Changing course?
The Arab Region’s SDG progress and COVID-19

As the Arab region works to contain the negative impacts of COVID-19 and safeguard the health and wellbeing of its people, the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs take on an added urgency. COVID-19 has laid bare a series of vulnerabilities and fault-lines across the region. Their analysis points clearly to a set of structural barriers that hamper progress on the SDGs. It is only by dismantling those that the region can hope to navigate its way through the COVID-19 pandemic and steer the course towards a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable and just Arab region.

On the occasion of the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, ESCWA and UNDP are pleased to invite you to a high-level side event to discuss:

- Progress on the SDGs in the Arab region and entry points for action identified in the newly launched Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020 (ASDR 2020);
- How is COVID-19 shifting the trajectory of the Arab region’s progress on sustainable development?
- What opportunities can be seized now to galvanize political will and mobilize resources to lead the transformation necessary for the region?

**Date & time**  
9 July 2020, 08:00 – 09:00 NY time / 15:00 – 16:00 Beirut time

**Welcoming remarks**  
Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA  
Dr. Mourad Wahba, Associate Administrator (a.i.), UNDP

**Presentation**  
COVID-19 & structural barriers to achieving the 2030 Agenda,  
Dr. Maisaa Youssef, ASDR 2020 Lead Author, ESCWA

**Speakers**  
H.E. Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt  
H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Al Badawi, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Sudan

**Lead discussant**  
Dr. Mourad Wahba, Associate Administrator (a.i.), UNDP

**Q&A**  
Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

**Moderation**  
Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

Join us!  
The webinar will be in English and broadcast live on ESCWA’s Facebook.  
Follow ESCWA’s social media for updates Facebook – Twitter – Instagram – Youtube.