

Arab Preparatory Meeting on Environmental and Natural Resources Issues for the 2018 AFSD & HLPF
League of Arab States' Headquarters, Cairo, Egypt, 11-12 April 2018

Draft Agenda

Day 1: 11 April 2018

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming remarks by organizing partners Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources, Sustainability and Partnerships, League of Arab States; Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Officer in Charge, Food & Environment Policies Section, ESCWA; Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Officer, UN Environment - Tour de table - Presentation of Background and Meeting's Agenda <i>Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Officer in Charge, Food & Environment Policies Section, ESCWA</i> - Overview of the Draft Policy-Oriented Outcome Document on the Interlinkages between the four Main Environmental Issues on the HLPF Agenda <i>Mr. Hussein Abaza, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</i>
10:30– 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 1: Towards Achieving SDG11: Resilient Sustainable Cities and Pollution Moderator: Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Officer, UN Environment</p> <p>Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linkages between Urbanization and Environmental Sustainability in the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda <i>UN-Habitat Regional Office of Arab States</i> - Environmental Sustainability in the Arab Strategy for Housing and Urban Development <i>League of Arab States</i> <p>Panel Discussion 1: Environmental sustainability in cities Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Ibrahim Al Zubi, Head of Sustainability, Majid Al-Futtaim Holding, United Arab Emirates.</i> - <i>Mr. Mostafa Mourad, Head of the Central Department for Air Quality, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</i> - <i>Ms. Nadia Chenouf, Director Directorate of Preservation and Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Algeria</i> - <i>Mr. Hamed Bekir, Coordinator, Centre for Environmental Health Activities, World Health Organization (WHO)</i>

	<p>Guiding questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does growing urbanization impact resource consumption and the environment within cities and surroundings? - What are the most important challenges in planning and developing environmentally sustainable urban areas in your country? - How can Healthy Cities help to achieve SDGs in the Arab region? How to improve air quality and promote physical activity simultaneously? How to embed health considerations into urban planning in the region? - What is the role and added-value of the private sector in SDGs delivery? What is needed to create an enabling environment for business to contribute to SDGs? <p>Panel Discussion 2: Countries affected by conflict and fragility</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Zaghoul Samhan, Director-General of Policies & Planning, Environment Quality Authority, Palestine</i> - <i>Mr. Abdulqader Mohammed Al Kharraz, Head of Environmental Protection Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment, Yemen</i> - <i>Mr. Fathi Awaz, Director of Environmental Inspection and Monitoring, General Authority on Environment, Libya (tbc)</i> - <i>Mr. Mustafa ElKhidir, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Urban Development, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Urban Development, Sudan (tbc)</i> <p>Guiding questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does growing urbanization impact resource consumption and the environment within cities and surroundings in a fragile and conflict-affected urban context? - To what extent is the local government engaged/consulted in the implementation of SDGs? - To what extent are you able to prioritize long-term resilience and disaster-risk planning? Identify promising resilience-building initiatives and conflict-sensitive practices put in place, with potential of replication. - How can you enhance efforts to promote the sustainability of urban ecosystems and physical infrastructures in disaster and conflict-prone urban context? What kind of support would you need from International Organizations?
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 2: Towards Achieving SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Officer in Charge, Food & Environment Policies Section, ESCWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of Arab Regional Progress in Sustainable Consumption and Production <i>Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi and Ms. Lara Geadah, Food & Environment Policies Section, ESCWA</i> - Upscaling SCP in the Arab Region: Action Plans, Policies and Implementation <i>Mr. Luc Reuter, Programme Officer, Consumption and Production Unit, UN Environment,</i> - Outcomes of the 5th Arab Roundtable Meeting on SCP <i>Ms. Ghada Moghny, Center for Environment & Development for The Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE)</i> <p>Panel Discussion on Country experiences from Switch-Med Project:</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Mohamad Afana, Director of Policies and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Jordan</i> - <i>Mr. Elhassan Doumi, Head of Bilateral Cooperation Department, Secretary of State in Charge of Sustainable Development, Morocco</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policies and Planning, Environment Quality Authority, Palestine</i> - <i>Mr. Hamza Abdel Razzak, Head Technician, Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia</i> <p>Guiding questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of experiences and lessons learnt on fostering SCP in selected Arab countries, and integration of SCP targets and indicators into national development strategies. - What are the challenges facing the development of a roadmap action plan for the execution of the Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production? - What are Arab countries' needs to move forward in the implementation of SDG 12?
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Day 2: 12 April 2018

9:00-10:30	<p>Session 3: Towards Achieving SDG 15: Combating Desertification and Halting Biodiversity Loss</p> <p>Part I: Combating Desertification and Land Degradation</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Taher Abdel Kebir, Head, Program of Desertification, ACSAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the UNCCD in the Arab Region and its relation to Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development <i>Mr. Ahmed Abdel-Ati Ahmed Vice-Chair of the Arab Working Group on MEAs related to Desertification and Biodiversity, Member of the Committee on Science and Technology of UNCCD</i> - Plan of Support for the Arab States in Implementing the Future Strategic Framework 2018-2030 UNCCD <i>Mr. Ahmed Salem, Expert, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development</i> - National Experience in Combating Desertification: Achievements & Challenges and the relevance to SDG 15. <i>Mr. Abdou Kasim Sharief, Director General of Climate Change & MEAs, Environment Agency, Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture, KSA</i> <p>Guiding Questions for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of combating desertification and land degradation for sustainable development and its effect on the natural resources, water, food security, etc. - What is the role of policy makers and institutional frameworks in enhancing efforts to address desertification and land degradation at the National and Regional levels? - What are the outstanding problems and challenges faced by the Arab Countries & the Region in combating desertification and land degradation and viewing the SDGs as a holistic approach to remedy them? - Lessons learnt from National Experiences & Best Practices.
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	<p>Session 3 (Cnt'd): Towards Achieving SDG 15: Combating Desertification and Halting Biodiversity Loss</p> <p>Part II: The Contribution of Biodiversity to Achieving the SDGs</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Director, Division for Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach Support, Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Arab Working Group on MEAs related to Desertification and Biodiversity

	<p><i>Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief Natural Resources Sustainability & Partnerships, League of Arab States</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Elsa Sattout, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in the Arab States</i> - <i>Mr. Naif Shalhoob, General Director, the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection, Saudi Arabia</i> - <i>Mr. Ayman Hamada, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</i> <p>Guiding Questions for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are biodiversity and healthy ecosystems important for sustainable development and resilience in your countries? - How can policy makers enhance the integration or mainstreaming of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national planning and development processes, and poverty reduction strategies? - What are the most important obstacles and challenges for achieving a transformational change, via SDG 15, in the ways we address ecosystem management and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-14:30	<p>Session 4: Open Discussion on Addressing Interlinkages and Synergies for the Implementation of SDGs 11, 12 and 15</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Mr. Hussein Abaza, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</p> <p>Means by which Arab countries can become more resilient to risks of pollution and natural resource depletion; conserve terrestrial ecosystems for a healthy and productive environment; and shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the region optimize the means of implementation to advance the implementation of SDGs? - Importance of building partnerships for the implementation of SDGs - Green incentives - Science and technology for achieving SDGs in the Arab region - Role of civil society organizations in implementing the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:30	<p>Session 4 (Cnt'd): Reaching Consensus on the Outcome Document</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Mr. Hussein Abaza, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key directions identified through the Open Discussion - Key messages to be included in the Outcome Document and submitted to the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
16:30-17:00	<p>Session 5: Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources, Sustainability and Partnerships, League of Arab States;</i> - <i>Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Officer in Charge, Food & Environment Policies Section, ESCWA</i> - <i>Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Officer, UN Environment</i>