

**Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region
Online Workshop, 9-10 March 2021**

Draft Programme of Work

Day One: Tuesday, 9 March 2021

<p>15:00 – 15:15 (Beirut Time)</p>	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>The opening session presents the workshop objectives and reviews the program of work</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, DESA • Ms. Nada El Agizy, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, The League of Arab States (LAS) • Ms. Karima El Korri, Leader, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA
<p>15:15 – 16:00</p>	<p>Session 1- 2021 VNRs in the Arab region: 2nd and 3rd reviews in the context of COVID-19</p> <p>The first session will introduce the global initiatives and VNR milestones towards the HLPF. It will provide an opportunity for the Arab countries to present the progress made so far in their preparations for the 2021 VNRs and the innovative practices adopted. The countries' interventions will cover: (a) a general update on the ongoing 2021 VNR preparations, and (b) responses to customized questions that address the novelty in the new VNR in terms of content, the emerging challenges, and VNR messages at the national and the global level.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Sustainable Development Officer, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA (3 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Brief introduction on current global state of VNRs & HLPF2021, DESA (5 min) 2- The SDG Moment, Ms. Lara Blanco, Deputy-Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, (5 min) 3- Arab 2021 VNRs: Progress, Innovations and Lesson Learned from earlier VNR(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Egypt:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the preparation of Egypt's 3rd VNR, lessons learned and innovative practices, Ms. Mona Issam Fayed, Director of Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (10 min) • Q & A (5 min) <u>Iraq:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the preparation of Iraq's 2nd VNR, lessons learned and innovative practices, Ms. Maha AlRawi, Director General, Human Development Division, Ministry of Planning (10 min) • Q & A (5 min)
<p>16:00 – 16:10</p>	<p>Break</p>

<p>16:10 – 17:00</p>	<p>Session 1- 2021 VNR Content and process for 2nd and 3rd review in the context of COVID-19 (Con't)</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mona Fattah, Sustainable Development Officer, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA (3 min)</p> <p><u>Qatar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the preparation of Qatar’s 3rd VNR, lessons learned and innovative practices, Mr. Jamal Alyafei, Director's Assistant, Department of Strategic Planning, Planning and Statistics Authority, (10 min) • Q & A (5 min) <p><u>Saudi Arabia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the preparation of Saudi Arabia’s 2nd VNR, lessons learned and innovative practices, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Zamil, Head of International and Regional Affairs (10 min) • Q & A (5 min) <p><u>Tunisia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the preparation of Tunisia’s 2nd VNR, lessons learned and innovative practices, Ms. Mbarka Al Taleb, General Director, General Directorate of Citizenship and Education, Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation (10 min) • Q & A (5 min) <p><i>Wrap-up and briefing on Day 2 (5 min)</i></p>
<p>Day Two: Wednesday, 10 March 2021</p>	
<p>15:00 – 15:55 (Beirut Time)</p>	<p>Session 2- VNRs and Leaving No One Behind</p> <p>This session will look at practical ways in which VNR processes and reports can support leaving no one behind. It will consider the ways in which the VNRs can integrate the human rights agenda.</p> <p>Moderation and conceptualizing the discussion: Mr. Akram Khalifa, Regional Advisor on Gender Equality & Women Empowerment, ESCWA (8 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How countries conducting a VNR this year can address violence against children, especially in the COVID-19 context? Ms. Najat Maalla M’jid, Special Representative of SG on Violence against Children (5-7 min) • Human rights in implementation of 2030 Agenda & VNRs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Mr. Issam Younis, Commissioner General, Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine (5 min) 2- Ms. Amna Bouayach, Chairperson, National Human Rights Council, Morocco (5 min) 3- Mr. Alaa Armouti, Commissioner General, National Centre for Human Rights, Jordan (5 min) <p>Discussion (25 min)</p>
<p>15:55 – 16:00</p>	<p>Break</p>

<p>16:00 – 16:55</p>	<p>Session 3 – VNRs in the context of instability</p> <p>The third session will present a draft framework for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda planning and reporting processes in countries impacted by instability (conflict, occupation, political and economic crisis, etc.). The proposed framework also discusses options for approaching VNRs in unstable and complex settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and conducting VNRs in the context of instability, Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Sustainable Development Expert, ESCWA (15 min) <p>Discussion (40 min)</p>
<p>16:55 – 17:00</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>17:00 – 17:45</p>	<p>Session 4- Data for the 2030 Agenda & the VNRs</p> <p>This session will give a general overview of the recent tools and platforms adopted in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda including dashboards, virtual surveys, etc. that have been developed by some Arab countries to overcome the existing data gaps and enhance monitoring and reporting on national and global indicators.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nada El Agizy, LAS (5 min)</p> <p>(a) The Arab SDG Monitor and the National Reporting Platforms to track progress on indicators related to the SDGs, Ms. Neda Jafar, Head, Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, ESCWA (10 min)</p> <p>(b) Innovative Statistical Tools adopted by some Arab countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Palestine:</u> (TBD) (5 min) • <u>Oman:</u> Ms. Kauthar Hamed Al-Farsi, Director of National and International Information, National Center for Statistics and Information (5 min) • <u>Syria:</u> Mr. Refaat Hijazi, Advisor to the Chair of The Planning and International Cooperation Commission (5 min) <p>Discussion (20 min)</p>
<p>17:45 – 18:00</p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the role of the CoP to facilitate 2021 VNR Exchange of Experience, Ms. Mona Fattah, ESCWA • Wrap-up & Way Forward, Ms. Maisaa Youssef, ESCWA