

Statement by Karima El Korri
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Agenda item 4

Mme Chair,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), I thank you for the opportunity to address this audience and welcome the topic of the forty-eighth session.

The new sustainable development agenda comes at a time when demographic trends are transforming the Arab region – its population has doubled over the past three decades and is projected to increase by two-thirds to reach 604 million by 2050. The region is also characterized by sizeable youth and working age populations, in addition to soaring urbanization rates and high

