

## MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES PLANNED BY ORGANIZATIONS

### Strengthening statistical capacity in the ESCWA region

#### UNSD and ESCWA Statistics Division

#### Prepared by ESCWA Statistics Division

Reliable and timely statistics and indicators are critical in policy making as well as socio-economic planning. They are highly needed for setting future objectives and measuring progress and development. This was recognized by ECOSOC through its resolution E/1999/L.57 and E/2000/L.27, which stressed “the importance of relevant, accurate and timely statistics and indicators for evaluating the implementation of the outcome of the recent international conferences”.

Experience of past years has shown that the ability of most countries of the ESCWA region, in responding to such high-level demand, is hampered. This is mainly attributed to their need for national and international support to strengthen statistical capacity building and make progress in the development of relevant statistics and indicators.

The successful implementation of the project is expected to result in:

- Improved operations of countries’ statistical systems and strengthened capacity of the countries in the region to develop dissemination policies and practices;
- Development of common methodologies and classifications for the collection of data and common statistical priorities in areas such as economic and social statistics;
- Strengthened capacity of the countries to routinely produce statistical data in specific statistical areas such as the production of macro-economic indicators and social statistics;
- Strengthened coordination and communication among countries;
- Upgraded technological capacity to promote networking among statistical offices in the region;
- Strengthened capacity of the Statistics Division of ESCWA in promoting regional statistical coordination.

The project (2002-2004) will be executed by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Statistics Division of ESCWA.