



Beirut time
(GMT +2)

DAY ONE: TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024

9.30–10.30 a.m.

OPENING SESSION

1. Artistic segment
2. Welcoming remarks:
 - Rola Dashti**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA
 - Najib Mikati**, Prime Minister, Lebanon
 - Said Al Saqri**, Minister of Economy, Oman (AFSD-2024 Chair) (Virtual)
 - Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
 - Haifa Abu Ghazaleh**, Assistant Secretary General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States

10.30–11 a.m.

BREAK

11 a.m.–12.30
p.m.

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

A more equal and sustainable world? Chasing the promise of digital technologies

The Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024 will result in a Global Digital Compact that outlines a vision for an open, free and secure digital future for all, anchored in global cooperation for human development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress, human rights and governance. In this context, where does the Arab region stand in terms of policies and safeguards for promoting innovation and advanced digital technologies including artificial intelligence? What is needed to bridge the growing digital divide? What does multi-stakeholder collaborative action on digital technology in the region look like and how to address cooperation gaps?

Special guests:

Paula Narváez, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, and President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Policy

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

Abdulrahman Al Mutairi, Vice Governor, Digital Government Authority, Saudi Arabia (Virtual)

Ahmad Marafi, Co-Founder and CEO, CODED, Kuwait

Mohamad Najem, Executive Director, SMEX, Lebanon

Hoda Alkhzaimi, Research Assistant Professor and Director, Center of Cyber Security, New York University Abu Dhabi, President of Emirates Digital Association for Women, United Arab Emirates (Virtual)

12.30–2 p.m.

LUNCH

2–3.30 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION 1

Reforming public institutions for peace building and inclusive societies (SDG 16)

The session highlights how effective, accountable and inclusive institutions can help to build peace and recover from conflict. It tackles the complex challenges facing public administration in the Arab region – including governance weakness, institutional fragility, lack of transparency and the overall inability to address crises – and discusses priorities and solutions for building public sector capabilities for a peaceful future.

Moderator:

Lamia Moubayed Bissat, Non-resident Senior International Fellow, American University of Beirut, and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), Lebanon

Panelists:

Mohamed Alhawri, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, and Vice President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Mervat Rishmawi, Human Rights Regional Expert (Virtual)

Fadi Salem, Director of Policy Research, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, United Arab Emirates

Kinda Hattar, Middle East and North Africa Regional Advisor, Transparency International

Discussion

3.30–3.45 p.m.

BREAK

3.45–5.15 p.m.

Special session 1:

Adopting a sectoral anti-corruption approach as key accelerator to promote accountable and inclusive institutions.

Special session 2:

The nexus between the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region.

Special session 3:

ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2023–2024.

Day One Knowledge Fair – B1 floor
Exhibition on the Summit of the Future