

9.30–11 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 4

Food system transformations in a polycrisis environment (SDG 2)

The Arab region is in a polycrisis environment characterized by protracted conflicts, economic crises, scarce resources, climate change and global shocks. The recurring conflicts are particularly disrupting food availability and food access for many, thereby worsening food insecurity notably for those forcibly displaced. In such an environment, it is unlikely that the region will achieve food security or be able to transform its food systems to meet the needs of a growing and demanding population. This plenary session tackles the performance of Arab food systems in a polycrisis environment and suggests ways to achieve food security in this challenging environment, notably following the recent crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating conflicts within and outside the region.

Moderator:

Luna Abu Swaireh, Director-General, Center for Arab Unity Studies and Editor-in-Chief for “Mustaqbal Arabi” Journal

Panelists:

David Nabarro, Strategic Director, 4SD Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland

Ibrahim Dukheiri, Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Ahmad Nasser AlBakri, Undersecretary for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman (Virtual)

Mariam Al Jaajaa, General Manager, The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Fadhel Kaboub, Associate Professor, Denison University and President of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity

Maria Selin, Head of MENA Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden in Amman, Jordan (Virtual)

Discussion

11-11.15 a.m.

BREAK

11.15 a.m.–12.45 p.m.

Special session 7:

The United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) outcomes in the Arab region: action plan for resilient food systems transformation.

Special session 8:

Overview of the international human rights mechanism’s contribution to the implementation of SDG 16.

Special session 9:

Empowering communities: building resilience through early warning systems in the Arab region.

12.45–1.45 p.m.

LUNCH

1.45-3.15 p.m.	<p>PLENARY SESSION 5</p> <p>Building climate resilience in a polycrisis environment (SDG 13)</p> <p>The Arab region is among the most vulnerable to climate change. Temperatures are rising faster than global averages and extreme weather events are experienced with devastating consequences. The achievement of SDG 13 is however hampered by the impacts of crises that have been affecting the region, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple ongoing conflicts and overall fragility. These crises, coupled with high levels of debt, have limited the fiscal space of governments to implement climate action and may divert policy priorities away from addressing climate change. This plenary session discusses measures being taken to adapt to climate change while ensuring a just and inclusive energy transition in a polycrisis environment. Suggested means to strengthen climate resilience focus on adaptation, mitigation and climate finance, particularly in vulnerable Arab States.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Nadim Farajallah, Chief Sustainability Officer, Lebanese American University, Lebanon</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High Level Champion, COP 28, and President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Video)</p> <p>Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policies and Planning, Environment Quality Authority, Palestine</p> <p>Abdullah Bin Ali Al Amri, Chairman, Environment Authority, Oman (Video)</p> <p>Asma Rouabhia, Youth Climate Advocate, Tunisia</p> <p>Amgad Elmahdi, Regional Manager-MENA Region, Green Climate Fund</p> <p>Discussion</p>		
3.15–3.30 p.m.	BREAK		
3.30–5 p.m.	<p>Special session 10:</p> <p>Climate-resilient water solutions for communities hosting displaced people.</p>	<p>Special session 11:</p> <p>Data in conflict and humanitarian settings in the Arab region.</p>	<p>Special session 12:</p> <p>Reform priorities of the multilateral system from a civil society perspective.</p>
5–5.15 p.m.	BREAK		
5.15–5.45 p.m.	<p>CLOSING</p> <p>Said Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Oman (AFSD-2024 Chair)</p> <p>Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA</p>		

Day Three Knowledge Fair – B1 floor

United Nations Entities in the Arab Region