

SPECIAL SESSION 8

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

Wednesday 31 March 2021, 10:00-11:30 Beirut time (Virtual)

Background and objective

It is well established that the Arab region faces a wide knowledge, scientific and technological gap that has been associated with tangible negative impacts on the outcome and sustainability of the major developmental investments and efforts in the region. Calls for bridging this gap have been repeatedly voiced in several regional and international reports and fora. Among the main reasons for the inability to fill this gap, are the limitations and restrictions to open science. With the SDG agenda widely labeled as the “science agenda”, opening science becomes a vital need. Advancing the open science agenda in the Arab region strongly contributes to accelerating advancement towards the SDGs post COVID in the Arab region; the main theme of AFSD-2021.

The main aim of this session is to discuss best strategies and new approaches for advancing the open science agenda in the Arab region as a major accelerator for achieving the SDGs. The session shall inform on global and regional deliberations on the values, principles, and practices underpinning Open Science and highlight lessons learnt and experiences of Arab stakeholders. It will also discuss strategic directions and approaches with prospects for enhancing regional and global cooperation in open science within the overall umbrella of achieving the SDGs

Questions to be addressed

1. How does Open Science present a paradigm shift in approaches towards achieving the SDGs and help in addressing SDG challenges facing the Arab Region?
2. Who are the stakeholders in Open Science? What are the responsibilities, rights, forms and structures needed to facilitate their effective engagement in Open Science at the national, regional and international levels?
3. How can open science facilitate the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge around the region and in the world at large? What could be the practical concrete measures on Open Access and Open Data?

Facilitator(s)

- **Dr. Ghaith Fariz**, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, Cairo

Panelists

- **H.E. Muhyieddeen Touq**, Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Ms. Layla Al Mousawi**, Program Manager, Scientific Culture Directorate, Kuwait Institute for Advancement of Science (KFAS)
- **Mr. Essam Khamis**, Member of UNESCO Open Science Advisory Committee, Egypt.
- **Mr. Neemat Frem**, President and CEO, INDEVCO Consultancy, Lebanon.

This Special Session will be organized over Zoom via [this link](#).

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