

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

Work on the Arab Sustainable Development Report 2019 started effectively in 2017 and has involved preliminary discussions on the nature, structure and content, and a review of different options for the report.

II. Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2018:

In conjunction with a broad range of regional, sub-regional and thematic reports that will be produced in the coming years by various UN agencies, LAS and other members of the RCM and R-UNDG, and building on the experience, findings and impact of the first Arab Sustainable Development Report (ASDR-2015), ESCWA will lead the preparation of the ASDR, a regional report on the 2030 Agenda mandated to be issued every four years by the Regional Commission.

The results of initial brainstorming sessions will be presented and discussed at the first meeting of the ASDR TF in December 2017 alongside the working modalities, in-kind and financial contributions, and tasks and responsibilities of each TF member agency. In brief:

- ASDR-2019 will be **published in the first quarter of 2019**, launched during the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development of the same year (April) then presented at the HLPF (July).
- ASDR-2019 will be **a situation report on SDGs in the Arab region**. This edition will not be a progress report, but future ASDRs will assess progress as data post-2015 becomes available.
- ASDR-2019 will not be the only report or review output produced in/on the Arab region, and hence should not try to replace but rather **complement thematic reports, annual or biennial report, sub-regional reports or other regional reports** reviewing one or more SDGs prepared and produced by ESCWA or other agencies.
- ASDR-2019 **preparatory process should be inclusive**, with ESCWA taking the lead in the overall coordination of its various components.

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 ASDR TF. All agencies interested and committed to contributing to the ASDR shall identify a principal representative no later than 30 November 2017.