

**Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2019**  
**“Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality in the Arab Region”**

9-11 April 2019  
 UN House, Beirut, Lebanon

**Preliminary Organization of Work**  
**Version of 10 April 2019**

Day One: Tuesday 9 April 2019	
07:45 – 9:00	Registration of Participants
<b>9:20 – 10:15</b>	<b>Opening Session: Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Rola Dashti, Under Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, UNESCWA</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Noori Al-Dulaimi, Minister of Planning, Iraq</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Ahmad Aboul Gheit, Secretary General, League of Arab States</li> <li>- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11.00	Coffee Break
<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Plenary 1: Setting the Scene “Toward Achieving the SDGs in the Arab Region”</b> The session will give a snapshot of regional progress on SDGs and main trends, building on the initial findings of the Arab Sustainable Development Report 2019, with a special focus on the SDGs under review this year at the HLPF. Ministerial-level delegates will share highlights on progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda at the national level. <b>Moderator and speaker: Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, ESCWA</b> <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Ms. Hala El Saeed, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdul-Wahed al-Maitami, Minister of Industry and Trade, Yemen</li> <li>- Mr. Mohamad Mohsen El Sayyed, Director General of Regional and Local Development Department, Iraq</li> <li>- Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla, Secretary General, National Population Council, Sudan</li> <li>- H.E. Ahmad bin Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar</li> </ul> <b>Discussion</b>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Plenary 2: Equality: Policies and Opportunities</b></p> <p>The focus on equality is a distinguishing marker of the 2030 Agenda. While equality has generally been considered in economic terms only, the 2030 Agenda widens the scope for intervention to enhance equality of opportunities (including access to services and resources) and outcome. This session will enhance understanding of the policy interlinkages and the mechanisms needed to reduce inequality within countries, including the alliances needed to push through integrated policy reform.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj, Senior Coordinator, Common Space Initiative</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Development Expert, Lebanon</li> <li>- Ms. Monia Ammar, Judge at the Cassation Court, President of the Arab Center for International Law, Tunisia</li> <li>- H.E. Reem Abu Hassan, Honorary President, Society for Protecting Family Violence Victims, Former Minister of Social Development, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Ayman Sawalha, Advisor to the Minister of Social Development, Palestine</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>		
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15 – 18:00	<p><b>Special Session 1</b> (Main Hall)</p> <p>Inclusion, Empowerment and Equality as Pathways to Peace and Development</p>	<p><b>Special Session 2</b> (MZ Meeting Room)</p> <p>SDG 13: Advancing Climate Action in the Arab Region</p>	<p><b>Special Session 3</b> (Committee Room 1)</p> <p>Ensuring Sustainable and At-Scale Engagement of Adolescents and Youth in the Arab region: An Interactive Dialogue</p>

**Day Two: Wednesday 10 April 2019**

9:00 – 11:00	<p><b>Plenary 3: Inclusion: Policies and Opportunities</b></p> <p>The commitment to inclusiveness needs to be translated into policies where beneficiaries are clearly identified and where mechanisms have been put in place at all levels to ensure that no one is left behind. This session will draw on examples and innovative practices from the region and beyond highlighting inclusion and participation as enablers of sustainable development for all.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Hania Sholkamy, Associate Professor, American University of Cairo, Egypt</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Najla Ali Murad, Director General, Executive Directorate for Poverty Reduction Strategy, Ministry of Planning, Iraq</li> <li>- Mr. Abdulkhaleq Touhami, Professor, National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA), Rabat, Morocco</li> <li>- Mr. Lotfi Ben Said, Director General, Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia</li> <li>- Mr. Mohannad Al Azzeh, Secretary General, The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Jordan</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>		
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break		

<b>11:15 – 13:00</b>	<b>Special Session 4</b> (Committee Room 1) The Future of Work and Impacts on Gender Equality – Motherhood, Work, and the Care Economy in Arab States	<b>Special Session 5</b> (MZ Meeting Room) The Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteering into the 2030 Agenda in ESCWA Region	<b>Special Session 6</b> (Main Hall) Rethinking Inequality in Arab States
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break		
<b>14:00 - 15:45</b>	<p><b>Plenary 4: Empowerment: Policies and Opportunities</b></p> <p>Empowering people, communities and institutions as agents in transformative change is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda. This session will unpack the concept of empowerment in the context of the Arab region, provide practical application in the policy sphere, and highlight lessons learned from the perspective of integrated and coherent policy making.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Atidel Mejbri, Media Center Manager, CAWTAR, Tunis</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Mr. Abdullah Lamlas, Minister of Education, Yemen</li> <li>- Ms. Manar Zgheir, Young Learner, Yemen</li> <li>- Ms. Nabila Youssef, Literacy Specialist, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Foued Aouni, Director General, National Youth Observatory, Tunisia</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>		
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>Snapshot on the Global Path Toward the September 2019 SDG Summit</b></p> <p><b>Special Guest:</b> H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Ambassador Extraordinary, Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative, Sweden, Co-Facilitator at the SDG Summit 2019</p>		
16:00 – 16.15	Coffee Break		
<b>16:15 – 18:00</b>	<b>Special Session 7</b> (Main Hall) Advancing Social Justice and Social Cohesion through Inclusive Social Protection in Conflict-Affected States	<b>Special Session 8</b> (Committee Room 1) Strengthened Partnerships to Support Coherence of National Policies and Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development	<b>Special Session 9</b> (MZ Meeting Room) Leaving No One Behind: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and Inclusivity

### Day Three: Thursday 11 April 2019

<b>9:00 – 10:45</b>	<p><b>Round Table Discussion: Lessons learned from VNRs</b></p> <p>What have we learned from past VNRs and how to prepare for the next cycle of follow-up and review: what needs to change?</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla, Secretary General, National Population Council, Sudan</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Saras Jagwanth, Inter-Regional Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)</li> <li>- Ms. Hania Sabbidin Dimassi, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Archana Shirsat, Deputy Director General INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), Norway (video message)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari, Director, International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar</li> <li>- Ms. Samaher Al Shelali, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia</li> <li>- Ms. Intissar Alwahaibi, Director General of Development Planning, Supreme Council for Planning, Oman</li> <li>- Mr. Ziad Obeidat, Secretary General, Ministry of Labor, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Ahmad Kamaly, Deputy Minister for Planning Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Fadlala Garzaldeen, Deputy of the Head of Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syrian Arab Republic</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Plenary 5: Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality for Sustainable Development: Harnessing Means of Implementation</b></p> <p>Multi-stakeholder Dialogue addressing the theme of the AFSD as an enabler of sustainable development, and linking it to means of implementation and Goal 17. The speakers will address linkages to data, financing, technology, and participatory mechanisms of engagement.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Magued Osman, CEO, Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research “Baseera”, Egypt</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hamza Ould Bakar, GIZ/ Ministry of Interior, Mauritania</li> <li>- Ms. Kinda Hattar, Finance and Anti-corruption Expert, Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Qusai Al Shatti, Strategic Expert, WSIS and IGF Processes, Kuwait</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 14:45	<p><b>Plenary 6: Preparatory Regional Consultations for Sustainable Development: Outcome Messages to the 2019 AFSD and HLPF</b></p> <p>This session will highlight select key regional messages from multiple regional consultations held in preparation for the 2019 AFSD and the HLPF, to inform the AFSD Outcome Document and the regional submission to the HLPF.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Karima El Korri, Head of Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</b></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ali Awdeh, Director of Research Department, Union of Arab Banks, Beirut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Conference on Financing Sustainable Development ~ Curbing Illicit Financial Flows, November 2018</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ms. Hager Ebaid, Egypt, Y-PEER, Cairo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The Youth Forum in the Arab Region, December 2018)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ms. Leila Ould Ali, Member of Parliament, Tunisia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Arab Region Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, January 2019</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mr. Zaghoul Samhan, Director-General of Policies &amp; Planning at Environment Quality Authority (EQA) in Palestine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Regional Consultation on the Environment and Natural Resources for the 2019 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), February 2019)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Qusai Al Shatti, Strategic Expert, WSIS and IGF processes, Kuwait <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Second Arab High-level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, March 2019</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ms. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert, Environment, Housing and Water Resources Management Division , League of Arab States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Regional Consultation on Climate Change for the 2019 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and High-Level Political Forum, March 2019</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Beirut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Regional Civil Society Forum Ahead of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2019, April 2019</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>14:45 - 16:30</b>	<p><b>Plenary 7: AFSD in a regional and global context</b></p> <p>This session will present a snapshot of the key messages emanating from the AFSD-2019 discussions to be presented to the HLPF in July 2019.</p> <p>These messages will also set the stage for a reflection on regional FUR and the positioning of the Arab region as the world heads to the 2019 global summits, marking an end to the first four year cycle of FUR. Speakers will address: a) the needed synergies across various global frameworks to move forward with the 2030 Agenda, and b) empowering the Arab region in global processes, and addressing SDG 10 targets on inequality between countries.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Sustainable Development Officer, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Mohammed Khalil, Former member of the UN General Assembly’s Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Ahmad Al Qabany, Manager, Climate Change Division, Resilience and Social Development Department, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<b>16:30 - 17:00</b>	<b>Closing Session: Way Forward and Closing Remarks by the organizers</b>