The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

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Arab Integration ... A Transformative Change for Sustainable Development

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Introduction

Regional dimension in SD: AFSD

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development was established as an outcome of Rio+20

GA acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invites the UN Regional Commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings (A/RES/67/290)

Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD)
Introduction

Added value of the AFSD

Now: Separate tracks

- ESCWA Sessions & Committees (e.g. Water, Energy, Trade, Social ...)
- LAS Summits & Ministerial Councils (e.g. Environment, Social, Health ...)
- Civil society networks and forums

AFSD: Coordination and integration of the SD pillars

Multi-stakeholders: Gov, ESCWA, LAS, CSOs, Other UN, ...
Introduction

AFSD Role

- Provide political impetus to SD
- Review progress and discuss priorities and challenges
- Facilitate exchange of experiences and partnerships
- Deliberate on an Arab perspective on SD issues

Facilitate regional integration
1st AFSD (Amman, 2 - 4 April 2014)

- Diverse stakeholders
  - Gov representatives
  - UN organizations
  - Major groups
  - Experts and practitioners

- 170 participants
- High-level keynote addresses
- Regional AMR Session
- Two side events: Major Groups (DESA) & Sustainable Industrial Development (UNIDO)
1st AFSD

4 Interlinked Objectives

- Review MDG progress
  Means of accelerating their achievement & sustaining gains

- Deliberate regional perspective on the SDGs

- Discuss the Arab Strategic Framework for SD
  Green economy, Technology, R&D as operational arms

- Set the stage for future AFSDs
  Modalities & Functions

Informed by multi-stakeholder regional consultation processes
## 1st AFSD

### Selected key messages

| Enablers | • Prevalence of peace, stability and good governance crucial to accelerate progress and sustain development gains  
• Achievement of sustainable development is beyond the capacities of one single country ➔ Regional integration is a must |
|---|---|
| Reducing inequalities | • Focus on inclusive development through a more diversified economic structure and productive employment  
• Universal social protection floor that includes all social groups  
• Special attention to reducing gender inequality |
| Attention to special groups | • Refugees and internally displaced persons  
• Inclusion of persons with disabilities  
• Youth: Reaping the benefits of demographic and democratic transformations |
| Information and knowledge | • Need to bridge digital, technology and knowledge gaps  
• Need for data revolution for enhanced monitoring and linkage to policy  
• Research and development, including in agriculture, green technologies, etc. |
| Natural resources | • Reinforcing a positive nexus between natural resource management, poverty and hunger  
• Sustainable development not possible without safe and equal access to water, sanitation, energy and food |
1st AFSD
Outcomes submitted to …

Arab Negotiators
- OWG Arab Members
- All Arab countries

LAS
- Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers
- Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE)
- Arab Ministerial Water Council
- Council of Arab Ministers of Electricity
- Arab Economic and Social Summit 2015

ESCWA 28th Ministerial Session
- Resolution on the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

UN, New York
- Global AMR
- HLPF interactive dialogue on “Unlocking and reshaping development and enhancing implementation: Regional Context”
- This side-event
Moving forward

Interlinking institutional processes

ESCWA
Ministerial Session
ESCWA Technical Committee
ESCWA Committee
ESCWA Committee
ESCWA Committee

Arab Forum on SD (annual)

LAS: Economic and Social Summit

LAS: Ministerial Council
LAS: Ministerial Council
LAS: Ministerial Council

Civil society participation

National report

Arab SD Report

RCM

HLPF and Global SD Report

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Moving forward

**Future steps (Jul 2014 – Sep 2015)**

- **Jul**
  - HLPF 2nd session
  - AMR 2014

- **Aug**
  - SG report on SDGs to GA 68th session

- **Sep**
  - ESCWA 28th Session
  - Arab consultation on accountability for post-2015

- **Oct**
  - 4th Arab Economic & Social Summit (Tunis)

- **Nov**
  - 2nd AFSD

- **Dec**
  - Arab SD Report

- **Jan**
  - HLPF 3rd session

- **Feb**
  - AMR 2015

- **Mar**
  - Adoption of post-2015 by GA 69th session

Legend:
- Blue: Global milestone
- Green: LAS milestone
- Yellow: ESCWA deliverable
THANK YOU