

2nd Regional Meeting of DA Project Focal Points

on 19 and 20 September 2019 at UNESCWA in Beirut (Lebanon)

Concept Outline

As a follow up on the first regional focal point meeting that was completed in September 2018, this workshop will bring together the national focal points of the Development Account project *“Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region”* and other participants involved in the national development planning processes, to discuss and review the first draft of the development planning manual and provide feedback and ideas on its structure and content based on the experience of countries in the Arab Region.

ESCWA and Nudge Lebanon are collaborating to develop a comprehensive 30 to 50 page handbook/manual for Arab development planners, which complements existing resources (i.e. with focus on good governance, anti-corruption and participatory development planning and implementation). The draft manual on planning will enable the application of behavioral insights to the policy challenges that countries face, using rigorous experimental approaches and tools typically used in the field of behavioural economics, such as randomized controlled trials. Nudge Lebanon is a leader in applying behavioural science to a variety of public policy settings, in particular, improving citizen-centered policies and steering people and organizations towards making the most optimal choices, for themselves and their communities (See attached terms of reference)

The meeting also discusses strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation tools and methodologies that ESCWA developed which serve national development planning processes. Regional organizations such as The League of Arab States will contribute with a perspective on ongoing regional initiatives within the framework of sustainable development. Furthermore, ESCWA will share an overview on the available capacity building programmes related to regulatory reform and effective budgeting, which can be tailored to the respective countries and rolled out as soon as possible.

More specific objectives of the meeting include:

- Discuss the draft planning manual and provide feedback for an improved draft;
- Discuss and agree on further project progress and implementation and provide introductory capacity-building on regulatory reforms and national development budgeting and;
- Discuss complementary planning tools and share the experience in the Arab region with input from regional partners;

Draft Agenda

Day 1

8:30	-	09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00	-	09:30	Welcome & Opening Session of the Regional Meeting of Focal Points <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCWA
09:30	-	11:00	Session 1: Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress on Development Account Project completed, ongoing and pending activities.• The session includes an overview on key enabling elements for integrated national development planning including regulatory reforms as well as effective budgeting for planning. <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCWA
11:00	-	11:30	Coffee break
11:30	-	13:00	Session 2.1: Introduction to behavioral science, behavioral insights and biases This session offers an overview on behavioural science pertinent to development planning and explains potential of its applications in the context of development planning. <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nudge Lebanon
13:00	-	14:00	Lunch
14:00	-	15:45	Session 2.2: Introduction to the handbook for applying behavioral insights in the context of development planning During the session the framework of the handbook will be presented followed by a more in-depth overview of its sections with emphasis on the main takeaways and key behavioural tools applicable to each part of the planning value chain. <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nudge Lebanon
15:45	-	16:30	Session 2.3: Summary presentations of working group discussions The participants will break out in groups to brainstorm ideas on improving the structure of the draft manual based on hands-on experience <i>Format: Break-out session</i> <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nudge Lebanon<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The working groups present their intermediate discussion results• Drafting, sharing and consolidation of the feedback on enhancing the framework/structure and content of the handbook

Day 2

09:00	-	10:00	<p>Session 3: Experience of regional organizations on their support to development planning</p> <p>The participants from regional organizations will share their experience and role in the region to support and advocate for integrative development planning processes in counties also within the framework of sustainable development</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Presentation by LAS (League of Arab States)</p>
10:00	-	11:00	<p>Session 4: Country update on the status of their national development planning.</p> <p>Country focal points to prepare a brief (max 5-7 min) on the status and scope of their existing national development plans (ie. duration, new plans, revisions, etc.)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project focal points
11:00	-	11:15	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:15		12:00	<p>Session 5: Complementary tools for national development planning</p> <p>ESCWA increasingly uses simulation models to provide technical assistance to member States. The purpose of this session is to present the various tools that ESCWA uses to analyze the impact of economic changes, which can be used to support national development planning. The session introduces ESCWA's tools including the SDG interface. The presentation includes hands on display of a user-friendly interface that allows non-programmatic users to run simulations and draw conclusions.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCWA
12:00	-	13:00	<p>End of Workshop Break out Session</p> <p>Groups will discuss and identify the key barriers to development planning and brainstorm on their country's approaches and solutions to tackle these challenges. The objective of the session is to identify possible gaps and barriers in the process and share experience of practices that are functional and lessons learned.</p> <p>The session will also include a recap on the recommendations deduced from the workshop and other specific needs and agree on the way forward.</p> <p>Format: Break-out session</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCWA
13:00	-	14:00	<p>Lunch</p>
