



PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

Beirut time (GMT+3)

10:00-11:30

Opening Session

1. Welcoming remarks

H.E. Mr. Faisal F. Al-Ibrahim, Vice Minister of Economy and Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (AFSD-2021 Chair)

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General, League of Arab States

Ms. Rola Dashti, Under Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

2. Scene setting presentation (video)

3. Intergovernmental segment

H.E. Mr. Faisal F. Al-Ibrahim, Chair of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development-2021, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Guest Speaker: Ambassador Mohamed Hussein Bahr Al Uloom, Co-facilitator of the Ministerial Declaration/2021 Session of ECOSCO and the HLPF and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

Member States Representatives

11:30-11:45

Break

11:45-13:15

Plenary session

SDG 1 REVIEW: Eradicating poverty and recovering from the COVID-19 crisis in the Arab region

Extreme poverty, multidimensional poverty and vulnerability to poverty are on the rise in the Arab region and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This session will identify key interventions to reduce poverty and mitigate the poverty impacts of the pandemic on the region, to address the needs of groups at greater risk of being left behind and reduce vulnerability to future shocks.

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum, Cairo

Special session 1:

Rethinking sustainable development under fragility and conflict



DAY ONE: MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

Plenary session - *continued*

SDG 1 REVIEW: Eradicating poverty and recovering from the COVID-19 crisis in the Arab region

Panellists:

Ms. Rana Jawad, Associate Professor in Social Policy, University of Bath, UK

H.E. Ms. Nivine El-Kabbag, Minister of Social Solidarity, Egypt

Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development, Beirut

Mr. Touhami Abdelkhalek, Professor, National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Rabat, Morocco

Discussion

13:15 -14:00 Break



المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة

إسراع العمل نحو خطة عام 2030 ما بعد كوفيد

29-31 March 2021 – آذار/مارس 2021 31-29

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

14:00-15:30

Plenary session

SDG 10 REVIEW: Inclusive recovery and reducing inequalities in the Arab region

Reducing inequalities in the Arab region requires reasserting the role of the State as the guarantor of equal economic and social rights and implementing policies to equitably redistribute resources. This session will present experiences from the region on reducing inequalities and equitably redistributing resources in the socioeconomic and political domains, and on ensuring sustainable access to social services in the COVID-19 recovery and in future crises.

Moderator: Mr. Ishac Diwan, Professor of Economics, Paris Sciences et Lettres, and Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Ali Hameed Mukhlif Al Douleimy, Minister of Education, Iraq

Ms. Lama Al-Natour, Head of Development Coordination Unit, Ministry of Education, Jordan

Ms. Lala Arabian, Executive Manager, Insan Association, Beirut

Mr. Mohammed Elagati, Researcher and Director, Arab Forum for Alternatives, Cairo

Ms. Jahda Abou Khalil, General Director, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Lebanon

Discussion

Special session 2:

Auditing the SDGs in the Arab region

15:30-15:45

Break



DAY ONE: MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

15:45-17:15

Plenary session

SDG 2 REVIEW: Achieving food security in the Arab region by 2030

In the region, progress on SDG 2 depends on structured and tailored investment in sustainable agriculture, the broader use of knowledge and technologies to increase agricultural productivity and resiliency, and an end to conflict. This session will present experiences from the region to expand access and strengthen production of safe and nutritious food through a multi-sectoral approach, to address the needs of groups at risk of being left behind and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities to withstand future shocks.

Moderator: Ms. Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Said Al-Masri, Former Minister of Agriculture, Jordan

H.E. Ms. Wafaa Dikah Hamzeh, Senior Adviser, Agriculture and International Cooperation, Former Minister, Lebanon

Ms. Linda Shaker Berbari, Expert on Public Health Nutrition and Policy, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Lebanon

Ms. Maryam Aleisa, Founder, Re:food Company, Kuwait

Discussion

Special session 3:

Mental health and psychosocial support in the context of COVID-19: implications for the Arab region

17:15-17:30 **Break**



المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة

إسراع العمل نحو خطة عام 2030 ما بعد كوفيد

29-31 March 2021 – آذار/مارس 2021 31-29

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

17:30-19:00

Special event on Food Systems Summit 2021: Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue

A Food Systems Summit will be held in September 2021 with a broad vision to launch actions, solutions and strategies that better align food systems with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identify pathways to accelerate progress towards food security while considering COVID-19.

The Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue will bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to consolidate regional views, perspectives and experiences and establish pathways and actions for equitable and sustainable food systems transformation.

Moderator: Ms. Nawal Al Hamed, Deputy Director General, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Kuwait

Opening

Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary ESCWA

H.E Mr. Dy Ould Zein, Minister of Rural Development, Mauritania, Chair of General Assembly of AOAD

2021 Food Systems Summit

Mr. Martin Frick, Deputy of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food System Summit 2021

Mr. David Nabarro, Senior Advisor for the FSS Dialogues

Views and Perspectives on Food Systems

H.E. Ms. Jihad Abdullah Alfathel, Member of Shooraa Council of Bahrain, Deputy Chairman, Parliamentarian Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab World

Ms. Fatima Eltahir Alhassan, Secretary General of the Food Security Technical Secretariat, Sudan

Mr. Tareq Hassan, Head of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN)

Interactive Discussion

Mr. Rami Zurayk, Professor and Chairperson, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Closing

H.E. Mr. Ibrahim El Dukhairi, Director General, AOAD

Special session 4:

Localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships: means to materialize the 2030 Agenda in conflict-affected countries



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

Beirut time (GMT+3)

10:00-11:30

Plenary session

SDG 3 REVIEW: Towards more resilient health systems in the Arab region

The commitment to build resilient health-care systems and introduce immediate measures to recover from the pandemic needs to be translated into a rights-based and multisectoral approach to human health and wellbeing. This session will identify key interventions for strengthening the resilience of health systems, to ensure continuity of health services and emergency preparedness and responses for all hazards.

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Maha El Rabbat, WHO
 Director-General's Special Envoy on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response, Egypt

Key intervention: Mr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari,
 Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, WHO, Cairo

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Al-Saidi, Minister of Health, Oman

Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States (TBC)

Mr. Kamel Mohanna, Founder Amel Association International, Lebanon

Mr. Fadi Jardali, Director of the Knowledge to Policy Center, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Discussion

Special session 5:

Migration governance in the Arab region: priorities, opportunities and lessons learnt from the first regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab region

11:30-11:45 **Break**



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

11:45-13:15

Plenary session

SDG 17 REVIEW: Innovative data solutions from the Arab region

The production of timely high-quality disaggregated data is not only a technical pillar for achieving the 2030 Agenda; it is also fundamental for ensuring inclusivity and justice.

This session will identify key policy choices to strengthen statistical systems by investing more in innovative tools, to respond to data needs in the context of the COVID-19 recovery and beyond, and for robust implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

Moderator: Ms. Ola Awad, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Palestine

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (Video)

Panellists:

Ms. Siham Zarrari, Head of the Household Surveys Division High Commission for Planning, Morocco

Mr. Ayman Zohri, President of the Egyptian Society for Migration Studies and Adjunct Professor, American University in Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Youssif Al Riami, General Director of Economic Statistics, National Center for Statistics and Information, Oman

Mr. Ziad Abdallah, Head of the IT Department, Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon

Discussion

Special session 6:

Catalysing private sector engagement in the Decade of Action

Special session 7:

SDG-climate security nexus in Arab countries

13:15-14:00 Break



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

14:00-15:30

Plenary session

SDG 8 review: Policy options for economic growth and employment to recover better in the Arab region

A shift in economic thinking and planning aimed at economic structural transformation is necessary for the region to move forward on SDG 8. This session will identify policy choices to increase responsiveness of social protection systems and endorse labour rights in the response to COVID-19, so as to increase decent employment opportunities and protect those most at risk from the pandemic's impact.

Moderator: Ms. Raghda El-Ebrashi, Head of Management and Organization Department at The German University in Cairo and Founder and Chairperson of "Alashanek Ya Balady", Egypt

Panellists:

Mr. Fayez Al-Mutairi, Director General, Arab Labour Organisation, Cairo

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abuthnain, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Development for Labour, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Christeen Haddadin, Managing Director, 17 Ventures, Jordan

Ms. Naima Hammami, Member of the Executive Office, Tunisian General Labour Union, Tunisia

Discussion

Plenary session

SDG 12 review: Rethinking consumption and production patterns in the Arab region during the COVID-19 recovery and on the way to 2030

SDG 12 encapsulates the entire sustainable development paradigm at the local, national, regional and global levels. This session will identify opportunities to build back better post-COVID through an integrated approach to economic recovery that leaves no one behind, and addresses climate change and unsustainable consumption and production challenges in the region.

Moderator: Ms. Samira Al-Kandari, Deputy Director, Environment Public Authority, Kuwait

Panellists:

Ms. Maha Al-Ma'ayta, Director, Directorate of Policies and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Jordan

Ms. Sumaya Yusuf Hasan, Assistant Professor, Environmental Management Programme, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain

Mr. Zaid Al-Shabanat, Director of the National Program for Reducing Food Loss and Waste, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia

Mr. Moez El Shohdi, Co-Founder and CEO, Egyptian Food Bank and the Food Banking Regional Network, Egypt

Discussion

15:30-15:45 **Break**



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

15:45-17:15

Plenary session

SDG 13 review: Advancing climate action for a green recovery and accelerated progress on the SDGs

The impact of climate change is acute in the Arab region, as temperatures continue to climb. Vulnerability is also on the rise as vast numbers of people confront growing water scarcity and droughts. This session will present key interventions to ensure a green recovery from COVID-19 in the Arab region. It will also explore innovative financial instruments and new ways of thinking about resource use at the national and community levels to accelerate achievement of SDG 13.

Moderator: Mr. Jamal Saghir, Senior Advisor and Member of the Board, Global Centre for Adaptation

Panellists:

H.E Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Egypt

Mr. Ahmed Abu Thaher, Director General for Projects and International Relations, Environment Quality Authority, Palestine

Mr. Ahmed Al Qabany, Head of Climate Change Unit, Islamic Development Bank Group

Ms. Noura Mansouri, Research Fellow, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), Saudi Arabia

Discussion

Plenary session

SDG 5 review: Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls in the Arab region

Women's full political and economic participation will be critical to achieving SDG 5 and all the other SDGs by 2030. The COVID-19 crisis has presented additional challenges for women and girls in the region and emphasized the importance of integrating the voices and needs of women and girls in response and recovery efforts. This session will present a snapshot of the key interventions for the promotion of women's participation and leadership, so as to accelerate inclusive and sustainable knowledge-based economies to build back better from COVID-19 and get back on track to achieve SDG 5 and the 2030 Agenda.

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Khaled Mahdi, Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Magued Osman, Member, National Council for Women and Head, Egypt's Women's Observatory Egypt

Ms. Lina Abou Habib, Co-chair of Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network, Lebanon

Ms. Jennifer Suleiman, Chief Sustainability Officer, Zain Group, Kuwait

Ms. Martine Najem, Instructor of Public Health Practice, Center for Public Health Practice, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Discussion

17:15-17:30 Break



DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 2021

17:30-19:00 Plenary session

Financing for development: what is possible and necessary in the Arab region to achieve the 2030 Agenda?

The commitment to achieving the SDGs needs to be complemented by concrete financing solutions across funding sources, including the public and private sectors. The COVID-19 crisis has presented additional financing challenges, especially as Governments expand social protection systems and re-prioritize spending on health and education.

Financing for development policies serve as key means of implementation of the COVID-19 recovery, and of an SDG-centric build-forward agenda. This session will synthesize the options presented at the global level and anchor them to the regional context. It will offer an opportunity for high-level engagement on regional policy options to facilitate the COVID-19 recovery and ensure a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

Moderator: Ms. Sabine Oueiss, Business and Political Editor, Annahar Newspaper, Lebanon

Panellists:

H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite, Former President of Lithuania, Co-chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Financial Accountability, Corruption, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI), Lithuania

H.E. Mr. Saleh Kharabsheh, Former Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan

H.E. Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda

Discussion



DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021

Beirut time (GMT+3)

10:00-11:30

Plenary session

SDG 16 REVIEW: Institutional fragility, the COVID-19 crisis, and lessons learned from the region

COVID-19 has simultaneously highlighted the governance deficit in the region and the important role of institutions in responding to the multiple crises caused by the pandemic. It has also thrown into further relief the multiple humanitarian crises in the region, as conflict and violence continue to ravage communities and infrastructure, further exacerbating vulnerabilities.

This session will bring together multiple stakeholders to present recommendations on accelerating progress towards SDG 16 in the region.

Moderator: Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat, Director, Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon

Panellists:

Mr. Mohamed Mefteh, Director General of the Central Governance Cell, Ministry of Health, Tunisia

Mr. Omar Mashaqbeh, Director of the National Aid Fund, Jordan

Mr. Daoud Deek, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development, Palestine

Ms. Yousra Sidani, Elected Member and Certified Public Accountant, Beirut Municipality, Lebanon

Ms. Kinda Mohamadieh, Third World Network, Geneva Office

Discussion

Special session 8:

Open Science: The Gateway for Accelerating Progress on the 2030 Agenda post-COVID

Special session 9:

COVID-19 and the impact on the environment

11:30 -11:45 **Break**



DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021

11:45 -13:15

Plenary session

SDG 17 REVIEW: Bridging divides and strengthening the role of technology in response to the pandemic

Technology's potential to advance sustainable development in Arab countries is immense and has been further highlighted during the COVID-19 crisis. This session will identify concrete policy options from the region to enhance the role of technology in supporting sustainable development, including digital and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The session will also explore regional experiences in strengthening entrepreneurship and digital solutions in specific sectors, including agriculture and the environment.

Moderator: Ms. Sana Ghenima, CEO, SANABIL MED, Tunisia

Launch of the ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Imad Sabouni, Head of Planning Commission and International Cooperation, Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Saeed Ali, Head of Technical Support section, Information Technology Department, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohamed Muse Hassan, Director, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship Institute, SIMAD University, Somalia

Discussion

Special session 10:

Accelerating Gender Justice in the Arab region: a pathway to achieving the 2030 Agenda post-COVID

Special session 11:

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus as a transformative pathway for SDG progress in protracted crises, including COVID-19: challenges and opportunities

13:15-13:30 Break



DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021

13:30-15:00

Youth round table

The Youth Roundtable will provide a platform for youth to deliberate on their challenges and priorities in the current context of the pandemic and on three selected themes: (1) Participation, Civic Engagement, and Peacebuilding; (2) Wellbeing and Access to Health Services; and (3) Skilling and Learning to Earning. It will also be an opportunity for youth to present their experiences as they work to address these challenges and will propose entry-points to integrate the empowerment of youth and their involvement in recovery plans.

Moderator: Mr. Hatim Aznag, Regional Focal Point of the MENA Region at the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, Morocco

Panellists:

Mr. Wissem Sghaier, Political Activist and Expert on Youth and Youth Movements, National Youth Observatory, Tunisia

Ms. Yara Abu El Wafa, Healthcare Technical Advisor, Mott MacDonald, and Co-Founder of Health 2.0, Egypt

Mr. Saddam Sayyallah, Founder and Executive Director, "I Learn", Jordan

13:30-14:15

Strengthening Regional Collaboration in the Arab States

The reform agenda of the Secretary General include reforms at the regional level aimed at optimizing the use of the UN's regional assets to best support member States in delivering the 2030 Agenda. Part of the regional reform agenda is strengthening inter-agency collaborative actions through a "Regional Collaborative Platform" bolstered by a set of Issues-Based Coalitions.

This session will present the results achieved in 2020 and outline the planned results for 2021.

Speaker:

Mr. Mounir Tabet, UN ESCWA Deputy Executive Secretary, representing the Joint Secretariat of the Arab States Regional Collaboration Platform

15:00-16:30

High-level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue - The 2030 Agenda in the Arab region at the start of the Decade of Action: Looking Up, Looking Ahead

The High-Level Dialogue with UN Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is an opportunity to look up from the road-mapping and path-charting to consider the people of the region, those whose lives, voices and well-being are at stake. It is a reminder of why all this work and where it should lead. Founded on the principle that the 2030 Agenda is one for everyone, the HLD will address two issues:

1. How are the people of the region pushing against challenges to raise the bar on what could be accomplished to create more just, sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous societies?
2. What has been unleashed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that all stakeholders, including governments and the UN, need to embrace and safeguard and build upon to get to 2030?

Session Chair: Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, UN ESCWA

Facilitator: Ms. Maisaa Youssef, AFSD-2021 Secretariat

Special Guest: Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations



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DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021

High-level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue - The 2030 Agenda in the Arab region at the start of the Decade of Action: Looking Up, Looking Ahead - *continued*

Panellists:

Ms. Hania Sholkamy, Professor, American University in Cairo

Mr. Adnan Al Amine, Professor, Founder of the Lebanese Association for Educational Sciences

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Maitami, Professor and Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Ms. Zahra Langhi, Member of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and Co-founder and CEO of Libyan Women's Platform for Peace

Mr. Ibrahim Al Zu'bi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Majid Al Futtaim

Ms. Hiba Ghandour, MD, Cardiac Surgery Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Cleveland Clinic and activist

16:30-16:45

Closing remarks