Beirut time (GMT +2)  

**DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2024**

**9.30–11 a.m.**

**ARAB SDG BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE**

*Partnerships for accelerating the SDGs*

The session engages business leaders and policymakers in a discussion around means of improving the enabling and regulatory environments for greater private sector support to the SDGs. How can public and private sectors’ mutual accountability be improved? And how can we increase private financing for the SDGs?

**Special guest:**

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

**Moderator:**

Yasser Akkaoui, Founder, Kapital Concept, and Publisher, Executive Magazine, Lebanon

**Panelists:**

Said Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Oman (AFSD-2024 Chair) (Virtual)

Mona Fayad, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Planning & Economic Development, Egypt

Rana AlDababneh, Corporate Communication and Sustainability Chief Officer and member of the Executive Committee, Orange Jordan

Zakaria Al Haj Hammoud, Senior Advisor, Union of Arab Banks

Najoua Zhar, Economic Advisor, Union of Arab Chambers

Maissa Abou Adal Ghanem, Chief Sustainability Officer and Board Member, Holdal Group, Lebanon (Virtual)

**Discussants:**

Anita Lebiar, Regional Head, and Alexandra Tarazi, Senior Regional Programmes Manager for the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Global Compact

**Discussion**

**11–11.15 a.m.**

**BREAK**

**11.15 a.m.–1.15 p.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION 2**

*Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future: perspectives from the Arab region*

The Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024 will result in an intergovernmentally negotiated Pact for the Future, charting a path to reform and reinvigorating the multilateral architecture to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. This session brings together different stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of how inclusive and networked multilateralism can help deliver an ambitious Pact for the Future; solicit input and ideas for action to support effective multilateralism that responds to new threats and opportunities for present and future generations; and highlight examples of multilateral solutions from the region that leverage innovation, foresight, data, and digital and behavioural science.

**Special guests:**

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

Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Youth Affairs (Video)
Moderator:
Diana Moukalled, Co-founder, “Daraj” media platform, Lebanon

Panelists:
Jamal El Saghir, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
Diala Chehade, Attorney, Center for Defending Civil Rights and Liberties, Lebanon
Marwa Fatafta, MENA Policy and Advocacy Director, Access Now (Virtual)
Shereen Hussein, Professor of Health and Social Care Policy, Department of Health Services Research and Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (Virtual)

Discussion

1.15–2.30 p.m.  LUNCH
2.30–4 p.m.  PLENARY SESSION 3
Eradicating poverty in times of crisis (SDG 1)
Despite efforts exerted in the region to reduce poverty, progress remains very slow. Where does the region stand on SDG 1? What initiatives have succeeded in reaching the poor and addressing the severity and complexity of poverty? How can Arab countries be better equipped to prevent an escalation of poverty due to sudden crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine?

Moderator:
Sobhiya Najjar, Journalist – Specialist in Social Economics and Public Policy, Lebanon

Panelists:
Barq Al-Dmour, Secretary General, Ministry of Social Development, Jordan
Nizar El-Mohsni, General Director of Common Services, Ministry of Social Affairs, Tunisia
Touhami Abdelkhalek, Professor of Economics at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco (Virtual)
Samir Makdisi, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Founding Director of the Institute of Financial Economics, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Discussion

4–4.15 p.m.  BREAK

Day Two Knowledge Fair – B1 floor
Digital Arabic Content Award 2023-2024 Winners