



Arab Sustainable Development Report Summary of the Methodology



Regional Expert and Statistical Reports

A major input to the Arab Sustainable Development Report (ASDR) was the preparation of expert reports on enabling conditions and means of implementation for sustainable development as well as statistical analysis reports of sustainable development indicators. The reports were prepared by regional and international expert consultants and were used to inform several chapters of the ASDR. A list of the reports is provided in the **Box** below. Several of these reports were presented and discussed at an expert meeting in December 2014. All documents can be accessed through the webpage of the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development at: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNUM=3572e>.

Box : Expert and Statistical Reports Prepared for the ASDR

1. Moubayed L (2015) *From Government to Governance: how will the Arab region meet the goals of sustainable development in the post-2015 period?*
2. Al-Jayyousi O (2015) *Role of Technology in Sustainable Development*
3. El Sharkawy S (2015) *Financing Sustainable Development in the Arab Region*
4. Smith R (2015) *Measuring Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: A Review of Country Experiences and Recommendations for the Post-2015 Agenda*
5. Mohamadih K (2015) *Women's Rights and Gender Equality for Sustainable Development – Discussing the Proposed SDGs within the Context of the Development Problematique in the Arab Region*
6. Allen C (2015) *The Institutional Framework of Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Integrated Planning for the Post-2015*
7. Naber NS (2015) *Expert Report on Inclusive Social Development in the Arab World*
8. Azzam F (2015) *A Human Rights Approach to Sustainable Development*
9. Allen C, Hamati K, Al Ashkar R (2014) *Sustainable Development Indicators and the Arab Region: Gap Analysis Summary Report*
10. Allen C and Hamati K (2015) *Trend Analysis of Selected Sustainable Development Indicators for the Arab Region*



Issues Briefs on Priority Thematic Issues

A key component of the ASDR is the review of progress and trends across priority thematic issues drawn from the global SDGs. To provide the necessary information and analysis, UN organizations and specialized agencies were invited (through the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Arab Region) to prepare short issues briefs on the range of thematic priority issues as they relate to their portfolio interests. A total of 15 issues briefs were prepared as shown in **Table 1**. These briefs were circulated for review among UN focal points and were also discussed at an expert workshop in December 2014.

Table 1: List of Issues Briefs Prepared by the UN for the ASDR

Issues brief	Lead author
Economic Growth, Inequality and Poverty in the Arab Region	ESCWA
Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in the Arab Region	FAO
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the Arab Region	UNFPA
Water and Sanitation in the Arab Region	ESCWA
Energy in the Arab Region	ESCWA
Employment and Decent Work in the Arab Region	ILO
Industrialization and Innovation in the Arab Region	UNIDO
Perspectives on Inequality Challenges in the Arab Region	UNDP
Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable in the Arab Region	UN-Habitat
Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region	UNEP
Climate Change in the Arab Region	UNEP
Marine Resources in the Arab Region	UNEP
Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Arab Region	UNEP
Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region	UNISDR
Strengthening Regional and Global Partnerships for Trade and Investment in the Arab Region	UNCTAD

National Assessments

To add to the top-down regional analysis provided through the expert reports and issues briefs, the preparations for the ASDR also included a bottom-up component in the form of several national assessments in Arab countries. The national assessments adopted a consistent approach undertaken in three phases: (1) the preparation of a stocktaking report; (2) organization of a national multi-stakeholder meeting; and (3) preparation of a final national synthesis report. The research and reports were undertaken by national expert consultants under the guidance of a national government focal point and the support of ESCWA. The assessments focused on assessing national sustainable development priorities; major national institutions and strategies for sustainable development; key remaining barriers or obstacles to implementation; innovative success stories and best practices; and lessons learned and recommendations for building capacity for the post-2015 agenda. A total of six national assessments were commissioned for Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen and Lebanon. Information from these assessments has been incorporated into various chapters of the ASDR.

Regional Consultations, Expert Meetings and Review Process

As stated earlier, a series of internal and external consultations and expert workshops helped to scope, shape and revise the content of the report. These meetings included several initial scoping sessions and interdivisional coordination meetings with ESCWA focal points and experts; review of the concept note and draft report by the ESCWA Publications Committee; presentation and discussion of the approach at the Arab Consultative Meeting on an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Agenda (Tunisia, September 2014); an Expert Group Meeting on the ASDR to review draft

issues briefs, expert reports and national assessments (Beirut, December 2014); and national-level consultations in Arab countries as part of the national assessments.

These meetings provided numerous opportunities for a wide variety of stakeholders and experts from ESCWA and other UN agencies, Arab governments, NGOs as well as other academics and experts to review the approach, methodology and content for the ASDR and provide feedback to help shape a more comprehensive and insightful report. The advice and expertise that was leveraged through these various consultative platforms has been integral in shaping this current draft of the report.

In addition to these consultations, the final version of the report will be subject to formal peer review by selected experts, as well as internal review by ESCWA and UN agencies through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and ESCWA Publications Committee.

The presentation of this draft report to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in May 2015 represents an important stage in this comprehensive and consultative process, where Arab stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to review and discuss the report and, more importantly, to evaluate the priorities and next steps for the Arab region in its transformation towards sustainable development.