

AFSD 2024

Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

Delivering for sustainability and peace

Beirut, 5-7 March 2024



E/ESCWA/CL5.SDGS/RFSD/2024/L.1

Summary Agenda

Beirut time (GMT +2) DAY ONE: TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024

9.30–10.30 a.m.	OPENING SESSION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Artistic segment Welcoming remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESCWA Prime Minister of Lebanon AFSD-2024 Chair Deputy Secretary-General 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 <p>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?</p>		
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) <p>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.</p>	
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.

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?		
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.		
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?	
4–4.15 p.m.	BREAK		
4.15–5.45 p.m.	Special session 4: Collaborative futures: strategic foresight for sustainable development in a world of crisis.	Special session 5: Transforming education: greening solutions and inclusiveness.	Special session 6: The Second Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report.

Beirut time
(GMT +2)

DAY THREE: THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024

9.30–11a.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.

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.



PLENARY SESSION 5

Building climate resilience in a polycrisis environment (SDG 13)

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.

3.15–3.30 p.m.

BREAK

3.30–5 p.m.

Special session 10:

Climate-resilient water solutions for communities hosting displaced people.

Special session 11:

Data in conflict and humanitarian settings in the Arab region.

Special session 12:

Reform priorities of the multilateral system from a civil society perspective.

5–5.15 p.m.

BREAK

5.15–5.45 p.m.

CLOSING