

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

In reference to your request below, please note that ESCWA supports the proposals made in Paragraph 44 of the Resolution.

With regards to Paragraph 44(b), although the Arab region is not known as a region with extensive forests or forests programmes, there are nevertheless a few interesting initiatives at country level, which we believe could further be developed if properly acknowledged as most of these forest-related initiatives are linked to agricultural development or land degradation programmes and could be expanded to cover, as well, income generation and water and climate change related issues.

In support of the above, it should be assessed if the Strategic Plan for 2017-2030 and/or the Quadrennial Programme of work 2017-2020 could not also emphasize on the following:

- Linking forest and land degradation actions with sustainable land and water management by advocating: (a) using reforestation to combat and reverse land degradation, particularly in watersheds, hilltops, and mountain slopes; and/or (b) establishing protected areas in areas most at risk associated with the development of ecotourism for example;
- Linking forest programmes to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and programs aimed at enhancing climate resilience.

Seeking how to take advantage of REDD+ programmes, particularly as a way to diversify income for the poor and in poor communities including for example by adding fruit and other tree-based plantations (e.g., olive and citrus groves, date palms, etc.) as eligible for REDD+ programmes.

Fidele Byiringiro

UN-ESCWA, SDPD/FEPS

PO Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh Sq, Beirut, Lebanon

Tel.: +961-(0)1-978519 (Ext 1519)

Fax: +961-(0)1-981510

e-mail: byiringiro@un.org