Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)
16-17 October 2011
League of Arab States – Cairo, Egypt

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Sunday, 16 October 2011

09:00 – 10:00 Registration at League of Arab States

10:00 – 11:00 Welcome and opening statements

Moderator: Mr. Djamal Eddine Djaballah, Director, Department of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, League of Arab States

- Arab Youth Statement
- Mr. Adel Farid Abdel-Kader, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA)
- Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator for Rio+20
- H.E. Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations; Vice-chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, representing the African Group
- Ms. Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- H.E. Nabil ElAraby, Secretary General, League of Arab States (LAS)

Overview of the agenda
Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session 1: Assessing the progress to date and gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development

Moderator: Mr. Oussama Mansouri, Director General, Ministry of Economy and Planning – Holy Mecca Region and Member of the National Committee for Rio+20 Preparations, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Presentations

• LAS Third Regional Report on Progress Made in Implementing the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region
  
  *Mr. Ibrahim Abdel Gelil, Vice Dean, Technological Studies and Director, Environmental Management Program, College of Graduate Studies, Arabian Gulf University*

• ESCWA Paper on Progress and Gaps in Implementing the Outcomes of Major Summits on Sustainable Development
  
  *Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*

Panelists

• Mr. Fateh Azzam, Regional Representative Middle East and Gulf, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

• Mr. Ali Ibn Abi Taleb Abdulrahman Mahmoud, First Economic Expert (International trade), Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

• Mr. Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policies and Planning, Environment Quality Authority, Palestine

Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 | Session 2: New and emerging challenges facing the Arab Region

  Moderator: Ms. Fatma ElMallah, Advisor to the Secretary General on Climate Change Issues, LAS

Presentations

• ESCWA and UNEP Paper on New and Emerging Challenges Facing the Arab Region
  
  *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*

  *Ms. Melanie Hutchinson, Programme Officer, UNEP/ROWA*

Panelists

• Mr. Marwan Owaygen, Regional Climate Change Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Bureau for Arab States

• Mr. Bassel Yousfí, Director, Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), World Health Organization (WHO)

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00  Session 3: The institutional framework for sustainable development

**Moderator:** Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Tuwajri, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, League of Arab States

- **Presentations:**
  - ESCWA Regional Review of Institutions for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region  
    *Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*
  - The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and International Environmental Governance  
    *Mr. Adel Farid Abdel-Kader, Officer in Charge, UNEP Regional Office for West Asia*
  - Outcomes of the Workshop on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region (Jeddah, 3-5 October 2011)  
    *Mr. Sameer Ghazi, Deputy President for Environmental Affairs, Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

- **Panelists**
  - Mr. Mutasim Al-Kilani, Head of the Sustainable Development Section, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
  - Mr. Nouri Soussi, Expert in Environment and Sustainable Development, Tunisia

- **Discussion**

End of Day 1

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**Monday, 17 October 2011**

09:30 – 11:30  Session 4: A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

**Moderator:** Mr. Yahya AlMutawakel, Former Minister of Industry and Trade, Yemen

- **Presentations**
  - ESCWA Study on Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication - Principles, Opportunities and Challenges in the Arab Region  
    *Mr. Tarek Sadek, Climate Change Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*
  - Statements on outcomes from specialized regional preparatory meetings on the green economy within the framework of sustainable development and poverty eradication:
    - Outcomes of the Meeting on “Economic Policies Supporting the Transition to a Green Economy in the Arab Region” (Beirut, 20-21 July 2011)
Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, First Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

- Outcomes of the Third Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region: Paving the Path to Green Economy in the Arab Region (Cairo, 26-27 January 2011)
  Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Trade, Industry and Environment Officer, UNEP

- Outcomes of the Conference on the Role of Green Industries in Promoting Socio-Economic Development in the Arab Countries (Beirut, 28-30 September 2011)
  Mr. Saleh Joghdaf, Director of the Cairo Office, Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO)

- Sustainable Development Indicators for Monitoring Progress Towards a Green Economy in a Sustainable Development Framework
  Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief, Sustainable Development and International Environmental Cooperation, LAS

➢ Panelists

- Ms. Diana Bronson, Programme Manager, Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)
- Mr. Hussein Abaza, Former Director, Trade and Economics Branch, UNEP

➢ Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30 Session 5: Securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development

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

➢ Civil Society Panel

- Outcomes of the civil society consultations
  - Dubai, 9-10 October 2011
    Mr. Mehdi Ahmed Jaffar, Vice President, Environment Society of Oman
  - Beirut, 12-13 October 2011
    Mr. Ziad Abdul Samad, Executive Director, Arab Non-Governmental Organizations’ Network for Development (ANND)
  - Cairo, 14-16 October 2011
    Mr. Emad Adly, General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

➢ Expert Panel

- Commentary on assessing the progress to date and gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development (Session 1) and way forward
  Mr. Samir Aita, President, Mafhoum
• Commentary on new and emerging challenges facing the Arab Region (Session 2) and way forward
  Mr. Hassan Machlab, Country Manager, The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas – Lebanon

• Commentary on the institutional framework for sustainable development (Session 3) and way forward
  Mr. Walid Zubari, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Arabian Gulf University

• Commentary on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (Session 4) and way forward
  Ms. Anhar Hegazi, Former Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA

➤ Discussion

13:30 – 15:00  Lunch Break

| 15:00 – 16:30 | **Session 6: Recommendations and closing** |

**Moderator:** Mr. Djamal Eddine Djaballah, Director, Department of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, LAS

➤ **Presentation**

• Presentation of the Recommendations of the Draft Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting Report
  Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

➤ **Discussion**

**Intervention by H.E. Ambassador of Brazil in Egypt**

**Concluding statements:**

• Closing statement by UNEP
• Closing statement by ESCWA
• Closing statement by LAS

End of meeting