

9–10.30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 2

Planning and financing sustainable development in recovery and crises

As Arab Governments accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and face the repercussions of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis, ministries of planning and of finance are under pressure to prioritize actions and resources aimed at achieving the SDGs. Within this context, this high-level plenary session brings together ministries of planning and of finance to galvanize commitment to strengthen coordination between planning and financing processes, with a focus on enhancing fiscal space to achieve the SDGs and reduce inequality.

Moderator:

Rayya Al Hassan, former Minister of Finance and former Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Lebanon

Keynote speaker:

Mark Malloch-Brown, President, Open Society Foundations

Panelists:

Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Oman

Ahmed Kamaly, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt
(*virtual*)

Taher Belhassan, General Director of the Planning Institute at the Ministry of Planning and Head of the Sustainable Development Committee, Libya

Hiba Ahmed, Director General, Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development

Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda (*virtual*)

[Click to watch](#)

10.30–10.45 a.m.

Spotlight segment

Reem El-Mograby, Director of Institutional Equity, American University in Cairo, Egypt

Hala al-Shooha, Senior Programs Officer – Climate Action, Generations for Peace, Jordan

Hazir Farouk Abdelraheem Elhaj, Associate Professor, Sudan University of Science and Technology, Sudan

[Click to watch](#)

10.45–11 a.m.

BREAK

11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

Special session 4:

More than a buzzword: how sustainable procurement drives sustainable development

[For details click here](#)

Special session 5:

Role of renewable energy in accelerating recovery in fragile and crisis-affected countries

[For details click here](#)

Special session 6:

Health preparedness in the Arab region: SDG target 3.d audit findings and proposed actions

[For details click here](#)

12.30–1.30 p.m.

LUNCH

1.30–3 p.m.



PLENARY SESSION 3

Water security and accelerating action on SDG 6

This session will assess progress in the implementation of SDG 6 in the Arab region, consider the impact of recent crises, and present innovative policy and financing solutions to accelerate the provision of clean water and sanitation for all. As the last stop on the regional roadmap towards the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and the midterm comprehensive review of the Water Action Decade, the session will provide an opportunity to take stock of regional priorities and consolidate regional messaging.

Moderator:

Ali Karnib, Senior Water Expert and Professor of Engineering, Lebanese University, Lebanon

Panelists:

Shahira Wahbi, Director of Housing, Water Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction, League of Arab States

Mohamed Al-Hawri, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Jihad Almahamid, Secretary-General, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Jordan

Mohamed Ousama Al Akhrass, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Syrian Arab Republic (*virtual*)

Waleed Zubari, Professor of Water Resources Management, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain (*virtual*)

Mohannad Abouelrouse, Founder and CEO, Life from Water Foundation and Co-Founder and CEO, WaterWill, Egypt

Discussants:

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

Hans Peter van der Woude, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Lebanon

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3–3.15 p.m.

BREAK

3.15–4.15 p.m.

ESCWA 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. Winners of the 2022–2023 DAC Award will be announced for both categories: institutions and young entrepreneurs.

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Speakers:

Manar Al-Hashash, DAC Award Steering Committee Member & Global Council Member, WSA, Kuwait

Alain Daou, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

High-Level Roundtable on voluntary national reviews

This session will offer a platform for countries submitting voluntary national reviews (VNR) in 2023 to share major SDG successes, concerns, homegrown solutions and critical lessons. It will illustrate VNRs as a tool to accelerate SDG implementation and mobilize partnerships.

[Click to watch](#)

Moderator:

Mahmoud Ataya, Director General, Prime Minister Office, State of Palestine

Panelists:

Khaled Mahdi, Secretary-General, Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait

Awards distribution

High-Level Roundtable on voluntary national reviews – continued

Fadi Salti Al-Khalil, Chairman of the Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syria (*virtual*)

Youssouf Ali Mmadi, In-charge of macroeconomic programs, General Planning Commission, Comoros

Faisal Hammad, Assistant Under-Secretary, Competitiveness & Economic Indicators, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Bahrain (*virtual*)

Yara Sindi, Head of Data and Research Department, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia (*virtual*)

Discussant:

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

4.15–4.30 p.m.

BREAK

4.30–6 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION 4

Just and inclusive energy transitions (SDG 7)



This session will present progress on SDG 7 in the Arab region and innovative policy solutions for accelerating the achievement of affordable and clean energy for all. Panelists will offer insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the energy sector in the Arab region, policy solutions to facilitate just and inclusive energy transitions, and achieving SDG 7 amidst crisis.

Moderator:

Rabia Ferroukhi, Director of Knowledge, Policy, and Finance Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency

Panelists:

Noura Bint Turki Al-Saud, Partner and co-founder, AEON Strategy, Saudi Arabia (*virtual*)

Jamal Saghier, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Ramzi Abou Said, Managing Director, ASACO General Trade and Contracting, Lebanon

Mustafa Suliman Abdulhadi, Professor and Dean, Environmental and Natural Resources College, Wadi Alshatti University, Libya

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