ICP 2011 Round
Western Asia Region

UN-ESCWA
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Progress in the Preparation for the 2011 ICP Round

1. **General Aspects**
   - Participation in two interim meetings on the preparation for the 2011 round;
   - Preparatory meeting with WB and IDB in July 2009, other meeting with IDB in June 2009;
   - Final approval in the ESCWA WP 2010-2011 by the SC (October 2008);
   - Notification to MCs early September 2009;
   - Participation in the first Regional coordinators’ meeting late September 2009.

2. **Organizational Aspects**
   - WA ICP Regional Office for 2011 round has been established in August 2009, constituting of an ESCWA representative, a Regional Coordinator, a Program Manager, and support staff;
   - The ICP Regional Office for WA will build on the 2005 round experience in terms of regional organizational architecture, maintaining a Regional Executive Board for regional evaluation, decision taking and promotion of program results;
   - The Regional Office includes expertise on Prices, National Accounts, and experience in the implementation of the 2005 ICP round.
   - **WA Regional Office - Focal Points**:
     - Mr. Juraj Riecan, ESCWA representative
     - Mr. Giovanni Savio, Regional Coordinator
     - Mr. Majed Skaini, Program Manager

3. **Country Participation**
   - Invitations to ESCWA member countries to join the 2011 round were sent early September 2009;
   - Positive willingness to join was reflected by all 14 member states;
• Joining the 2011 round in some of the countries might depend on the availability of financial support to be provided to them;

• Egypt and Sudan would be participants in both Africa and Western Asia regions.

ICP 2011 Participating Countries

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4. Memos of Understanding

• WB-ESCWA MOU is undergoing formal procedure for clearance at ESCWA;

• Upon clearance, MOU will be signed between ESCWA and the World Bank;

• Country MOUs were reviewed and modified during the 1st RC meeting in DC, Sep. 2009;

• Following the signature of WB-ESCWA MOU, WA Regional Office will process the country MOUs and send them to countries for signature.

5. Funding

• ESCWA met with WB and IsDB in July 2009 regarding the utilization of the remaining funds from the 2005 round, and the availability of additional funding;
• ESCWA will try to identify and approach potential funding sources for supporting the region;

• WA Regional Office has provided the WB with a tentative budget plan for the 2011 round;

• Funding is a crucial issue in ESCWA region especially that most of the member countries lack the sufficient financial resources.

6. Regional Activities

• Successive to the 1st RC meeting, WA Regional Office prepared a regional timetable and a preliminary workplan in line with the global one;

• Regional activities in WA are pending the receipt of the remaining IsDB funding that is being transferred from the WB;

• Upon transfer of funds, WA regional Office will launch the 2011 round in the region through conducting a first meeting with the heads of NSOs of ESCWA member states.