

**Webinar on Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region  
Online, 27-28 October 2020**

**Draft Programme of Work**

**Day One: Tuesday 27 October 2020**

<p><b>15:00 – 15:10</b> <b>(Beirut Time)</b> <b>(13:00 GMT)</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>The opening session presents the webinar’s objectives and reviews the program of work and expected outcomes.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Maisaa Youssef, OiC, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA</li> <li>• Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA</li> <li>• Ms. Nada El Agizy, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, The League of Arab States (LAS)</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:10 – 16:05</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1- 2020 VNR in the context of COVID-19</b></p> <p>The first session will provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences and peer learning. It will explore and outline issues faced and addressed by Arab countries in their preparations of the 2020 VNRs and their presentation during the virtual 2020 HLPF.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Sustainable Development Expert, ESCWA (5 min)</p> <p><b>1- Lessons learned from 2020 VNR, DESA (10 min)</b> Ms. Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Policy and Review Branch, OISC, UN DESA</p> <p><b>2- Arab 2020 VNRs: Mini presentations and questions to concerned Countries</b></p> <p><u>Comoros:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of 2020 Comoros VNR by Ms. Mona Fattah, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA (2 min)</li> <li>• Input and answers by Mr. Ibrahim Abdourazak, General Director, Strategic Planning and Population, General Planning Commission, Comoros (8 min)</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><u>Morocco:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of 2020 Morocco VNR by Mr. Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (2 min)</li> <li>• Input and answers by Mr. Saad Bourkadi, Assigned to a Mission with the Prime Minister, Prime Minister’s Office, Morocco (8 min)</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (10 min)</li> </ul>
<p><b>16:05 – 16:10</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>

<p>16:10 – 17:00</p>	<p><b>Session 1- 2020 VNR in the context of COVID-19 (Con't)</b></p> <p><u>Libya:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick overview of 2020 Libya VNR by Ms. Hania Dimassi, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA (2 min)</li> <li>• Input and answer by Mr. El-Taher Abou El Hassan, General Director, Ministry of Planning, Libya (8 min)</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><u>Syria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of 2020 Syria VNR by Ms. Mona Fattah, ESCWA (2 min)</li> <li>• Input and answer by Syria's delegate (TBD) (8 min)</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Wrap-up and briefing on Day 2, Mr. Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (10 min)</b></p>
<p><b>Day Two: Wednesday 28 October 2020</b></p>	
<p>15:00 – 15:55 (Beirut Time) (13:00 GMT)</p>	<p><b>Briefing on Day 1 and Introduction of Day 2, Ms. Maisaa Youssef, ESCWA (3 min)</b></p> <p><b>Session 2- 2021 VNRs: Content and process for 2nd and 3rd review</b></p> <p>This session will look forward to the VNRs of 2021 in the context of an unpredictable global environment and lack of clarity on the 2021 HLPF. The second session will remind about the SG guidelines on VNRs and will introduce new directions considering COVID-19. This session will also be the first venue for 2021 Arab VNR countries to inform about their upcoming/ongoing preparations for their new VNR. Highlights on lessons learned from previous round(s) and plans for the new cycle will be presented.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (2 min)</p> <p><b>A- Update on SG guidelines on VNRs and overview in the context of COVID-19, DESA (10 min)</b> Mr. Joop Theunissen, Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination, UN DESA</p> <p><b>B- 2021 Arab countries: frame of work and lesson learned from earlier VNR(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Tunisia:</u> Ms. Mbarka Al Taleb, General Director, General Directorate of Citizenship and Education, Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation (8 min)</li> <li>• <u>Djibouti:</u> Mr. Dini Daoud, Director, Ministry of Finance and Economy (8 min)</li> <li>• <u>Iraq:</u> Ms. Maha AlRawi, Director General, Human Development Division, Ministry of Planning (8 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A (16 min)</b></p>
<p>15:55 – 16:00</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:50</p>	<p><b>Session 3 – Post-VNR: Implementation of recommendations and integration into national plans</b></p> <p>The third session will explore ways in which VNRs can accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will open the floor to representatives of member countries to share their experiences post-VNR (follow up on the implementation of the VNR recommendations, challenges, success stories, etc.). The discussion will revolve around the means to translate the findings of the VNR report into work plans and new working modalities.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Adib Nehmeh, ESCWA (5 min)</p> <p><b>(1) Countries' Interventions:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Palestine</u>: Mr. mahmoud Ataya, 2030 Agenda National Coordinator, office of the Prime Minister (6 min)</li> <li>• <u>Egypt</u>: Ms. Mona Issam Fayed, Director of Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (6 min)</li> <li>• <u>Oman</u>: Ms. Intissar Al Wahaibi, General Director, Development Planning, Ministry of Economy (6 min)</li> <li>• <u>Mauritania</u>: Mr. Hammad Mimo, General Directorate of Development Policies and Strategies (6 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>(2) Post VNR follow-up examples from countries outside the region</b> Ms. Hania Dimassi, ESCWA (2 min)</p> <p><b>Wrap up and conclusion by the Moderator (19 min)</b></p>
16:50 – 17:00	Break
17:00 – 17:45	<p><b>Session 4- The Community of Practice (CoP): Dynamics and way forward</b></p> <p>This session will look into the progress made so far in the establishment of the Community of Practice in the Arab Region and its activation. Membership, way forward, and communication channels will be presented and discussed. It will also gather feedback from participants on its development. The session will also inform about the support that the organizers would provide to 2021 VNR countries.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Nada El Agizy, LAS (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CoP: Progress and way forward, Ms. Mona Fattah, ESCWA (10 min)</li> <li>• Advisory support to 2021 VNR, Mr. Friedrich Soltau, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Discussion:</b> (20 min)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organizers</li> </ul>