security, and the centre for the advancement of emission reductions. These resources would complement the programme of work in supporting member States on climate finance and capacity-building on climate change, the work on the sustainable energy transition being undertaken by ESCWA. The expected increase of $1,832,300 reflects mainly the requirements for the centre.

Subprogramme 2
Gender justice, population and inclusive development

22.124   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $5,729,900 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2023. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.39 and figure 22.IX.

Table 22.39
**Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 795.9	5 091.6	–	–	–	–	–	5 091.6
Non-post	1 424.4	638.3	–	–	–	–	–	638.3
Total	**6 220.3**	**5 729.9**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**5 729.9**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	–	–	–	–	–	19
General Service and related		10	–	–	–	–	–	10
Total		**29**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**29**

Figure 22.IX
Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
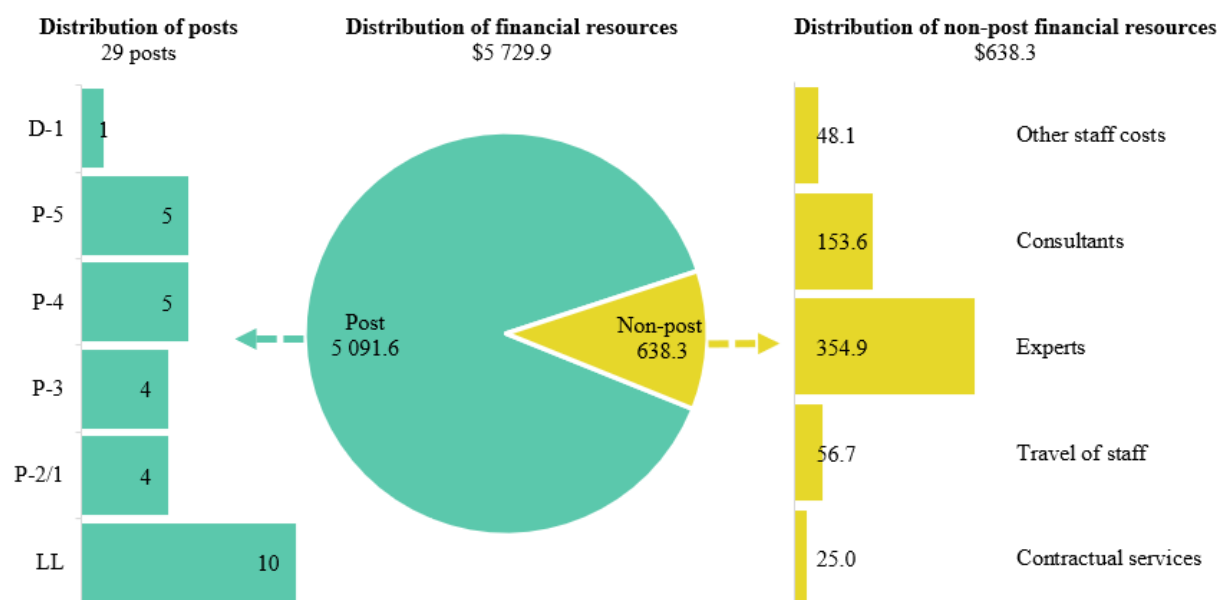
Extrabudgetary resources

22.125   Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $555,200. The resources would be used mainly to support the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda among Arab States. These resources would complement the Commission's ongoing effort to assist member States in formulating needed social protection policies and longer-term development programmes targeting all members of society, with a special focus on marginalized and vulnerable groups, to eradicate poverty and mitigate inequalities, while adopting a rights-based approach, in addition to the work on reducing inequality and the threat of inequality to social and political stability. The expected decrease of $67,000 is due mainly to the finalization of projects started in 2023, including the project which supports the development of a comprehensive national social protection and reforms country profile of Egypt.

Subprogramme 3
Shared economic prosperity

22.126   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $4,846,200 and reflect an increase of $47,800 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 22.109 (d). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.40 and figure 22.X.

Table 22.40
**Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources**
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 210.9	4 292.7	–	–	–	–	–	4 292.7
Non-post	566.2	505.7	–	–	47.8	47.8	9.5	553.5
Total	**4 777.1**	**4 798.4**	**–**	**–**	**47.8**	**47.8**	**1.0**	**4 846.2**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	–	–	–	–	–	15
General Service and related		12	–	–	–	–	–	12
Total		**27**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**27**

Figure 22.X
Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
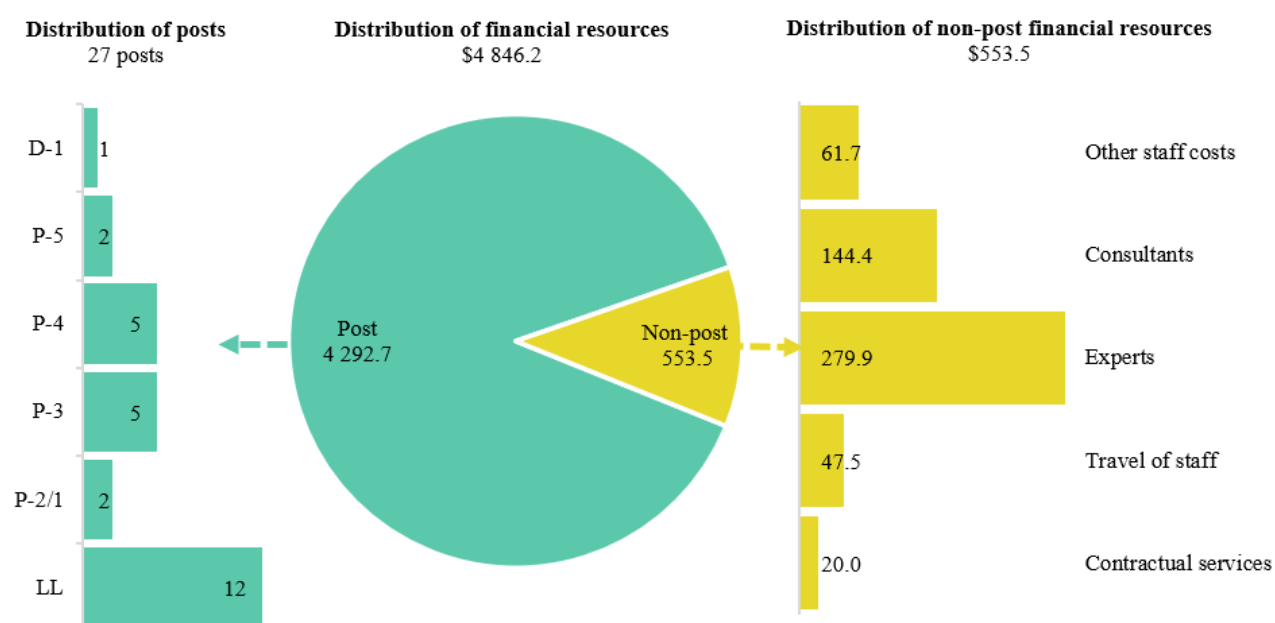
Extrabudgetary resources

22.127   Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $850,300. The resources would be used mainly to continue to provide technical assistance to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and to integrate analysis related to the Syrian Arab Republic in ESCWA regional work and provide lessons learned and comparative material for other countries in a conflict context (Iraq, Libya and Yemen), in addition to the initiative started by ESCWA on climate Sustainable Development Goals debt swaps. These resources will support ESCWA in enhancing the operationalization of the initiative for additional member States, help ESCWA to strengthen the capacity of project countries in advancing finance for climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals, and improve the Commission's outreach to advocate for the results of the initiative to regional and global stakeholders. The expected decrease of $667,700 is due to the finalization of projects started in 2023, including the projects that provide support for heavily indebted countries to develop climate action, debt swap programmes, advocacy and channels of engagement for civil society organizations.

Subprogramme 4
Statistics, the information society and technology

22.128   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $5,212,500 and reflect an increase of $407,700 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 22.109 (e). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.41 and figure 22.XI.

Table 22.41
Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	4 423.7	4 413.5	99.2	–	–	99.2	2.2	4 512.7
Non-post	895.4	391.3	–	–	308.5	308.5	78.8	699.8
Total	**5 319.1**	**4 804.8**	**99.2**	**–**	**308.5**	**407.7**	**8.5**	**5 212.5**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	–	–	–	–	–	15
General Service and related		13	–	–	–	–	–	13
Total		**28**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**28**

Figure 22.XI
Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
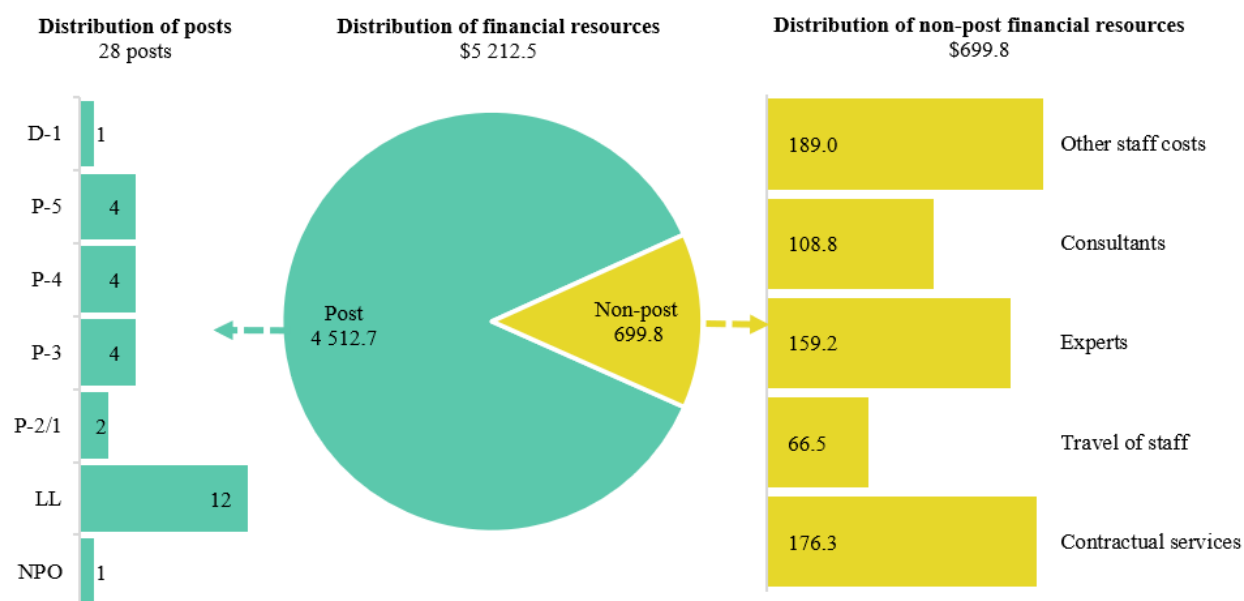
Extrabudgetary resources

22.129   Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $301,800. The resources would be used mainly to provide technical support and advice for the development of a sustainable system of national accounts in Jordan.

Subprogramme 5
2030 Agenda and SDG coordination

22.130   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $2,266,200 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2023. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.42 and figure 22.XII.

Table 22.42
**Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources**
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 489.5	1 854.5	–	–	–	–	–	1 854.5
Non-post	332.0	411.7	–	–	–	–	–	411.7
Total	**1 821.5**	**2 266.2**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**2 266.2**

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		7	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
General Service and related		3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Total		**10**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**10**

Figure 22.XII
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
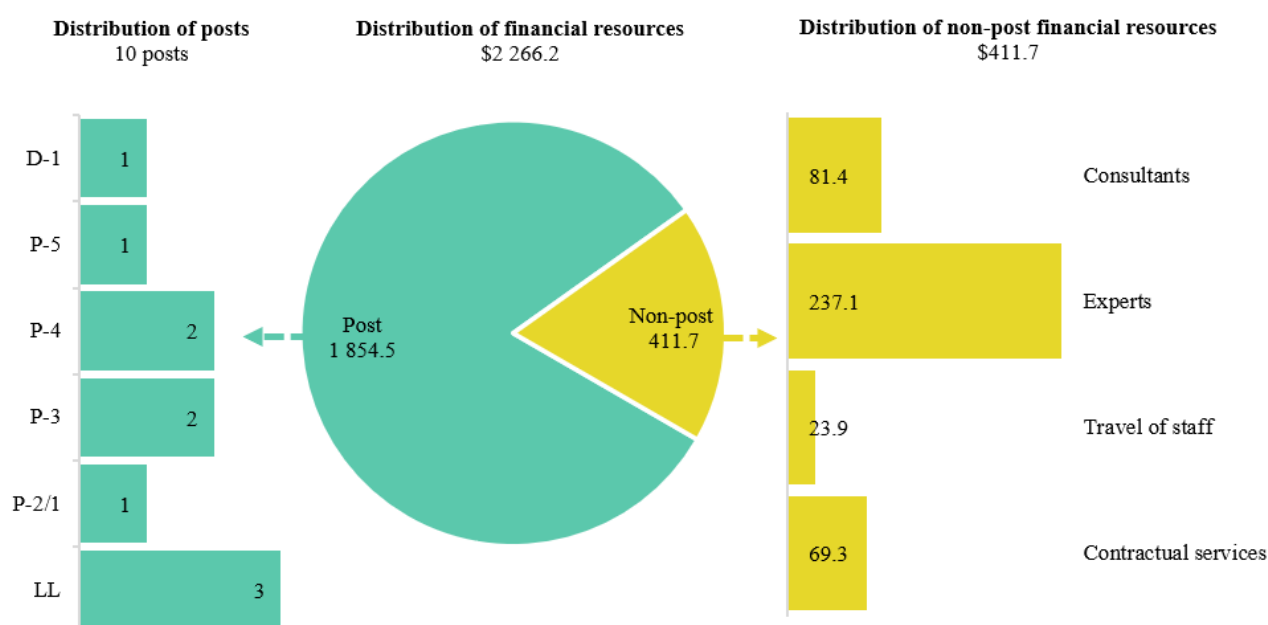
Subprogramme 6
Governance and conflict prevention

22.131   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $3,399,000 and reflect an increase of $19,400 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 22.109 (g). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.43 and figure 22.XIII.

Table 22.43
Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

|			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 848.1	3 095.3	–	–	–	–	–	3 095.3
Non-post	268.7	284.3	–	–	19.4	19.4	6.8	303.7
Total	**3 116.8**	**3 379.6**	**–**	**–**	**19.4**	**19.4**	**0.6**	**3 399.0**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		11	–	–	–	–	–	11
General Service and related		6	–	–	–	–	–	6
Total		**17**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**17**

Figure 22.XIII
Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
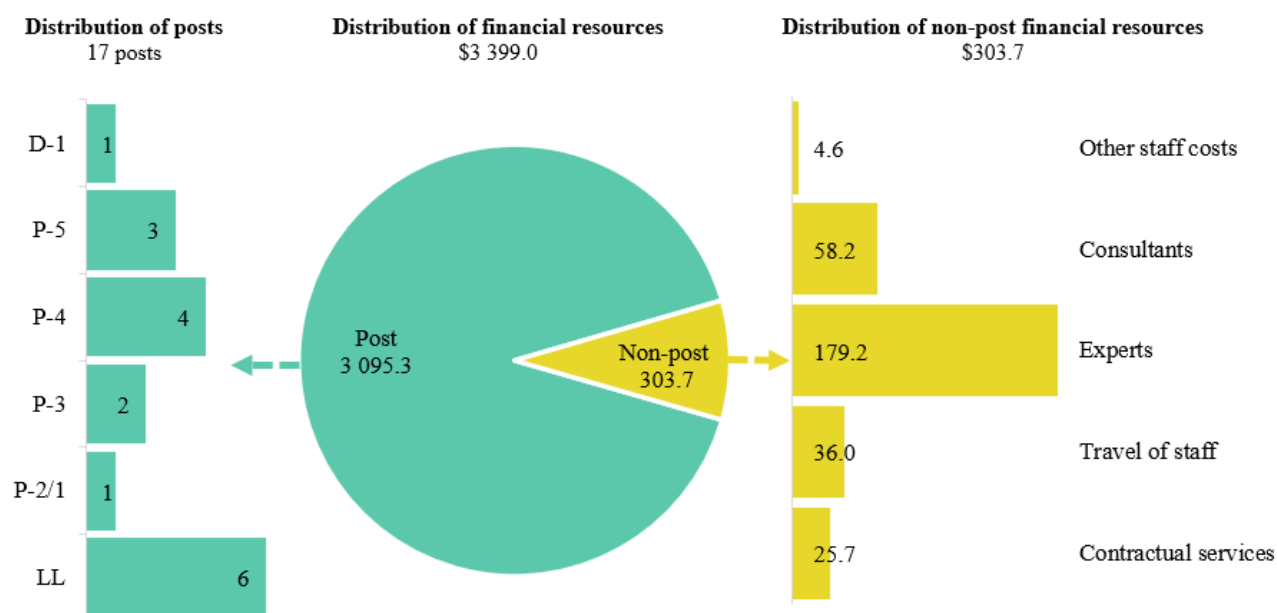
Extrabudgetary resources

22.132   Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $130,100. The resources would be used mainly to provide technical expertise, build human and institutional capacities and mainstream peacebuilding and conflict prevention policies. These resources complement the activities related to technical assistance or capacity-building activities dedicated by the cluster towards building public sector capacities. These will include numerous trainings of civil servants on various methodologies and tools designed to strengthen risk-informed national policies and programmes, and contribute to knowledge creation through recurrent and non-recurrent publications. National and regional expert group meetings mandated in the regular budget programme, on governance and on risk or development challenges resulting from conflict, will benefit from the project's various assessments

and diagnostics in the form of working papers and presentations. The expected decrease of $111,800 is due mainly to the finalization of projects started in 2023, such as the Arab fund for economic and social development supporting the Palestinian people towards development and self-determination.

Programme support

22.133   Programme support comprises the Resource Management and Service Development Division. The component will continue to provide timely, effective and efficient administrative and logistical support to implement the Commission's programme of work.

22.134   The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to $17,220,600 and reflect a net decrease of $254,800 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 22.109 (h). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 22.44 and figure 22.XIV.

Table 22.44
Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
	2022 expenditure	*2023 appropriation*	*Technical adjustments*	*New/expanded mandates*	*Other*	*Total*	*Percentage*	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	10 153.7	10 228.1	–	–	214.4	214.4	2.1	10 442.5
Non-post	4 960.9	7 247.3	–	–	(469.2)	(469.2)	(6.5)	6 778.1
Total	**15 114.6**	**17 475.4**	**–**	**–**	**(254.8)**	**(254.8)**	**(1.5)**	**17 220.6**
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		24	–	–	–	–	–	24
General Service and related		64	–	–	2	2	3.1	66
Total		**88**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**2.3**	**90**

Figure 22.XIV
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)
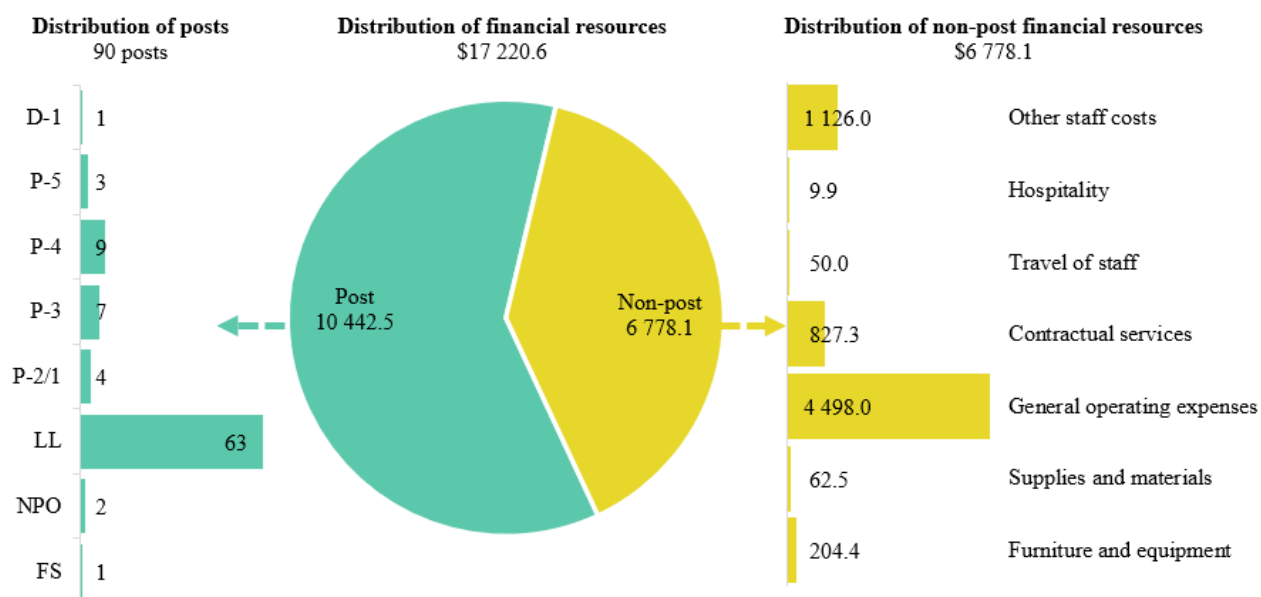
Extrabudgetary resources

22.135   Extrabudgetary resources for programme support are estimated at $5,212,000. The resources will be used mainly to continue to support the areas of budget, finance, human resources, general administration and ICT. In addition, these resources will further strengthen the functions related to strategy, programme management, oversight, evaluation, enterprise risk management and coordination of the ESCWA technical cooperation programme. The expected increase of $300,000 is due mainly to the anticipated increase in extrabudgetary resources requiring administrative support.

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2024

Office of the Executive Secretary
(Executive direction and management)

RB:
1 USG
2 D-2
1 D-1
2 P-5[a]
2 P-4
1 P-3
1 P-2
1 NPO
8 LL[b]

Total: 19

Resource Management and Service Development Division
(Programme support)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	3 P-4
3 P-5	1 P-3
9 P-4[c]	1 NPO
7 P-3	20 LL
4 P-2	
1 FS	
2 NPO	
63 LL[d]	
90	**25**

Total: 115

Strategy, Planning, Accountability, Results and Knowledge Section
(Executive direction and management)

RB:
1 P-5
1 P-4
2 P-3
1 P-2
6 LL

Total: 11

Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Section
(Executive direction and management)

RB:
1 P-4
1 P-2
1 LL

Total: 3

Cluster 1: Climate change and natural resource sustainability
(Subprogramme 1)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 D-1
4 P-5	2 P-5
4 P-4	2 P-4
3 P-3	1 P-3
1 P-2	3 NPO
10 LL[e]	7 LL
23	**16**

Total: 39

Cluster 2: Gender justice, population and inclusive development
(Subprogramme 2)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 LL
5 P-5	
5 P-4	
4 P-3	
4 P-2	
10 LL	
29	**1**

Total: 30

Cluster 3: Shared economic prosperity
(Subprogramme 3)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 P-5
2 P-5	2 P-4
5 P-4	2 LL
5 P-3	
2 P-2	
12 LL	
27	**5**

Total: 32

Cluster 4: Statistics, the information society and technology
(Subprogramme 4)

RB:	XB:
1 D-1	1 P-5
4 P-5	
4 P-4	
4 P-3	
2 P-2	
1 NPO	
12 LL	
28	**1**

Total: 29

Cluster 5: 2030 Agenda and SDG coordination
(Subprogramme 5)

RB:
1 D-1
1 P-5
2 P-4
2 P-3
1 P-2
3 LL

Total: 10

Cluster 6: Governance and conflict prevention
(Subprogramme 6)

RB:
1 D-1
3 P-5
4 P-4
2 P-3
1 P-2
6 LL

Total: 17

Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

[a] Reassignment of one Senior Programme Officer (P-5) post as Chief of Staff post.

[b] Reassignment of one Library Assistant (LL) post as Graphic Design Assistant post.

[c] Reclassification of two Arabic Translator (P-3) posts to Arabic Reviser (P-4) posts.

[d] Conversion of one Senior Information Systems Assistant (LL) and one Information Systems Assistant positions to posts, and reassignment of one Property Control and Inventory Assistant (LL) post as Data Analysis Assistant post.

[e] Reassignment of one Senior Programme Management Assistant (LL) post as Data Analysis Assistant post.

Annex II

Summary of proposed post changes, by component and subprogramme

Component/subprogramme	Posts	Grade	Description	Reason for change
Executive direction and management	1	P-5	**Reassignment** of one Senior Programme Officer as Chief of Staff	The proposed reassignment is related to the need to strengthen workforce planning and management capacity of the Commission. The Chief of Staff, in line with the data-driven transformation strategy deployed by ESCWA, would support building a workforce with the new data skills and innovative capabilities that would enhance support to member States and would promote agility and foster a positive culture essential to: (a) leverage collaboration; (b) embrace new technologies; and (c) quickly adapt to new working methods and challenges.
Executive direction and management	1	LL	**Reassignment** of one Library Assistant as Graphic Design Assistant	The proposed reassignment is related to the reduced workload in the traditional library services and the increased demand for digital content on ESCWA repository and e-learning platforms. The Graphic Design Assistant would strengthen the capacity to develop and produce innovative content and support the timely and effective dissemination of information.
Subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability	1	LL	**Reassignment** of one Senior Programme Management Assistant as Data Analysis Assistant	The proposed reassignment is related to the need to enhance capacity in modelling the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations and the production of data in the implementation of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General using a well-integrated data ecosystem.
Programme support	2	P-3 to P-4	**Reclassification** of two Arabic Translators as Arabic Revisers	The proposed upward reclassification relates to the need to strengthen the in-house Arabic language services provided to member States. The proposed reclassifications would allow for the replacement of a two-stage translation and revision process with a single stage of self-revision, with quality control functions and end-to-end project coordination.
Programme support	2	LL	**Conversion** of one Senior Information Systems Assistant and one Information Systems Assistant	The proposed conversion of two general temporary assistance positions to posts is related to the need to stabilize the capacity required for the management and maintenance of the data ecosystem. The posts would strengthen the capacity: (a) for the development of new applications and portals, including interactive policy simulation platforms and artificial intelligence tools; and (b) to address data-related requests by member States.
Programme support	1	LL	**Reassignment** of one Property Control and Inventory Assistant as Data Analysis Assistant	The proposed reassignment is related to the need to strengthen the capacity required for the management and maintenance of the data ecosystem, including interactive policy simulation platforms and artificial intelligence tools.

Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

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