

SPECIAL SESSION 1

Rethinking Sustainable Development under Fragility and Conflict

Monday, 29 March 2021, 11:45-13:15 Beirut time (Online)

Background and objective

The main objective of this session is to highlight specific considerations and requirements in order to accelerate actions on the SDGs in fragile and conflict affected contexts. The session aims to initiate an open discussion between diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society, the UN and others, that are relevant to understand the key challenges facing fragile states in advancing sustainable development in these contexts and how to overcome them.

The goals of the session are to (i) create awareness of the key challenges to achieving SDGs in fragile and conflict countries; (ii) collectively assess and highlight examples of ways to how these challenges can be overcome to advance SDGs in the fragile states; (iii) and identify the mechanism for moving along the humanitarian-development nexus in countries affected by crises and conflicts.

Special focus will be given to the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on SDGs achievement. Clear pathways for SDG advancement and recovery from the pandemic will be identified through sharing experiences, success stories, and lessons learnt.

Questions to be addressed

1. Taking into consideration the current economic and political situation plus the restrictions of COVID in fragile countries what is the impact on SDG achievement by 2030?
2. What are the major impediments to achieving the SDGs in fragile countries?

Facilitator

- **Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud**, columnist, journalist, Advisor to the Chairman for Al-Ahram, Egypt

Panelists

- **Ms. Najat Rochdi**, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, Beirut
- **H.E. Waed Abdullah BaDheb**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen
- **H.E. Mohamed Hassan Katna**, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria
- **H.E. Dr. Khalid Batal Najim Abdullah**, Minister of Planning, Iraq
- **Mr. Fuad Albassam**, Assistant Director-General Public Sector Operations, OPEC Fund for International Development

The session will be organized over Zoom. To join, please register via [this link](#).

Languages: **Arabic and English**