



18-19 JANUARY

## Arab Economic and Social Development Summit

At the 2019 Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Beirut, heads of government and ministerial representatives delivered largely positive statements with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at their core. ESCWA's Acting Executive Secretary Mounir Tabet represented the Secretary-General and held bilateral meetings with heads of delegation from Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, Oman, Iraq and Mauritania. These discussions emphasized the need for greater industrialization, the importance of reliable statistics in measuring progress, and the critical nature of monitoring and evaluation in transforming political commitments into action. ESCWA provided information kits to delegates highlighting research findings, forecasts and policy recommendations. The packages were warmly received and informed discussions on labour market dynamics, regional growth prospects, financing for development, and multidimensional poverty.



24-25 JANUARY

## 2030 Agenda: Regional Parliamentary Forum

ESCWA hosted the 2019 Arab Parliamentary Forum in Beirut in partnership with UNDP, the Islamic Development Bank and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Building on the 2017 Seminar for Parliamentarians in the Arab Region on the 2030 Agenda and the resulting action plan, the inaugural forum sought to build the capacity of parliamentarians in the region on implementation, follow-up and review, and to increase the responsiveness and inclusiveness of parliaments in their work on the Agenda. In thematic alignment with the 2019 High-Level Political Forum, "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", the sessions focused on SDGs 4, 8, 13, 16 and 17, and provided participants with a unique platform for peer learning and knowledge exchange. The outcome recommendations and key messages will be presented at the 2019 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in April.

22 JANUARY

## Sustainable Digital Ecosystem Summit in Lebanon

On the heels of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, ESCWA moderated a session at Lebanon's Sustainable Digital Ecosystem Summit, on the role of government in harnessing the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. Ministers, ICT advisors, and telecom executives expressed support for Lebanon's new economic vision, called for developing and integrating e-government services, and saluted the abundance of young Lebanese talent that will lead the transition to a digital economy. Recent national initiatives, such as the Internet Governance Forum, the Cybersecurity Centre and the law on electronic transactions and personal data, were recognized as important in defending public rights and interests within an increasingly digital society.

