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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Regional Discussion

Western Asia & Arab Region

Outcome of the RIM on CSD-18 Thematic Areas

Interactive Discussion
An Intervention on Mining

By

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A. Status and Progress Achieved

A. 1. Status:

- The region has a wealth of several raw minerals available representing an important segment in the economies of the region;
- Developed exploration, extraction and industrialization activities are still insufficient to utilization the available resources.

A. 2. Progress achieved:

- **At the National Level:**
 - a) Establishing national centers for remote sensing and geographic databases to support identifying reserves and defining potential fields for investment;
 - b) Enacting laws and regulations governing the exploitation of reserves and encouraging the investment in mineral projects

A. 2. Progress Achieved (Contd.)

➤ At the Regional Level:

- a) Establishing and activating the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO); “Needs identification, strategies formulation, sector development plans”
- b) Directing efforts towards achieving integration in the extraction work and industrialization activities;
- c) A plan of action is being developed by concerned ministerial councils for the implementation of the Arab partnership strategy for the development of the mineral wealth sector.

C. Challenges and Priority Work Areas

C. 1. The Challenges:

- Shortage of available databases and limited regional cooperation;
- Lack of customs and taxation regulations that can encourage investments and competitiveness in the field limit the competitiveness;
- Outdated existing legislations and laws and lack of enforcement.

C. 2. Priority areas for action:

- Finalizing the Arab strategic plan of action for the development of the mineral wealth sector;

C. Challenges and Priority Work Areas (Contd.)

C. 2. Priority areas for action (Contd.)

- Improving infrastructure and encouraging international investments in mining sector;
- Enhancing coordination among regional institutions and cooperation with developed countries in relevant fields ex. remote sensing, exploration, mineral search and HR development;
- Establishing mining chambers to explore and coordinate investment in the field of exploration and mining including small and medium-sized mines;
- Enhancing capacity building programmes on relevant areas
- Reviewing existing legislations and laws to be in line with regional and international changes.



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