



# Information note

## Overview

The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2024 (AFSD-2024) will be held in-person in Beirut from 5 to 7 March 2024.

In line with the global theme and focus of the [2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF), AFSD-2024 will discuss sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises.

It will focus on the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2024 HLPF (New York, 8–17 July 2024), namely SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals. It will also constitute a regional platform to discuss regional priorities and contributions to the [Summit of the Future](#) (New York, 22–23 September 2024).

**AFSD-2024 will be chaired by Oman.**

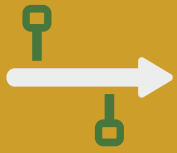
## About the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) is the primary regional mechanism for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region.

Organized annually by ESCWA, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and other United Nations agencies working in the region, AFSD brings together Arab Governments and various stakeholders to discuss progress, review national and regional experiences, and consider the latest developments and implementation mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional levels.

The AFSD report formally delivers the voice of the region to the global High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held annually in New York. It sets out key messages on the opportunities and challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Arab countries.

Nine Arab forums have been held since 2014. For more information, visit: [www.unescwa.org/2030-afsd](http://www.unescwa.org/2030-afsd).



## From AFSD-2023 to AFSD-2024

[AFSD-2023](#) stressed the need to address the debt crisis affecting many Arab countries, which was exacerbated by the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. It also emphasized the criticality of transparent governance and good management of public spending. AFSD-2023 called for decisive political will to invest in knowledge, science and technology, to strengthen policymaking, and to provide learning and work opportunities for young people. It also highlighted the need to strengthen public-private partnerships for the Goals, while providing the necessary legal and social safeguards to ensure alignment of private sector interests with the public good.

The [2023 SDG Summit](#), which marked the half-way point to 2030, saw renewed impetus for action, with several Arab Governments and other stakeholders submitting ambitious commitments for accelerating SDG implementation. The last two meetings of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP 27](#) and [COP 28](#)), which took place in the Arab region, focused on finance that responds to loss and damage from climate change, and the accountability of businesses and institutions. The [United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) reviewed progress towards commitments to transform food systems as critical SDG accelerators.

AFSD-2024 will build on these and other relevant 2023 milestones, and deliberate on regional priorities within the scope of the [Summit of the Future](#). It will engage Governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders in discussions on policy, financing and technology solutions to mobilize action on regional SDG priorities, and enhance resilience in times of multiple crises.



## Main components of AFSD-2024

AFSD-2024 will comprise the following main components:

**A high-level dialogue** that will focus on digital innovation, governance and cooperation in the Arab region, within the frame of the [Summit of the Future](#), which is expected to result in a global digital compact.

**Plenary sessions** on the SDGs under review will appraise the status of SDGs 1, 2, 13 and 16, and discuss transformative solutions for reinforcing and accelerating progress, taking into consideration interlinkages with other Goals.

**A plenary session** to discuss regional priorities and contributions to the [Summit of the Future](#).

**Twelve special sessions** will further reinforce the overall theme of AFSD-2024, with a more specialized and detailed focus on selected regional priorities.



The **Arab SDG Business Roundtable** will bring together business leaders and policymakers to discuss ways of enhancing the contribution of the private sector to the SDGs in the region, through improved public-private partnerships and private investment opportunities.

On its sidelines, AFSD-2024 will announce recipients of the 2024 edition of the **Digital Arabic Content Award**, which recognizes the best Arabic digital content products supporting the SDGs, and will also feature a knowledge fair and media activities.

## AFSD-2024 documents

AFSD-2024 will be informed by key documents, including the following:

ESCWA Annual SDG Review 2024, which will focus on innovation and skills development in the private sector in the Arab region, in support of the SDGs.

A regional statistical update of SDG data.



The AFSD-2024 agenda and other documents will be made available on the Forum web page (<https://afsd-2024.unescwa.org/>) and updated regularly.

## Outcomes

AFSD-2024 will result in a set of key messages reflecting discussions at the Arab Forum and relevant preparatory meetings.<sup>1</sup> These key messages will be presented by the Chair of AFSD-2024 at the 2024 HLPF, and will constitute, along with the full report of AFSD-2024, the Arab region's main input to the 2024 HLPF. Its outcome will also feed into preparations for the Summit of the Future.

1. These include the 2024 Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda (online, 31 January–1 February 2024); a consultative meeting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda (forthcoming); and a youth forum and regional meeting of civil society organizations on sustainable development in the Arab region (forthcoming).



## Participants and registration

Participants will comprise high-level representatives of Arab Governments, including ministers and senior officials responsible for planning, implementing and reporting on the 2030 Agenda. In line with the theme of AFSD-2024 and the 2024 HLPF, member State delegations may also include representatives of government institutions involved in poverty, food security, climate change, justice and institutions, data and statistics, financing and technology.

Representatives of regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society networks and organizations, Arab parliaments, academic institutions, the private sector, and United Nations agencies working in the Arab region will also attend this annual multi-stakeholder event.

Participation will be in-person at the United Nations House in Beirut. Those who are unable to attend physically can follow the online streaming of various sessions through the AFSD-2024 website.

Participants whose attendance is sponsored by ESCWA are requested to register through the link provided in their invitation letter by Thursday, 25 January 2024. Other participants can register by Tuesday, 20 February 2024 through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1008561/page/1259-registration>.



## Correspondence

All correspondence concerning AFSD-2024 should be addressed to the ESCWA 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster at [escwa-2030agenda@un.org](mailto:escwa-2030agenda@un.org).

