

# Women, Water & the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Context

Symposium on Women and Water Security for Peacebuilding in the Arab Region  
Beirut, Lebanon, 9-10 May 2018

UN Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

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ESCWA

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**WATER ACTION DECADE**

2018 - 2028

# 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Key Principles

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly states that the SDGs are universal, indivisible, integrated and people-centered (in preamble & paras. 5, 18, 55, 71)*

*The 2030 Agenda affirms the **Human Right to Water & Sanitation** by aspiring for all:*

*“A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy”.*



 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**17 SDGs**

**169 Targets**

**232 Indicators** *(9 repeated)*

# All 17 SDGs are Water-related

## Dedicated



## Explicitly



## Implicitly



# All 17 SDGs are Gender-related

## Dedicated



## Explicitly



## Implicitly



# SDG 6: Goal & Targets

## Ensure availability & sustainable management of water & sanitation for all

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- 6.1 by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally
- 6.4 by 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
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- 6.A by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.B support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management

# Water-Women-Security Nexus within the SDGs



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



# ESCWA supporting Implementation of SDGs

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## **Voice**

Arab Forum on Sustainable Development  
*(annual)*

## **Advisory Services**

Capacity building to Arab States on implementation of the Agenda

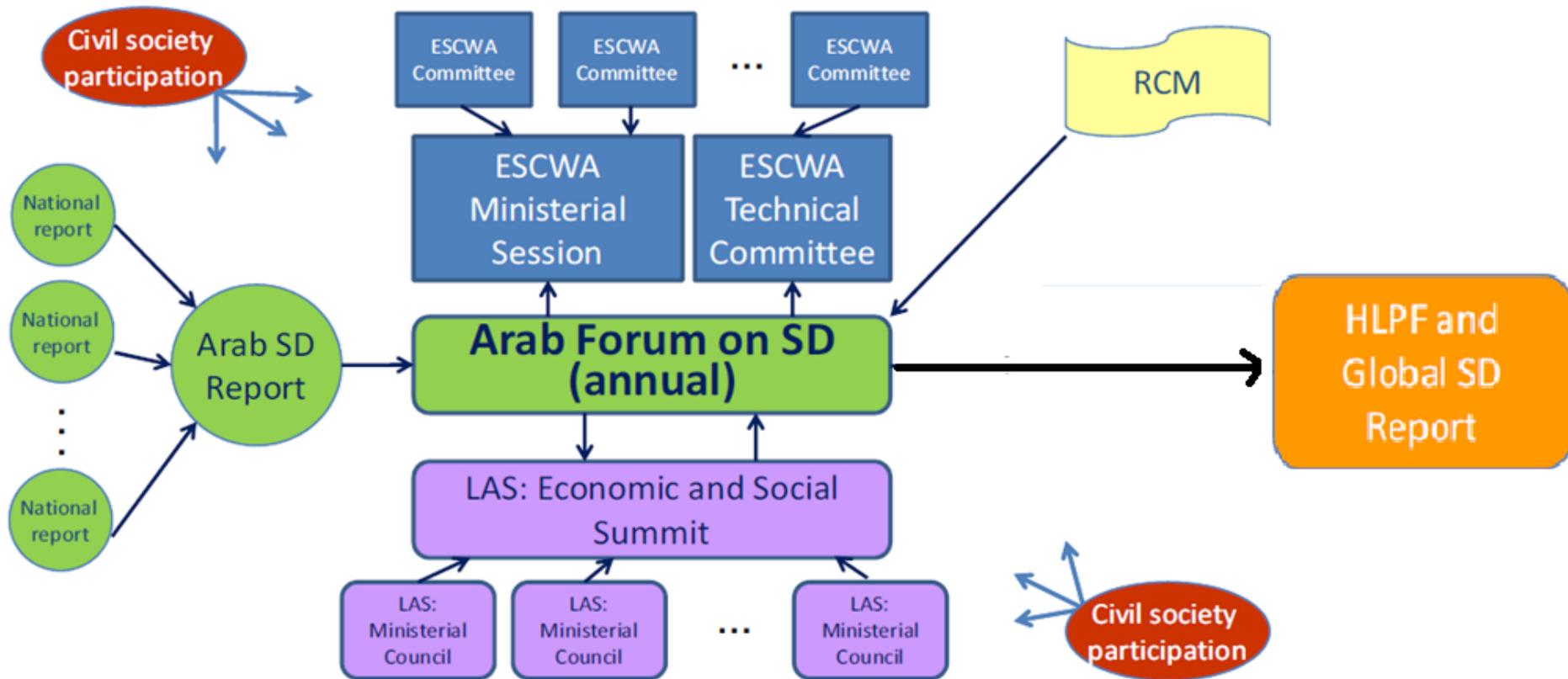
## **Think Tank**

Arab Sustainable Development Reports and other knowledge products



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# Interlinking Institutional Processes



# High Level Political Forum:

## The global mechanism for tracking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD)

## Regional Preparations for High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

**Arab High Level Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Amman, 2-4 April 2014

**Second Session of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Manama, 5-7 May 2015

*\* Included Side Event on Water for Sustainable Development*

***Adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***  
***New York, September 2015***

**2016 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development**  
Amman, 29-30 May 2016

**2017 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development**  
Morocco, 3-5 May 2017

**2018 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development**  
Beirut, 24-26 April 2018

*\* Includes special session on water and the SDGs*



***AFSD 2018 Theme: Natural Resources, Future Generations and the Common Good***

# Voicing Regional Concerns to the Global Level

## Regional Consultations

**Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water**  
(Beirut, 28-29 March 2018)

Civil Society  
Organizations (NGOs)  
Regional & National  
Organizations  
International experts

Priorities  
water  
related  
issues for  
the region



**Arab Forum on Sustainable Development**  
(Beirut, 24 April 2018)

**Special sessions on**

- Water and SDGs: An Arab Perspective

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in National SDG Implementation plans

**Key messages on regional water issues**

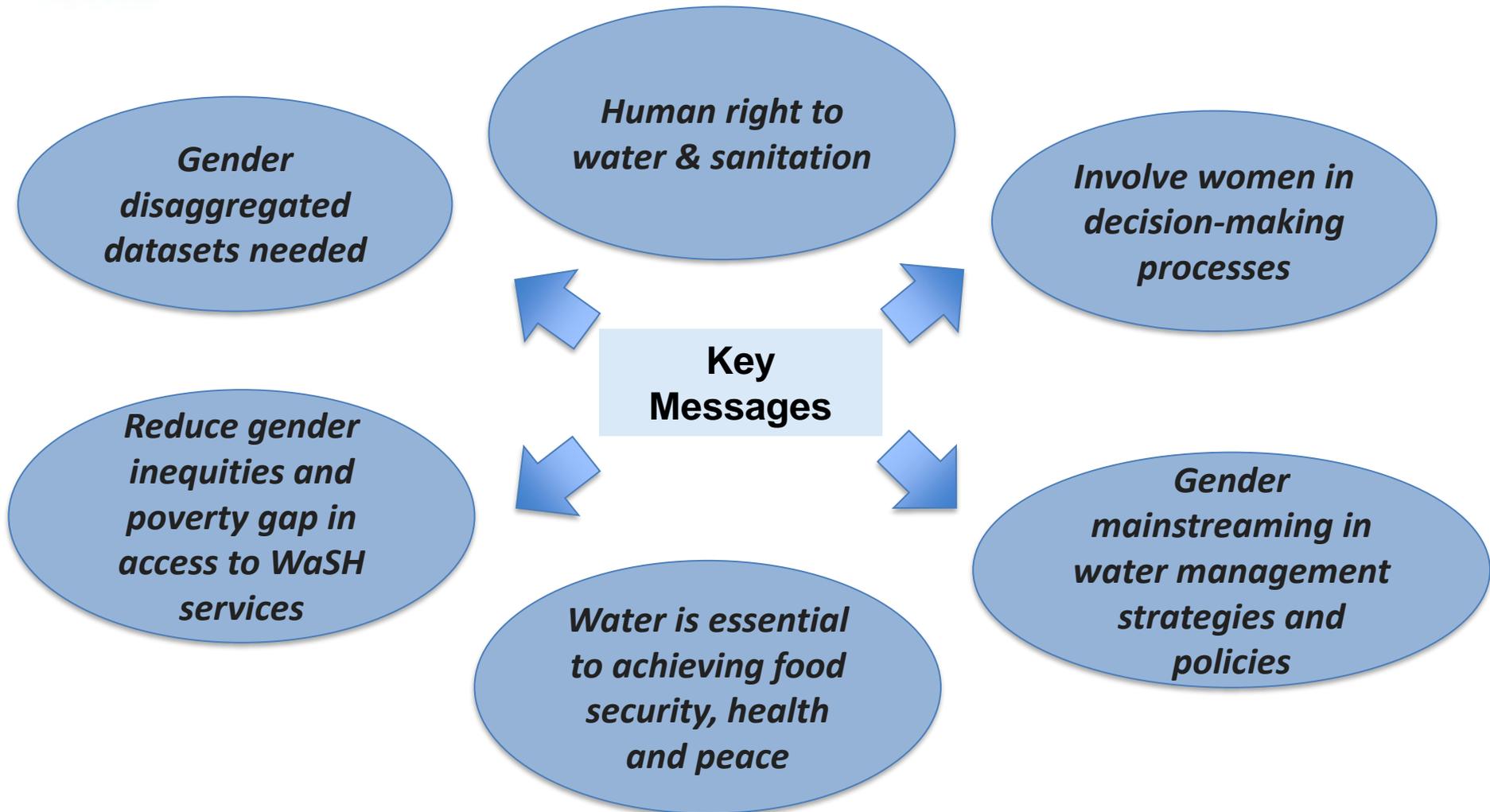


**Global Platform**

**High Level Political Forum NY, July 2018**

Key  
Regional  
Messages

## 2018 AFSD Key Messages Addressing: Water and Women Security Interlinkages





# ESCWA Support to the Water-Women-Security Nexus: The Way Forward

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- Advancing **Water Security** in the Arab region
- Supporting the **Water- Women-Security** nexus
- Contributing to the Implementation of the **Water Action Decade** at the regional level



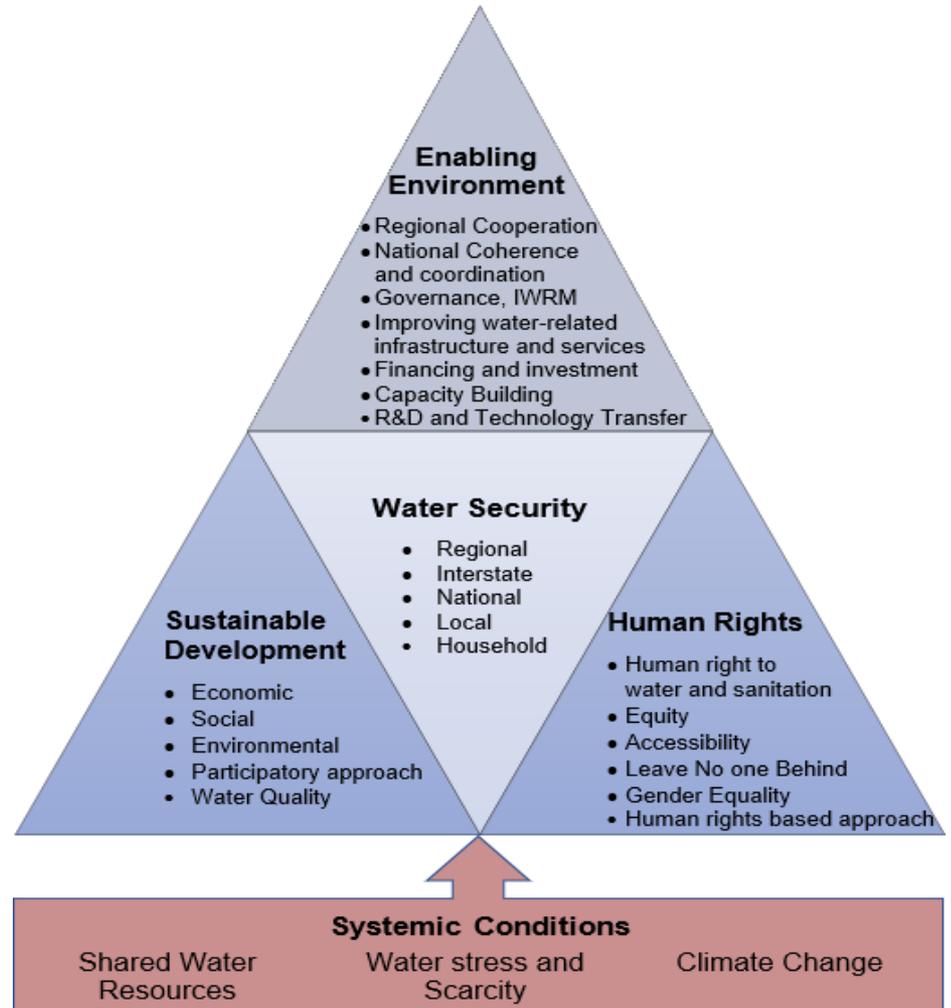
**WATER ACTION DECADE**

2018 - 2028

[www.wateractiondecade.org](http://www.wateractiondecade.org)

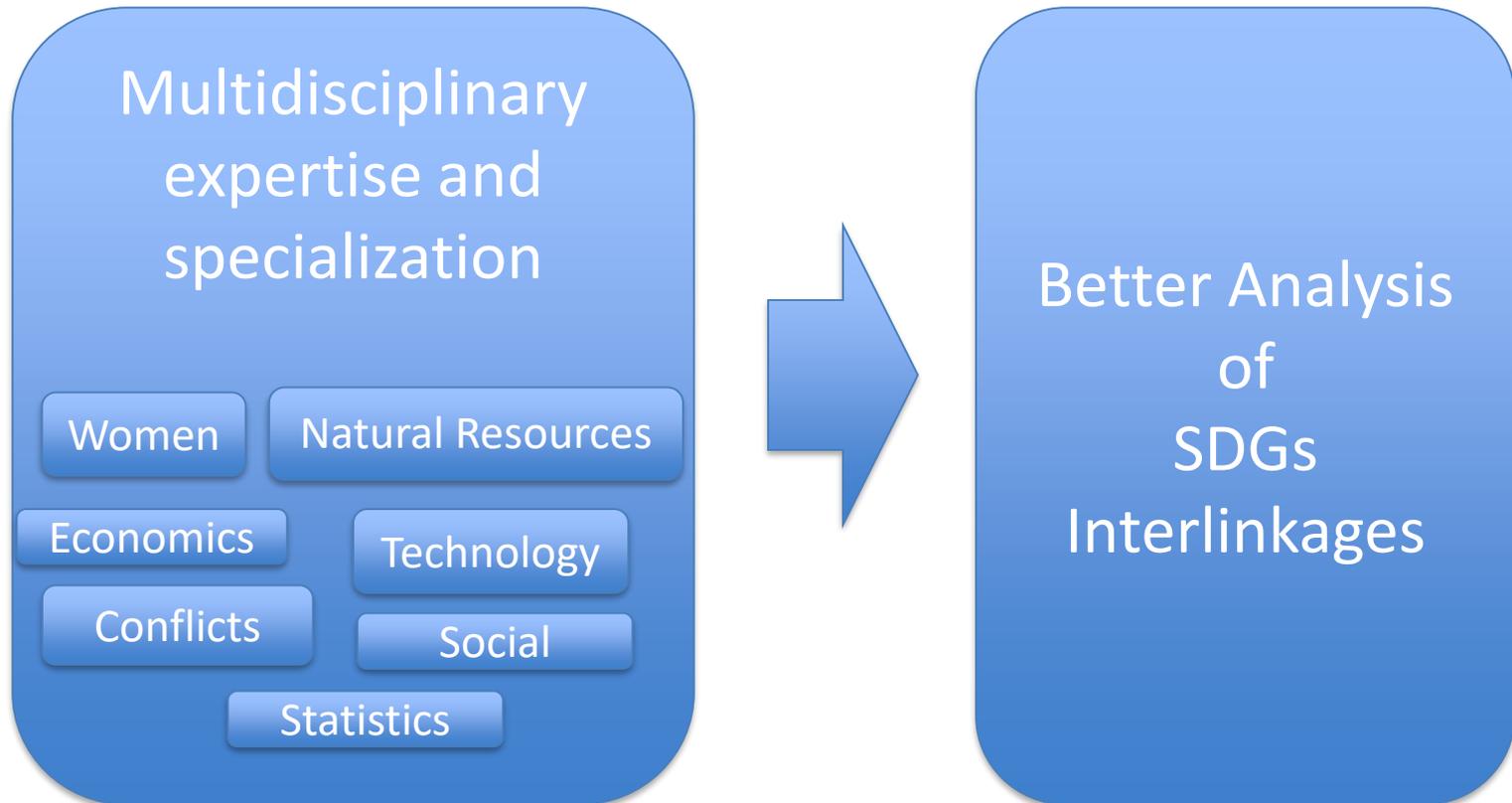
# A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Water Security in the Arab Region

- ✓ **Gender equality** central to access to water and sanitation services, and is recognized as a main pillar for the achievement of water security per a conceptual framework on water security being prepared by ESCWA.



## Supporting the Water-Women-Security Nexus

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# Water Action Decade (2018-2028)



UNGA Resolution 71/222 proclaims the period 2018 to 2028 the **International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”** to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

Objectives of the Decade are to:

- **Advance sustainable development & IWRM** for achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives;
- **Energize implementation** and promotion of programmes and projects; and
- **Mobilize action**, cooperation and partnerships at all levels to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**UN-Water** Task Force prepared UN Secretary-General **Action Plan for Water Action Decade.**

- ESCWA serves as a member of the Task Force and will be collaborating with national, regional and global partners to advance the objectives of the Water Action Decade

# Thank you!

*Resources:*

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/arab-preparatory-meeting-water-issues-2018>

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/arab-forum-sustainable-development-2018>

[www.wateractiondecade.org](http://www.wateractiondecade.org)

[www.escwa.un.org](http://www.escwa.un.org)



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2018-2028