

Civil Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Towards a CSO Platform in the Arab Region

Tuesday 24 April 2018 | 16:00-17:30 | Committee Room 1 | UN House, Beirut

Background:

A number of civil society networks and organizations have recently taken the initiative to establish a regional CSO platform in the Arab region on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The platform seeks to enhance collective CSO engagement in follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region.

The first meeting of this platform took place on 22-23 April 2018 in Beirut in partnership with ESCWA. It brought together around 60 CSOs from across the Arab region and covered a broad range of development issues. It concluded with the adoption of an outcome document highlighting key messages and the main objectives of the platform going forward.

Advocating partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement, the AFSD-2018 provides a unique opportunity to discuss and share the main outcomes of this first meeting of the CSO regional platform.

Session Objective:

The special session aims to enhance multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange among government and non-government representatives. It is designed as an opportunity for advocacy, networking and outreach and aims to enable CSOs and other stakeholders participating in the Arab Forum to get acquainted with the CSO platform, its objectives and main messages.

Themes of Discussion:

The special session will discuss the outcome document prepared by the CSO platform and will tackle the themes of the AFSD-2018 and other development priorities for the region that are addressed by the 2030 Agenda.

Facilitator:

- **Ms. Zahra Bazzi**, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)

Panelists:

- **Ms. Kinda Hattar**, MENA Regional Advisor, Transparency International
- **Ms. Atidel Mejbri**, Director of the Media Center, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)
- **Mr. Mustafa Tlili**, Executive Secretary, Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC)
- **Mr. Emad Adly**, General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- **Ms. Sylvana Lakkis**, Chair of the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (AFRPD)