



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Arab Forum for Sustainable Development-2018 (AFSD-2018)
Natural Resources, Future Generations and the Common Good
Beirut, Lebanon
24-26 April 2018

Organization of work

Day One: Tuesday 24 April 2018	
08:30 – 9:00	Registration of Participants
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHQ • R/UNDG • UN-ESCWA • LAS • Government of Lebanon <p>Setting the Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 Agenda Emerging Trends and Potential for Transformation in the Arab Region
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Plenary 1</p> <p>Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Countries’ Perspectives on Integrated Development Planning and Transformative Change</p> <p>As Arab countries align their development plans with the 2030 Agenda, there is a need to ensure that the 2030 Agenda supports work on existing priorities and enables an integrated rights-based approach to sustainable development. This session asks what has changed in development planning in the Arab region since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. It also explores the ways in which integrated development planning leads to policy coherence and results in positive development outcomes.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Plenary 2</p> <p>VNRs and the Day After: Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the National Level</p>

	<p>Building on the experiences of countries that have submitted VNRs, this session will provide a critical reflection on the VNR as both a product and a process. It will address the extent to which VNRs are being utilized to accelerate implementation and enhance accountability, with a focus on multi-stakeholder engagement, the complementarity of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and gender mainstreaming. In addition, this session will explore the follow-up to the submission of the VNR, and chart practical ways for countries to use the VNR as an accelerator of implementation.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Special Session 1 VNRs: Sharing Lessons Learned</p>	<p>Special Session 2 Arab Civil Society Platform</p>	<p>Special Session 3 Water and SDGs: An Arab Perspective</p>
Day Two: Wednesday 25 April 2018			
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Plenary 3 Integrating Natural Resources in Development Planning for a Resilient and Sustainable Future</p> <p>This plenary sets out the major story for natural resources across the Arab region, unpacks its implications across the different pillars of sustainable development, and showcases the need for and the benefits of a transformative shift in planning and policy. Policy makers, experts and civil society representatives will address a nexus approach to natural resources; management of the commons, as well as equitable access to natural resources in the region, drawing on specific case studies or examples.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Special Session 4 Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in National SDG Implementation Plans</p>	<p>Special Session 5 Youth and the transformation towards sustainable Arab societies</p>	<p>Special Session 6 Environment and Natural Resources: Their Role in Integration</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Plenary 4 Rethinking Economic Diversification: Safeguarding the Lives and Livelihoods of Future Generations</p> <p>Many Arab countries are taking initiatives to decouple economic growth and the unsustainable use and consumption of natural resources. This session resituates the argument for diversification squarely within a social and intergenerational justice</p>		

	<p>framework, with environmental sustainability as a founding pillar of intergenerational justice. It makes the argument that by safeguarding the planet’s natural resources, we safeguard the lives and livelihoods of future generations. Speakers address the questions of how governments make these long term, strategic choices. And it provides examples that highlight the trade-offs involved in different policy choices.</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Special Session 7</p> <p>Dialogue on “Leaving No One Behind” in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Special Session 8</p> <p>Localizing the SDGs in the Arab Region: Challenges and Prospects for Action</p>	<p>Special Session 9</p> <p>Sustainable Energy and the Transformation Process towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies</p>
Day Three: Thursday 26 April 2018			
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Plenary 5</p> <p>Planning for Resilient, Inclusive and Resource Efficient Cities</p> <p>This plenary will sensitize participants to the links between sustainable urban planning, resource efficiency, public health, and the promotion of social inclusion of marginalized groups; encourage coordination between relevant government entities at the local level as well as coordination between local and national government; highlight policy choices that achieve the above; and show that policy makers at city level must/can make of the “common good” and the equitable distribution of resources a governance choice in planning.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Plenary 6</p> <p>Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda gives added impetus to rights-based approach to planning and financing development. The Addis Ababa Action Plan promotes a social compact with human rights and universal social protection as central. This plenary will provide perspectives and solutions to address the interlinkages between governance of natural resources and financing a rights-based approach to development in the region. It will consider options, including universal social protection as a tool to build resilience and address intergenerational justice in the Arab region.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break		

14:00 – 15:30	Plenary 7 A. Outcomes of Preparatory Meetings to the 2018 AFSD and HLPF B. Key Messages from AFSD-2018 (Presentation of key messages that will form part of the report submitted to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum.) Moderator Panelists Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:30	Closing