

# Preparatory Meeting for the 3rd Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly



UNITED NATIONS

الاستسقا  
ESCWA

*Briefing on the High-Level Political Forum on  
Sustainable Development and the 3rd Arab Forum  
on Sustainable Development*

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# Presentation Overview

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- Follow-Up and Review (FUR) in general

- Global Dimension

HLPF

- Regional Dimension

AFSD

# Overview of FUR in Agenda 2030

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- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets criteria for a new Follow-Up and Review framework (**FUR**) that is **robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent** and **integrated** (P72).
- A strong FUR framework, ensuring SDG commitments are met, is necessary for achieving effective implementation of Agenda 2030.
- FUR takes place at three levels: **national, regional** and **global**.
- FUR supports national implementation and takes national reporting as its basis.
- FUR will only be useful when participants see a clear benefit for themselves. It cannot be punitive in nature or imposed top-down.

# HLPF

## High-level Political Forum (HLPF )

- As a “single locus of accountability” will play a central role in reviewing progress towards the SDGs at global level.
- Established in 2012.
- Oversees overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Receives input from global FUR processes, national and regional reviews and the follow-up of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- Meets annually** in the context of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and **every four years** during the UN General Assembly. The next meeting under the auspices of the **UN General Assembly** will take place in **2019**.
- Welcomes any country to take part in the forum and provide an account of its progress.

# Fourth Session of the HLPF

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- Fourth Session of the HLPF (**11 - 20 July** 2016, New York) will serve as an opportunity for countries and regions to report on progress since the endorsement of the Agenda.
- **2016 theme: Ensuring that no one is left behind (E/2016/L.11)**
- The HLPF will guide the process of national and thematic reviews of Agenda 2030; **Egypt and Morocco are two Arab countries participating in the 2016 reviews.**
- ESCWA will be providing regional input based on the outcome of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

# Regional Dimension

## •RCs will spearhead the regional FUR component of Agenda 2030

**General Assembly Resolution 70/1** (para 80 & 81) “encourages all member states to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. UN regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting member states in this regard.”

It further states that “FUR at the regional and sub-regional levels can provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets” and that “regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to FUR at the global level, including the HLPF.”

## •Regional FUR framework still to be developed. So far, we have key components and principles:

Key Components	Key Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•<b>AFSD</b></li><li>•RCM Working Group on Agenda 2030</li><li>•Thematic Reviews</li><li>•Arab Sustainable Development Report (ASDR)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•<b>Forging understanding</b> within the system and amongst member States of the benefits of FUR</li><li>•<b>Build a momentum</b></li><li>•The review process needs to be <b>inclusive</b> like the rest of the Agenda</li><li>•The approach will be <b>needs driven and country driven</b></li></ul>

# AFSD

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•The **Regional Fora for Sustainable Development** are annual platforms to facilitate Member States consensus on:

- Regional road maps for implementation of the SDGs,
- Production of regional reports,
- Setting of norms, and
- Examination of opportunities to strengthen national institutional frameworks for coordinated implementation of the SDGs.

•**Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD)**

- High-level annual meeting intended as a primary regional platform for cohesive and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Arab region.
- The findings and recommendations, conveying key messages from the region, will be submitted to and presented at the HLPF and to the 29<sup>th</sup> ESCWA Ministerial Session.

# Third Session of the AFSD (2016)

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Third session of the AFSD will be held on 29-30 May 2016, Amman, Jordan.

Participants will include governments, UN and regional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

Forum objectives include:

- Providing political impetus to commence work on Agenda 2030
- Facilitating the exchange of experiences, best practice and set new partnerships
- Deliberating on an Arab perspective on issues pertaining to the Agenda
- Agreeing on future operational modalities of the AFSDs and on regional feedback to the HLPF