On 23-24 November 2017, the Union of Arab Banks and ESCWA co-organized, under the aegis of the H.E. Saad El Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, the 2017 Arab Banking Conference entitled “Twinning Partnerships: Reconstruction and Financing for Development”.

The conference offered a valuable platform to discuss reconstruction and financing for development needs and requirements. It focused on drawing a roadmap for all actors and stakeholders involved in reconstruction and financing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Arab investor unions and entrepreneurship associations, Arab Banks and Regional Development Funds; Sovereign Wealth Funds, Regional and International institutions.

In this context, the conference highlighted:

- The role of Arab banks in financing both reconstruction and sustainable development, through long-term mechanisms that exploit bank liquidity surpluses;
- The need for new and innovative regional financing frameworks;
- Arab sovereign funds ability to provide critical liquidity requirements and investments for financing development;
- Estimating the region’s financing gaps, needs and the challenges facing financial management in the region;
- The need to develop legislative rules that foster economic, banking and long-term productive investments.

This year’s conference was unique for the discussions that opened pathways for regional cooperation to bridge the reconstruction needs of war-torn economies while financing the regions development exigencies and the 2030 Agenda.