

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

DAY ONE: Tuesday, 15 March 2022

Beirut time (GMT +2)

09:00-10:00 Registration and entry to the UN house

10:00-11:30 Opening session

1. Welcoming remarks
 - **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, ESCWA
 - **Mr. Ahmad Aboul Gheit**, Secretary-General, League of Arab States
 - **Mr. Nasser Shraideh**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan (AFSD-2022 Chair)
 - **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General
2. Scene setting presentation (video)
3. Intergovernmental segment
Member States representatives
4. Statement by Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations (video)

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:45 Plenary session

SDG 4 review: Quality education

This session will present progress on SDG 4 in the Arab region and policy options for moving forward to build resilience and achieve an inclusive recovery.

Moderator: Ms. Karma El-Hassan, Professor of Educational Psychology Measurement and Evaluation, American University of Beirut

Panelists:

Mr. Saddam Sayyaleh, Executive Director, I Learn Jordan

Ms. Alexa Joyce, Digital Transformation and Skills Director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Microsoft

Plenary session - *continued*

SDG 4 review: Quality education

Panelists:

Ms. Nawal Shalaby, Director, Centre for Curriculum and Instructional Materials Development, Egypt

Ms. Hana Omar, Director of Community Support, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KS Relief), Saudi Arabia

Discussion

SDG 5 review: Gender equality

This session will present progress on SDG 5 in the Arab region and policy options for moving forward to build resilience and achieve an inclusive recovery.

Moderator: Ms. Rasha Qandeel, Anchor and TV Presenter, BBC, Egypt

Panelists:

Mr. Magued Osman, CEO and Director, Egyptian Centre for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), Egypt

Ms. Nicole Arian-Markazi, Head of Quality and Strategic Transformation Programmes, Middle East and Africa, Nokia

Mr. Mohamed Naji, Professor, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Morocco

Ms. Ohood Enaia, Head of Planning and Policies Unit, Ministry of Local Government, State of Palestine

Discussion

Meeting room: MZ

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

13:45 - 14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:15

Special session 1:

United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – what does it mean for the Arab region?

Meeting room: CR-I

To participate virtually [click here](#).

Special session 2:

Social Expenditure Monitor: toward making budgets more efficient and effective to achieve the SDGs

Meeting room: MZ

To participate virtually [click here](#).

Special session 3:

Social norms and gender-based violence

Meeting room: CR-II

To participate virtually [click here](#).

16:15-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00

High-level dialogue

Ministries of planning and finance in conversation: Towards greater coherence for building back better and delivering the SDGs

As Arab Governments work to recover from the COVID-19 crises, ministries of planning and of finance are pressured to prioritize resources and expand services and social protection coverage. This necessitates greater coherence and sequencing of interventions and processes undertaken by both ministries within a whole-of-government approach. This session aims to galvanize commitment to strengthen coordination between ministries of planning and of finance throughout the SDG implementation cycle, shedding light on approaches and mechanisms to this end.

Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, and United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda

Special guest: Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

Special guest: Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, President and Group Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank

Panelists:

Mr. Nasser Shraideh, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan

Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda, President, Global Institute 4 Transitions (GI4T), Tunisia

Ms. Taif Sami, Deputy Minister of Finance, Iraq

Mr. Youssef El Khalil, Minister of Finance, Lebanon

Ms. Hala El Saeed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt

Mr. Waed Abdullah Badhib, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Discussion

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

18:00-19:30

Special event on the Report Financing Sustainable Development in Egypt

Regional discussion aimed at anchoring the findings of the report “Financing Sustainable Development in Egypt”, including the overall status of the SDGs, the Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF), public financial flows, debt management, trade and localization. The special event also serves as a springboard to advance the report as a prototype for replication across the Arab region and beyond.

The meeting room and links are the same as for the previous session.

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2022

Beirut time (GMT +2)

10:00-11:30 **Thematic discussion on multi-stakeholder efforts for green recovery**

Green recovery is considered one of the three key elements for a solid post-pandemic recovery. This session will explore opportunities for green recovery in the Arab region, examine the extent to which adopted recovery measures take into account the environmental dimension, and consider donor directions on green recovery funding.

Moderator: Mr. Jamal Saghir, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Panelists:

Ms. Shada El-Sharif, Investment Priority Leader, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, Jordan

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

Mr. Salim Rouhana, Sustainable Development Programme Leader for Mashreq, World Bank

Ms. Noura Mansouri, Research Fellow, Energy Transition and Electric Power, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (KAPSARC), Saudi Arabia

Ms. Hajar Khamlichi, Mediterranean Coordinator, Carboun

Mr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Mr. Ahmed Ali Attiga, CEO, Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP)

Discussion

Meeting room: CR-II

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

Thematic discussion on recovery in the Arab least developed countries

This session will take stock of the COVID-19 recovery efforts in the Arab least developed countries (LDCs), and consider promising alternatives for change in the long term. It will discuss and identify actions needed by various stakeholders to advance a resilient recovery for the Arab LDCs.

Moderator: Mr. Nasser Yassine, Minister of Environment, Lebanon

Panelists:

Ms. Amal Saleh Said, Acting Minister of Trade and Supply, Sudan

Mr. Waed Badhib, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Mr. Abderrahaman Deddi, Assistant Director-General for Development Policies, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors, Mauritania

Mr. Muse Mohamed Osman, Director of Planning, Ministry of Planning, Somalia

Mr. Khadar Sheikh Mohamed, Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Somalia

Ms. Nada Al Dossary, Director of the General Department for Media and Strategic Communication, Saudi Development and Reconstruction Programme for Yemen, Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdallah Cheikh Sidia, Economic Advisor, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

Mr. Abdulla Al Musaibeeh, Regional Manager for Arab Countries, Kuwait Fund, Kuwait

Ms. Rwodah Al-Naimi, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Qatar Fund for Development

Discussants:

Mr. Ralf Sühoff, Director, Centre for Humanitarian Action, Germany

Ms. Nina Stuurman, Regional Emergency and Post Crisis Specialist for Middle East and North Africa, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa - IOM

Thematic discussion on recovery in the Arab least developed countries – *continued*

Discussants:

Mr. Samer Abdeljaber, Representative & Country Director, WFP, State of Palestine

Ms. Leah Zamore, Program Lead, Centre on International Cooperation, New York University

Mr. Dale Thompson, Consultant in Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus

Discussion

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:45 Plenary session

SDG 14 review: Life below water

This session will present progress on SDG 14 in the Arab region and policy options for moving forward to build resilience and achieve an inclusive recovery.

Moderator: Ms. Laila Iskandar, Former Minister of the Environment (Egypt), and Founder of CID Consulting

Panelists:

Ms. Majida Maarouf, Director General, National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture, Morocco

Ms. Nedwa Nech, Executive Director, Mauritanie 2000

Mr. Imad Saoud, Professor of Aquatic Science, American University of Beirut

Discussion

SDG 15 review: Life on land

This session will present progress on SDG 15 in the Arab region and policy options for moving forward to build resilience and achieve an inclusive recovery.

Moderator: Mr. Mostafa Fouda, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Egypt

Panelists:

Ms. Saliha Fortas, Director, Fight Against Desertification and the Green Dam Project, Algeria

Mr. Hassan Aldashti, Climatology Superintendent, Department of Meteorology, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Kuwait

Mr. Nizar Hani, Manager, Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon

Plenary session - *continued*

SDG 15 review: Life on land

Panelists:

Ms. Maria Selin, Head of Regional Development Cooperation (MENA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Discussion

Meeting room: CR-I

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

13:45-14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:15

Special session 4:

Challenges and opportunities for young people in the transition from learning to decent work in the Arab region

Meeting room: 300A (3rd floor)

To participate virtually [click here](#).

Special session 5:

How can supreme audit institutions support recovery and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region?

Meeting room: CR-II

To participate virtually [click here](#).

Special session 6:

Transboundary climate risks in the Arab region: approaches and solutions

Meeting room: 600A (6th floor)

To participate virtually [click here](#).

16:15-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00

Thematic discussion on multi-stakeholder efforts driving digital transformation for sustainable recovery

Digitalization efforts across Government and business have accelerated in the Arab region out of a necessity imposed by social distancing measures. This session will provide a venue for sharing the experiences of various stakeholder groups in transforming the digital space; and will identify policy options to capitalize on this transformation for a sustainable recovery.

Moderator:

Ms. Nermine El Saadany, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, Internet Society (ISOC), Egypt

Panelists:

Mr. Ishaq Sider, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, State of Palestine

Mr. Jawad Abbassi, Head of MENA, Global Association of Mobile Operators

Round table on voluntary national reviews: Subnational follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequality

This session will showcase recent experiences in conducting voluntary local reviews and other subnational reviews of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. It will discuss how comprehensive and systematic subnational follow-up and reporting can support effective national planning, and be geared to leaving no one behind and tackling inequality.

Moderator:

Mr. Kassem El Saddik, Co-Chair, EvalSDGs Network

Panelists:

Mr. Akram Khraisat, Director of the Urban Observatory, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan

Ms. Mona Fayed, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt

Thematic discussion on multi-stakeholder efforts driving digital transformation for sustainable recovery - *continued*

Panelists:

Mr. Fadi Makki, Founder, Nudge Lebanon, Lebanon

Ms. Rasha Tantawy, Head of Entrepreneurship, TIEC/ITIDA, Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Ben Amor, Chairman, Arab ICT Organization, Tunisia

Discussion

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

Round table on voluntary national reviews: Subnational follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequality - *continued*

Panelists:

Mr. Muhammed Al Sayed, Director General of Regional and Local Development, Ministry of Planning, Iraq

Ms. Yaqeen Karim Jomaa, Director of Planning, Dhi Qar Governorate, Iraq

Mr. Yehia Ibrahim, Responsible for the Committee on Social Inclusion, United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section

Mr. Mustafa Khawaja, Statistics Expert, State of Palestine

Discussants:

Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

Mr. Taher Belhassan, Head of the Sustainable Development Committee, Ministry of Planning, Libya

Discussion

Meeting room: CR-I

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

18:00-18:15 Break

18:15-19:15 **Digital Arabic Content Award**

The ESCWA Digital Arabic Content (DAC) Award for Sustainable Development is a joint award between ESCWA and the World Summit Awards (WSA). It aims to promote and showcase best practices in digital Arabic content from the Arab region. It also aims to demonstrate the benefits of digital technologies for advancing sustainable development and promote the development of quality Arabic content related to the SDGs. The session will feature interventions by jury members and announcing the winners of the 2021 DAC Award.

The meeting room and links are the same as for the previous session titled *“Thematic discussion on multi-stakeholder efforts driving digital transformation for sustainable recovery”*.

DAY THREE: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

Beirut time (GMT +2)

10:00-11:30

Thematic discussion on health-oriented regional supply chains to aid recovery and boost preparedness for future shocks

The pandemic has increased pressure on the health-care system, including medical equipment, supplies and personnel. This session will analyse how the health supply chain reacted, revealing gaps and room for improvement. It will share best practices and experiences from various stakeholder groups, and lessons learned on improved preparedness.

Moderator:

Mr. Samer Al-Madhoun, Board Member of the United Nations Global Compact Jordan and Managing Director of MUHAKAT, Jordan

Panelists:

Mr. Jameel Abualenain, General Supervisor of the General Department of Emergency, Disaster and Ambulatory Transport, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Heba Wali, CEO, Vacsera, Egypt

Mr. Omar Najim, Manager, Executive Affairs Office, Department of Health, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Shadi Saleh, Director of the Global Health Institute and Professor of Health Systems and Financing, American University of Beirut

Mr. Nael Al-Husami, Chief Executive Officer, Amman Chamber of Industry, Jordan

Discussion

Meeting room: MZ

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

Thematic discussion on social inclusion through recovery

The pandemic highlighted pre-existing weaknesses in social protection systems in the Arab region, but spurred a new mobilization of resources to extend social safety nets in response to the crisis. This session will explore innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms to fund inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems that provide whole-of-life coverage and resilience against future crises. It will also share relevant regional reform experiences.

Moderator:

Ms. Hania Sholkamy, Associate Research Professor, The Social Research Centre, American University in Cairo

Panelists:

Ms. Nivine El Kabbag, Minister of Social Solidarity, Egypt

Mr. Hussein Al-Sheikh, Advisor to the Minister on Social Affairs, Ministry of Community Development, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Barq Al-Dmour, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Social Development, and Acting Director-General of the National Aid Fund, Jordan

Mr. Abdelouahab Belmadani, Director of Planning and Financial Resources, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Morocco

Ms. Najlaa Al-Sayyad, Director of the Social Welfare Fund, and Member of the Social Protection Consultative Committee (SPCC), Yemen

Discussant:

Ms. Kaltham Ali Al Ghanim, Professor of Sociology, and Director of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University

Discussion

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

11:30 -11:45 Break

11:45 -13:15	Special session 7: Building urban resilience to COVID-19 and climate change through innovative solutions Meeting room: 300A (3 rd floor) To participate virtually click here .	Special session 8: Advancing zero hunger in the Arab region: challenges and way forward Meeting room: CR-I To participate virtually click here .	Special session 9: Addressing contemporary data collection methods and resources to enhance data quality for inclusive recovery and SDG achievement in the Arab region Meeting room: CR-II To participate virtually click here .
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13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:45	Special session 10: Technological transformation in the transport sector: challenges and opportunities for the Arab region Meeting room: MZ To participate virtually click here .	Special session 11: Integrating nature into private sector investments: nature-sensitive renewable energy and ecotourism in the Arab region Meeting room: CR-II To participate virtually click here .	Special session 12: The role of media and advertising in promoting women's economic empowerment in Arab countries Meeting room: CR-I To participate virtually click here .
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15:45-16:00 Break

16:00-17:30 Plenary session

A special conversation with young people in the Arab region on the United Nations Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda"

This session will reflect on what it means to have solidarity with young people, and to account for the interests of future generations from the perspective of young people in the region. It will address topics highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, including ensuring youth representation in decision-making, adopting long-sighted policymaking strategies, ensuring quality education and sustainable employment opportunities for young people, and guaranteeing environmental stewardship.

Moderator:

Ms. Marwa Al Khairo, International Development Consultant and Youth Development Advisor

Special guest: Mr. Jaafar Abdul Karim, Journalist, Deutsche Welle

Panelists:

Ms. Asma Rouabhia, MENA Regional Fellow at GirlUp

Mr. Ahmad Bali, Head of Surface Water Resources Department, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan

Ms. Alaa Chbaro, Founder and CEO of WonderEd, Lebanon

Mr. Ismail Farjia, Junior Executive Manager, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, Morocco

Ms. Rwan El-Jack, Social Media Specialist/Media and Public Relations Coordinator, Life Makers Organisation, Sudan

Ms. Sara Al Harthey, Business Development Manager, ACWA Power, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Aya Dagdoug, Medical Student, Université de Monastir, Tunisia

Plenary session - *continued*

A special conversation with young people in the Arab region on the United Nations Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda"

Panelists:

Ms. Tamara Al Tibi, Attorney, State of Palestine

Statement by Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (video)

Discussion

Meeting room: Main Hall

For Zoom participation [click here](#).

For live YouTube broadcast [click here](#).

17:30-18:00

Closing

The meeting room and links are the same as for the previous session.