



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Arab Forum for Sustainable Development-2018 (AFSD-2018)
Natural Resources, Future Generations and the Common Good
Beirut, Lebanon
24-26 April 2018

Provisional Organization of work

Day One: Tuesday 24 April 2018	
08:00 – 9:00	Registration of Participants
9:00 – 10:30	<p><u>Opening Session</u></p> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Hakim, Under Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, UNESCWA - Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations (recorded) - Ms. Nada Al Agizy, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Division, League of Arab States - Mr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund, Arab States Regional Office - HE Mr. Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development, Morocco - HE Dr. Ghattas Khoury, Minister of Culture, Representative of the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Saad Hariri, Lebanon <p>Setting the Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Regional Overview of Sustainable Development: Prospects and Challenges Ms. Maisaa Youssef, UNESCWA
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee Break near the Main Hall
11:00 – 12:30	<p><u>Plenary Session 1</u></p> <p>Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Countries’ Perspectives on Integrated Development Planning and Transformative Change</p> <p>As Arab countries align their development plans with the 2030 Agenda, there is a need to ensure that the 2030 Agenda supports work on existing priorities and enables an integrated rights-based approach to sustainable development. This session asks what has changed in development planning in the Arab region since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. It also explores the ways in which integrated development planning leads to policy coherence and results in positive development outcomes.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Dalal Saoud, Media Expert</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE Mr. Khaled A. Mahdi, Secretary General, Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ahmad Kamaly, Advisor to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform for Planning and Monitoring, Egypt - HE Mr. Ahmad bin Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar - Mr. Mohamed Al-Hawri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation for Economic Studies Sector, Yemen - Mr. Refaat Hijazi, Advisor to the Chairperson, Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syria 		
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 15:30	<p><u>Plenary Session 2</u></p> <p>VNRs and the Day After: Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the National Level</p> <p>Building on the experiences of countries that have submitted VNRs, this session will provide a critical reflection on the VNR as both a product and a process. It will address the extent to which VNRs are being utilized to accelerate implementation and enhance accountability, with a focus on multi-stakeholder engagement, the complementarity of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and gender mainstreaming. In addition, this session will explore the follow-up to the submission of the VNR, and chart practical ways for countries to use the VNR as an accelerator of implementation.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on the SDGs and Senior Advisor to the President, Islamic Development Bank Group</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Haifa Abdulaziz Al Mogrin, Assistant Deputy Minister for Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia - Mr. Mahmoud Ataya, General Director, Policy and Reform Unit, Office of the Prime Minister, Palestine - Mr. Hassan Musa Yousif, Advisor, National Population Council, Sudan - Mr. Ziad Obeidat, Secretary General a.i., Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Jordan - Mr. Nawfal Naciri, Member of Parliament, House of Representatives, Morocco - Mr. Kassem El Saddik, Independent Consultant and Vice Chair, EvalSDGs, Canada 		
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break near the Main Hall		
16:00 – 17:30	<p><u>Special Session 1</u> <u>(MZ Meeting Room)</u> VNRs: Sharing Lessons Learned (See Attached Flyer)</p>	<p><u>Special Session 2</u> <u>(Committee Room I)</u> Arab Civil Society Platform (See Attached Flyer)</p>	<p><u>Special Session 3</u> <u>(Main Hall)</u> Water and SDGs: An Arab Perspective (See Attached Flyer)</p>
Day Two: Wednesday 25 April 2018			
9:00 – 10:30	<p><u>Plenary Session 3</u></p> <p>Integrating Natural Resources in Development Planning for a Resilient and Sustainable Future</p> <p>This plenary sets out the major story for natural resources across the Arab region, unpacks its implications across the different pillars of sustainable development, and showcases the need for and the benefits of a transformative shift in planning and policy. Policy makers, experts and civil society representatives will address a nexus approach to natural resources,</p>		

	<p>management of the commons, as well as equitable access to natural resources in the region, drawing on specific case studies or examples.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UNESCWA</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE Mr. Aziz Rabbah, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development, Morocco - Mr. Fadi Comair, Director General for Energy and Water, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon. - Mr. Hussein Abaza, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit (Egypt 2030 Vision), Ministry of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform, Egypt. - Ms. Seteney Shami, Director-General, Arab Council for the Social Sciences, Beirut. - Mr. Jasim Ali, Executive Manager, Board of Directors, Peace Generations Network Iraq. 		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break in the Cafeteria and Group Photo		
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Special Session 4 <u>(Committee Room I)</u> Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in National SDG Implementation Plans (See Attached Flyer)</p>	<p>Special Session 5 <u>(MZ Meeting Room)</u> Youth and the transformation towards sustainable Arab societies (See Attached Flyer)</p>	<p>Special Session 6 <u>(Main Hall)</u> Environment and Natural Resources: Their Role in Integration (See Attached Flyer)</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 15:30	<p><u>Plenary Session 4</u> Rethinking Economic Diversification: Safeguarding the Lives and Livelihoods of Future Generations</p> <p>Many Arab countries are taking initiatives to decouple economic growth and the unsustainable use and consumption of natural resources. This session resituates the argument for diversification squarely within a social and intergenerational justice framework, with environmental sustainability as a founding pillar of intergenerational justice. It makes the argument that by safeguarding the planet’s natural resources, we safeguard the lives and livelihoods of future generations. Speakers address the questions of how governments make these long term, strategic choices. And it provides examples that highlight the trade-offs involved in different policy choices.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Ghassan Dibeh, Chair, Economics Department, Lebanese American University</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq - Mr. Muhammad Saidam, Advisor for Research and Science, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan. - Mr. Rami Shamma, Programme Manager, Development for People and Nature Association, Lebanon. - Mr. Souhail Marine, Regional Expert on Technology for Development, Lebanon. 		
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break near the Main Hall		

16:00 – 17:30	Special Session 7 <u>(MZ Meeting Room)</u> “Leaving No One Behind” in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (See Attached Flyer)	Special Session 8 <u>(Committee Room I)</u> Localizing the SDGs in the Arab Region: Challenges and Prospects for Action (See Attached Flyer)	Special Session 9 <u>(Main Hall)</u> Sustainable Energy and the Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies (See Attached Flyer)
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Day Three: Thursday 26 April 2018

9:00 – 10:30	<u>Plenary Session 5</u> Planning for Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Cities This plenary will sensitize participants to the links between sustainable urban planning, resource efficiency, public health, and the promotion of social inclusion of marginalized groups; encourage coordination between relevant government entities at the local level as well as coordination between local and national government; highlight policy choices that achieve the above; and show that policy makers at city level must/can make of the “common good” and the equitable distribution of resources a governance choice in planning. <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj, Senior Coordinator, The Common Space Initiative, Lebanon. <u>Panelists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Huda Alsiyabi, Director of Community-based Initiatives Department, Ministry of Health, Oman. - Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Expert in Poverty and Human Sustainable Development - Ms. Mona Fawaz, Assistant Professor; Architecture and Design, the American University of Beirut - Mr. Suhaib Yahya Kasim Al-Darzi, Civil Engineering Department, Mosul University
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee Break near the Main Hall
11:00 – 12:30	<u>Plenary Session 6</u> Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region The 2030 Agenda gives added impetus to rights-based approach to planning and financing development. The Addis Ababa Action Plan promotes a social compact with human rights and universal social protection as central. This plenary will provide perspectives and solutions to address the interlinkages between governance of natural resources and financing a rights-based approach to development in the region. It will consider options, including universal social protection as a tool to build resilience and address intergenerational justice in the Arab region. <u>Moderator:</u> HE. Khaled A. Mahdi, Secretary General, Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait <u>Panelists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Anas El Hasnaoui, Regional Expert on Effectiveness Development Cooperation - Civil Society Actor, Morocco - Mr. Wissam Fattouh, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks, Beirut - Ms. Kinda Hattar, Regional Advisor, Middle East and North Africa, Transparency International, Berlin - Ms. Isabell Kempf, UN Environment, Nairobi
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:45	<p><u>Plenary Session 7</u></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Khawla Matar, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNESCWA</p> <p>A. Outcomes of Preparatory Meetings to the 2018 AFSD and HLPF</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Bassel Al Ayoubi, Director General, Ministry of Communication, Lebanon (Arab High-level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, May 2017) - Mr. Azmi Shuaibi, Former Member of Parliament, Palestinian Legislative Council (Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians in the Arab Region on the 2030 Agenda, November 2017) - HE Mr. Cesar Abi Khalil, Minister of Energy and Water, Lebanon (Arab Preparatory Meeting on Energy Related Issues for the 2018 AFSD & HLP, March 2018) - HE Mr. Hassan Janabi, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq (Arab Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 AFSD & HLPF, March 2018) - HE Ms. Adala Atirah, Head of the Environmental Quality Authority, Palestine (Arab Preparatory Meeting on Environmental and Natural Resources Issues for the 2018 AFSD & HLPF, April 2018) - Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Lebanon (Regional Meeting of Civil Society on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, April 2018)
14:45 – 16:00	<p>B. Key Messages from AFSD-2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of key messages that will form part of the report submitted to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (TBD)
16:00 – 16:30	<p><u>Closing Session (Main Hall – B1 Level)</u></p> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Hakim, Under Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, UNESCWA -Representative of Lebanon, Chair of AFSD-2018 (TBD)
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee & Tea in the Cafeteria