

United Nations Statistical Commission

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Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: regional statistical development

Document E/CN.3/2021/12 – Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on regional cooperation for development of official statistics

<i>Statement provided by:</i> International Monetary Fund	
<i>Statement:</i> We have two comments on this interesting report: 1. The established partnerships listed in the report (paragraph 16) do not cover the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). Given the almost identical membership and the large overlap in the regional work on macroeconomic and financial statistics, for strengthening the regional and national coordination it would be very useful for ESCWA to collaborate with the AMF. 2. The report suggests (paragraph 6) to resolve data gaps in ESCWA's data portal through reliable sources and/or appropriate estimation techniques, such as nowcasting and forecasting, and to prepare a guide for estimating missing data. It would be essential that this practice and the guide for estimating missing data or its summary are made available to the users publicly so that they are aware of the practice and the methods used to estimate missing data.	
Submitted on:	2/19/2021