Second Workshop on the Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region: Strengthening Partnerships
Conrad Hotel*,* Cairo, 26 – 27 February 2020

Programme of Work

Day One: Wednesday 26 February 2020	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	**Opening Session** The opening session presents the workshop objectives and reviews the programme of work, its content and expected outcomes. **Speakers**: • Howeida Barakat, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt • Karima El Korri, ESCWA • Friedrich Soltau, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA • Nada El Agizy, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, The League of Arab States (LAS)
09:30 – 10:15	**Session 1- Recap on Regional and International Workshops on VNR** The first session will serve to set the scene and present a synthesis of the main outcomes of global and regional workshops and update on key milestones globally & regionally. *Presentations (25 min)* • Joop Theunissen, Deputy Chief, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination, UN DESA • Karima El Korri and Hania Sabbidin Dimassi, ESCWA **Q & A** *(20 min)*
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:45	**Session 2- Where the Arab region stands: A review of national experiences** The session provides an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of current and past experiences with the VNR process. 2020 VNR countries (Comoros, Libya, Morocco, and the Syrian Arab Republic) will present progress to date; key achievements, gaps and challenges faced during the process. Countries that completed their VNR in 2019 or before will be given the opportunity to share lessons learned and plans going forward including the implementations of the VNR recommendations from the angle of the 4 sets of issues covered in the October 2019 regional workshop (Clusters A to D)[1].

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[1] Cluster A: Integration into national plans development and strategies, Cluster B: Leaving No One Behind, Cluster C: Stakeholders engagement, and Cluster D: Monitoring, evaluation, acceleration of implementation, and post VNR.

	Moderator: Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA *(5 min)*
	Country Presentations *(75 min):* - Arab 2020 VNR countries - Other Arab countries **Discussion and synthesis:** Shared common challenges with a focus on partnerships, Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA *(40 min)*
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:00	**Session 3- The essential role of multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs** This session will give an overview on partnerships as an essential mechanism towards delivering the 2030 Agenda, and introduce the *"Partnership Accelerator"* **Facilitator:** Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA *(5 min)* **Kick-off presentation:** *(25 min)* • Joop Theunissen, UN DESA **Group work:** *(45 min)* • Participants break into 4 groups to address a set of guiding questions. Each group will designate a facilitator/timekeeper and a rapporteur. **Guiding questions:** • What do you see as the role of business as a partner in the 2030 Agenda? • What are your experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships contributing towards national sustainable development goals? • What are the major challenges to developing multi-stakeholder partnerships? • What examples do you have of platforms or other mechanisms to engage societal actors (including business) in partnerships towards national development plans? **Reporting and discussion:** *(35 min)* • The rapporteur of each working group will present the main findings of the group work in plenary, followed by a general discussion and synthesis **Synthesis**: *(10 min)*
**Day Two: Thursday 27 February 2020**
09:00 – 10:30	**Session 4- Building effective partnerships for the SDGs** **Facilitators:** Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, and Deenah Fakhoury, Associate Partner, The Partnering Initiative • The unique role and contribution of all societal sectors • The different forms of partnership and how they can make 1 + 1 equal 5 • Partnerships as a way to deliver system transformation
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00	**Session 4 – Building effective partnerships for the SDGs (cont.)** **Facilitator:** Darian Stibbe and Deenah Fakhoury, The Partnering Initiative • The Five Building Blocks of effective partnering • The Partnership Journey
12:00 – 13:30	**Session 5- Stakeholder engagement for VNRs and 2030 Agenda implementation** This session will open the floor to representatives from parliament, civil society, youth, philanthropy, private sector, and academia to share their experiences (if any) in VNR process and partnering in the implementation of the national development plans. **Moderators:** Nada El Agizy, *LAS, and Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (5 min)* **Stakeholders' presentations:** *(50 min)* • Gehad Amer, Member of the Parliament, Egypt • Sameh Kamel, Chairperson, Foreign Relations Committee, Arab Youth Platform for Sustainable Development • Noha El Mikawy, Regional Director, Ford Foundation • Hassan Mostafa, President, CSR- Arabia • Mostafa Kamel El Sayed, Professor, Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, University of Cairo **Discussion:** *(35 min)*
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	**Session 6- Building true partnerships into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in VNRs** This session will give synthesis of the key findings from earlier discussion on partnerships and multi-stakeholders' engagement throughout the sustainable development journey (planning, mainstreaming, implementation, follow-up and review, etc.). **Co-Facilitated:** Adib Nehmeh, and Mona Fattah, ESCWA **Interactive Discussion**
15:30 – 17:00	**Session 7- The way forward: mobilizing tools and capacity for the new generation of VNRs.** This session will take stock of the key messages and recommendations from the discussions over the two days and will consolidate the conclusions into a set of agreed benchmarks/standards/tools for consideration in carrying out future VNRs and related reports. Some of the knowledge tools and platforms that can be used for peer learning and capacity building will be reviewed in preparation for a new generation of VNRs. **Moderator:** Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (10 min) **Presentations:** (30 min) • The Arab Framework for Monitoring Food Security, Mona Fattah, ESCWA • The Community of Practice on VNR in Arab States, Mona Fattah, ESCWA **Interactive Discussion**
17:00 – 17:15	**Closing remarks** • DESA • ESCWA • LAS