



Beirut time  
(GMT +2)

## DAY ONE: TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023

9.30–11 a.m.

### OPENING SESSION

1. Artistic segment
2. Scene setting video
3. Welcoming remarks:  
**Rola Dashti**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA  
**Ahmad Aboul Gheit**, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States  
**Waed Badhib**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen (AFSD-2023 Chair)  
**Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
4. Spotlight segment  
**Rania Ayman**, Founder and CEO, Entreprenelle, Egypt  
**Mohammed Zaid**, Founder and Director, LYBOTICS, Libya  
**Marianne Itani**, Sustainability Manager, Beesline Apitherapy, Lebanon

[Click to watch](#)

11–11.30 a.m.

### BREAK

11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

### HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

#### Delivering the SDGs in partnership with the private sector

The contribution of the diverse private sector to the SDGs in the Arab region is not easily captured or obvious. This high-level dialogue looks beyond challenges hampering this contribution to ask: What are the opportunities for stronger engagement? How to ensure the social value of private sector contributions to the SDGs in the region? How is private finance helping to accelerate progress on the SDGs?

#### Special guest:

**Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

#### Moderator:

**Maisaa Youssef**, Cluster Leader, 2030 Agenda & SDG Coordination, ESCWA

#### Panelists:

**Noha El-Mikawy**, Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University of Cairo, Egypt

**Helmy Abouleish**, CEO, Sekem, Egypt (*virtual*)

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## **HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE - continued**

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

**Kinda Mohamadieh**, Senior Researcher and Legal Adviser, Third World Network

**Laila Al Hadhrami**, Smart Cities Advisor, RMA Advisory, Oman

**Aya Hrouit**, Programme Director, Jordan Youth Innovation Forum, Jordan

**1–2.30 p.m.**

## **LUNCH**

**2.30–4 p.m.**

## **PLENARY SESSION 1**

### **Data innovation for leaving no one behind**

This session will showcase success stories and innovative solutions, both institutional and technical, for overcoming obstacles to SDG data collection, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. The session will also highlight the roles of various stakeholders working together to improve SDG monitoring in support of evidence-based policymaking in the Arab region.

#### **Moderator:**

**Khalid Abu Khalid**, Director General, Registers and Statistical Monitoring Directorate, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Palestine

#### **Panelists:**

**Dorra Dhraief**, Head, Department of Demographic and Social Statistics, National Statistical Office, Tunisia

**Muhammad Imran**, Senior Scientist, Lead of Crisis Computing at Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar (*virtual*)

**Husameldeen Faroug**, Head of Strategy and Planning, Sudatel Telecom Group, Sudan

**Hassan Al Lawati**, National Program Head, Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Oman

#### **Discussant:**

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

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**4–4.15 p.m.**

## **BREAK**

**4.15–5.45 p.m.**

### **Special session 1:**

Achieving food security through food systems transformation: priorities and actions

[For details click here](#)

### **Special session 2:**

Moving forward on the learning-to-earning agenda in the Arab region

[For details click here](#)

### **Special session 3:**

The inter-generational effects of violence: the intersection of violence against women and violence against children in the Arab region

[For details click here](#)

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)*

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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

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**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.

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##### 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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9–10.30 a.m.

**PLENARY SESSION 5**



**Sustainable industrial development and rethinking supply chains (SDG 9)**

This session will focus on sustainable industrial development in the Arab region and integration into value chains. It will shed light on successes from the region during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of maintaining industrial production and recalibrating supply chains, not only at the global level but also those with neighboring countries. The session will also address industrial investment opportunities and options, and lessons learned from operating under crisis.

**Moderator:**

**Ali Awdeh**, Head of Economic Research, Union of Arab Banks, Lebanon

**Panelists:**

**Nada Lachaal**, General Manager, Industrial and Technology Infrastructure, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, Tunisia

**Neemat Frem**, Chairman and CEO, INDEVCO Group, Lebanon

**Reem Albaghdadi**, President, Jordan Forum for Business and Professional Women, Jordan

**Bernard Ghanem**, Professor of ECE and CS, Deputy Director of AI Initiative, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia

**Kaltham Al-Ghanim**, Professor of Sociology, Director of the social and Economic survey, Research Institute, Qatar University, Qatar

**Discussant:**

**Adel Darwish**, Regional Director, ITU Arab Regional Office, Egypt

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10.30–10.45 a.m.

**Spotlight segment**

**Ahmed Zaazaa**, Co-founder and Participatory Upgrade Coordinator, 10 Tooba, Egypt

**Randa al Chidiac**, Committee Member, IFLA MENA Regional Division

**Loor Masri**, Co-founder, LaCom Magazine for Youngpreneurs, Palestine

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10.45–11 a.m.

**BREAK**

11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

**Special session 7:**

Climate security in Arab States: lessons learned and scaling-up

[For details click here](#)

**Special session 8:**

Leaving no one behind: mainstreaming ageing in sustainable development

[For details click here](#)

**Special session 9:**

Sustainable reconstruction: a framework for accelerating an inclusive and sustainable recovery in the Arab region

[For details click here](#)

12.30–2 p.m.

**LUNCH**

2–3.30 p.m.



## PLENARY SESSION 6

### New inclusive and sustainable pathways for cities (SDG 11)

This session will assess the implementation status of SDG 11 in the Arab region, and the impact of COVID-19 and other crises on the efforts of Arab countries to make progress on this Goal. Panelists will discuss international commitments, national urban policies and smart digital solutions implemented by municipalities to move towards inclusive urban governance and resilient Arab cities that leave no one and no place behind.

#### Moderator:

**Maysoun Ibrahim**, President, Palestinian Syndicate for Information Sciences and Technology, Palestine

#### Panelists:

**Yousef Al-Shawarba**, Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan

**Fatima Amzil**, Deputy Mayor of Agadir, Morocco

**Mohammed Khashashneh**, Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Jordan  
(*virtual*)

**Moataz Yeken**, Managing Director, Wabel Consulting, Egypt

#### Discussants:

**Rania Hedeya**, Regional Representative (a.i.), ROAS, UN-Habitat

**Joseph Schechla**, Coordinator, Habitat International Coalition

**Abir Saksouk**, Co-Director, Public Works Studio, Lebanon

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3.30–3.45 p.m.

## BREAK

3.45–5.15 p.m.

### Special session 10:

Addressing child food poverty in early childhood in the Arab region by mobilizing the food, health, and social protection systems

[For details click here](#)

### Special session 11:

Enabling the circular carbon economy: accelerating sustainable industry (cement, steel and chemicals) in the Arab region through deployment, innovation and cooperation

[For details click here](#)

### Special session 12:

Inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation of human settlements in the Arab region

[For details click here](#)

5.15–5.30 p.m.

## BREAK

5.30–6 p.m.

## CLOSING

**Key messages: Waed Badhib**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen (AFSD-2023 Chair)

**Lachezara Stoeva**, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) –  
*recorded message*

**Closing remarks: Mounir Tabet**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA

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