

I. 2017 Achievements: Highlights of Key Activities since 22nd RCM:

The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2017 (AFSD-2017) was organized in the framework of the RCM 2030 Agenda Working Group; reporting on progress is therefore included under the main 2030 Agenda WG progress report.

In line with the revised Terms of Reference of the Joint 2030 Agenda Working Group and the establishment of specialized Task Forces in 2017, future progress reports will be prepared by the AFSD TF and submitted to the Joint 2030 Agenda WG using the present template.

II. Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2018:

The **Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2018** will take place from **24 to 26 April 2018** (venue selection ongoing). This year's theme will be "**Transformation towards sustainable and resilient Arab societies**" in line with the 2018 theme of the HLPF.

Under this broad thematic framework, AFSD-2018 will seek to fulfill the AFSD's overall main mandate as a regional platform for Follow-Up and Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will build on the structure and modality of last year's forum and dedicate plenary and special sessions to engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue on key achievements to date and challenges to implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. It will also serve to report back on the key achievements over the one-year cycle, as stipulated in the [AFSD-2017](#) recommendations.

Given the larger number of Arab countries that will present VNRs in 2018¹, more opportunities will be provided for peer learning and experience sharing among countries, including those that prepared and presented VNRs in 2016 and 2017. The AFSD-2018 will, as necessary, include sessions to discuss and review the set goals that will be reviewed in depth at the HLPF, namely SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 as well as SDG 17 on Means of Implementation and Global Partnership.

In line with the [AFSD TF ToR](#), ESCWA will take the lead in the planning and organization of the AFSD-2018. Upon finalization of the AFSD TF membership, a virtual meeting will be convened in December 2017 to take stock of the AFSD-2017 and discuss the 2018 work-plan, as a guiding document for the implementation of the AFSD. A face-to-face meeting will be convened in January 2018 to initiate implementation.

III. Decisions Requested from the Members of the RCM (if any):

Finalization of the TF membership: Nomination by RCM members (Regional Directors) of their respective representatives in the AFSD TF. All agencies interested and committed to contributing to the AFSD shall identify a principal representative no later than 30 November 2017.

¹ Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and United Arab Emirates.