



Nineteenth meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)
Cairo, 26 and 27 November 2013

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Session 1: Engaging in Regional and Global Processes: Regional Integration and the Arab Summit.
4. Session 2: Enhancing Coordination among RCM Members on Priority Issues.
5. Session 3: Engaging in Regional and Global Processes: Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Arab Summit.
6. Session 4: Closing.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The nineteenth meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) will begin at 9:30 a.m. on 26 November 2013, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo. The sessions held on the first day will include representative of LAS subsidiary bodies and will open with statements from representatives of international and regional organizations as follows:

Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ESCWA
Ms. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director,
Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP; Chair, undg for Arab States/MENA
Mr. Nabil Al Arabi, Secretary-General, LAS

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Session 1: Engaging with Regional and Global Processes: Regional Integration and the Arab Summit

The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit meets every two years and has consistently focused on regional priorities with regional integration as an overarching framework. In addition, three Forums are organized on the sidelines of the Summit as follows: Youth; Civil Society; and the Private Sector. United Nations agencies have intermittently provided technical support to LAS in preparation for the Summit.

LAS has expressed the need for a more coordinated support among RCM members in preparation for the Summit. It is hoped that such support will, over the long term, allow the United Nations to better support the implementation of Summit recommendations. **There is a need to bridge the gap as much as possible between the political processes organized by LAS and the technical knowledge of the United Nations on regional priorities central to the Summit agenda, namely regional integration and the post-2015 agenda (see Session 3).**

In terms of regional integration, the Summit has focused, over the years, on creating an enabling environment for infrastructure. This session will allow for a discussion of the main elements of joint infrastructure with presentations as follows:

- Preparatory Process for the Summit (LAS)
- The Arab Customs Union and Regional Integration (ESCWA)
- Intraregional Trade (UNDP)
- Improving Humanitarian Coordination among Arab States (OCHA)
- Youth Employment Challenges and Best Practices in Arab Countries (ILO)

The Participants will also discuss support for any or all of the three Forums.

The session will also include a brief update by DPA on the global UN-LAS Global Coordination Meeting, and an update on priorities and initiatives outlined in the Strategic Priority Report and Matrix of Activities (uploaded on RCM website).

Session Outcome: Agreement on coordinated technical support for concrete proposals that could be taken up by LAS in preparation for the Summit in the areas above.

4. Session 2: Enhancing Coordination among RCM Members on Priority Issues

This session allows chairs of the RCM Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) to bring issues to the attention of RCM members. Where applicable, Chairs have provided progress reports ahead of the meeting (uploaded on the RCM website) and presentations will focus on matters that must be discussed by RCM members. The following presentations will be made:

- TWG on Climate Change (UNEP)
- TWG on Food Security and Nutrition (FAO)
- TWG on MDGs (ESCWA)
- TWG on Migration (LAS)

Session Outcome: RCM endorsement of any proposed activities and agreement on additional modalities of coordination

5. Session 3: Engaging with Regional and Global Processes: Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Arab Summit

This session will be open to RCM members only. On 25 September 2013, the General Assembly held a Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome document of that event described an “intergovernmental process” that will lead to the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda by September 2015. It urged all processes already in place, including those of working groups and committees, to conclude by September 2014. In addition, the Secretary-General was called upon to consolidate the findings of all global processes and reports by the end of 2014 to be provided as a “useful input” for the deliberations of Governments.

The preparatory process for the Arab Summit will outline the structure of Arab intergovernmental consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. LAS will clarify the steps going forward and RCM members are called upon to consider support for those steps.

Questions to be raised in this session include the following: what form of Arab intergovernmental process is likely to ensue in the next two years? How will the different regional processes come together? What will the role of LAS be in this process? What kind of support is expected or could be provided by the United Nations? What elements of technical or analytical support could be identified at this stage?

This session features the following presentations:

- Office of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning (Video Message)
- LAS
- UNDP
- ESCWA
- UN-Women
- UNISDR

Session Outcome: Clarity on the regional process and agreement to move forward in a coordinated manner on a regional plan of support for Arab intergovernmental preparation for the post-2015 agenda, channeling the combined expertise and capacities of all United Nations entities working in the region and in close collaboration with LAS.

6. Session 4: Closing

- (a) Recommendations;
- (b) Plans for the twentieth RCM meeting.
- (c) Any other business.