# DAY 1: Monday 18 November 2013

## Registration: 8:30

### Opening and introduction

**9.00 – 10:00**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Ms. Melanie Hutchison, Programme Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Western Asia
- Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief, Sustainable Development and International Environmental Cooperation, Environment, Housing, and Sustainable Development Department, League of Arab States
- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- H.E. Mr. Sadok El Amri, Secretary of State for Environment, Ministry of Equipment and Environment of Tunisia

### SESSION 1: MDGs, SDGs and Arab Regional Priorities for Post-2015

**Moderator: Ms Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Productive Sectors Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA**

**10:00 – 11:15**

**Background and Context for a Transformative SDG Framework**

**Presentation**

- *Building a Transformative Approach for the SDGs that Works for the Arab Region*
  Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

**Interventions from lead discussants**

- *Mr. Mohamed Khalil, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations*
- *Mr. Yousef Abusafieh, Former Minister, President's Advisor for Environment Affairs, Palestine*

**Discussion:**

1. What were some of the key strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs and sustainable development agendas?
2. What is the point of another development agenda for the Arab region?
3. How can the SDGs be transformative for the Arab region?

**11:15 – 11:30**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Arab Progress on MDGs and Arab Regional Priorities and Guiding Principles for the SDGs**

**Introduction:** Mr. Tarek Nabulsi, Head of Cooperation and Follow-up Unit, Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Social Council, League of Arab States

**Presentation:**

- *Arab MDGs Report 2013: Arab regional progress on MDGs and recommendations for the post-2015 agenda*
  Mr. Khaled Abu-Ismail, Chief of Development Policy Section, Economic Development and Globalization Division, ESCWA

**Interventions – Civil Society Perspectives on MDGs, SDGs and Post-2015**

- *Mr. Ziad Abdul Samad, Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development*
- *Ms. Razan Zuayter, President, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature*
### SESSION 1: MDGs, SDGs and Arab Regional Priorities for Post-2015 (Cont’d)

**Arab Progress on MDGs and Arab Regional Priorities and Guiding Principles for the SDGs (Cont’d)**

**Discussion:**
1. What progress has been made in the Arab region on the MDGs and sustainable development?
2. What are the key Arab regional priorities that should be addressed by the SDGs?
3. What are the overriding principles that should underpin the SDGs from an Arab perspective?

### SESSION 2: SDG Priority Conceptual Issues – Universal Goals, National Diversity and Integration

**Moderator: Mr. Amr Nour, Director, Regional Commissions New York Office**

14:00 – 15:30 **SDGs that are universal yet account for Arab regional and national diversity**

*Introduction from Ms Jana El Baba, ESCWA*

**Interventions - National & Regional Perspectives**
- National: Mr. Mutasim Al-Kilani, Director, Sustainable Development Section, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
- Regional: Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief, Sustainable Development and International Environmental Cooperation, Environment, Housing, and Sustainable Development Department, League of Arab States
- Regional: Mr. Patrice Robineau, International consultant on environment and sustainable development, Former Senior Advisor to the UNECE Executive Secretary

**Discussion:**
1. What has been the Arab region’s experience with the MDGs – did they support national ownership and policy making?
2. How should the SDGs establish goals that are universally relevant to all countries yet cater for Arab regional and national diversity?
3. What principles should guide equity considerations and differences between countries?

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 – 17:15 **Addressing the Science-Policy Interface: An SDG framework that effectively integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development.**

*Introduction from Mr Cameron Allen, ESCWA*

**Presentation:**
- Embedding the Environment in the SDGs, Melanie Hutchinson, UNEP

**Interventions**
- Ms. Monia Braham Yousfi, Ministry of Equipment and Environment, Tunisia

**Discussion:**
1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs with regard to environmental sustainability and integration of the 3 dimensions? How can the SDGs address these?
2. How should the SDGs integrate the 3 dimensions of SD into a single set of goals? Should each goal include integrated economic, social and environmental targets?
3. Would integration be facilitated through the ‘tiered’ approach – linking human wellbeing outcomes with the national resource base and global limits?
4. Given its priority for the region, how should ‘governance’ be integrated with the 3 dimensions of sustainable development?

17:15 **Close – Day 1**

20:30 **Dinner offered by the Ministry of Equipment and Environment, Tunisia**
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| 9:30-11:00   | A New Global Partnership for Sustainable Development: Addressing means of implementation and accountability and follow-up  
*Introduction from Ms Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA* |
|              | **Lead Discussants**                                                                     |
|              | • Ms. Barbara Adams, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Policy Forum                           |
|              | • Mr. Mohamed Khalil, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations |
|              | **Discussion:**                                                                          |
|              | 1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs regarding the global partnership and means of implementation (MDG-8)? |
|              | 2. What are the key elements of a new global partnership – i.e. what are the key ‘enablers’ for the SDGs? |
|              | 3. How should these ‘enablers’ be captured in the goals? As standalone goals or as integrated targets within thematic goals? |
|              | 4. How should accountability for follow-up be addressed by the SDGs – at the global, regional and national levels? What would an Arab regional accountability mechanism for the SDGs look like? |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break                                                                            |
| 11:30 – 12:30| Plenary Discussion: Wrap up and Way forward.  
ESCWA, LAS, UNEP, Tunisia                                                                     |
| 12:30 – 14:00| Lunch                                                                                   |
| 14:00 – 17:00| Tunisian National Dialogue on SDGs and Launch of the Green Help Desk in cooperation between the Ministry of Equipment and Environment in Tunisia and ESCWA (Attendance is optional) |