

I think what makes our "Arab Sustainable Development Week" for this year a featured event is the enrichment and verification of the topics discussed, and the depth and maturity of concepts and thoughts of the issues raised, as they are clearly dealing with Arab citizen's needs. Some may think that this verification distracts attention from the set goals, but it actually highlights their linkages and interdependence, as they all are connected in goals and aspirations network and resulted in a better deep and sound variety reaching to the implementation of sustainable development

Arab League Secretary General

Mr. Ahmed Abu – Elgheit

19 November 2018



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**Arab Republic Of Egypt**  
Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA



**The Arab Sustainable Development  
Week**

**Second edition  
(Getting Starting)**

**Under the auspices of His Excellency President Abd Elfatah  
Elsisi**

**The President of Arab Republic of Egypt  
19 - 22 November 2018 Cairo  
The League of Arab States**

## First: Summary of the first edition of the Arab Sustainable development Week

Within the frame work of the efforts exerted by the League of Arab States to disseminate the concept and the goals of sustainable development as well as the 2030 agenda in the Arab region, putting in consideration that sustainable development is an effort must depend on the cooperation of the different countries of the region, so the League of Arab States, which represents the most suitable framework to maintain such cooperation and to provide the suitable opportunities to formulate the United Nations Plan into integrated programs for the Arab region, concluded the first edition of the Arab Sustainable Development Week last year in the duration from 14-18 May 2017 in Cairo, titling (Towards an effective partnership), and under the auspices of His Excellency. Abd Elfatah Elsisi, in cooperation with Ministry of Investment & International cooperation of Arab Republic of Egypt, the World Bank and UN organizations concerned with the developmental efforts in the Arab Region.

The Arab Sustainable Development Week is considered the greatest and the most important event tackling the goals of sustainable development in the entire Arab region. The first edition of the event aimed at supporting the plans of achieving sustainable development in the Arab World, this can be implemented through meeting the programs of countries plan in their programs tackling the issues of sustainable development in Arab World, exploring challenges, and predicting opportunities of achieving the most significant targets pertaining to the future of Arab World. As well as providing a comprehensive Arab framework to tackle issues of sustainable development in the Arab region.

The axis of the Arab Week first edition discussed the main developmental concept, which is considered the base upon which the developmental initiatives are built in the Arab region.

- 1- First axis: Bringing the work approaches, concepts and interdependency on sustainable development together.
- 2- Second axis: Support the regional and international partnership.
- 3- Third axis: Human dignity, life quality and living standards.
- 4- Fourth axis: Enhance peace, security and justice.
- 5- Fifth axis: The infra-structure, economic growth, and production and consumption.
- 6- Sixth axis: Natural resources, environment and organizational climate's risks.
- 7- Seventh axis: Water and food security.

In addition to several cross- cutting topics as: the role played by private sector in the implementation of sustainable development, financing institutions, stock market and investment opportunities, Creating non-governmental national forums of sustainable development, Youth,

Communication and raising outreach to implement sustainable development, Education, Research and development in areas of health, Technology, research and creativity.

The Arab Week First edition included nine main sessions which presented the above mentioned seven axis, in addition to a number of side events which were organized jointly with the United Nations specialized agencies, civil society organizations NGOs and private sector and other partners of sustainable development. The World Bank concluded a meeting in the margins of the Arab Week to discuss water, food and energy security on the second and third days.

Arab Sustainable Development Week – first edition resulted in effective outputs and findings in the fields of sustainable development, among which are the following:

1-Deepening common visions of Arab countries and partners on concepts, actions and plans adopted to implement sustainable development's aspirations and goals in the Arab region.

2- Creating Arab vision of well-defined goals and clear-drawn roles for each of the League of Arab States and partners thereof in administering the sustainable development portfolio, in coordination with the Arab committee to Monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable development goals in the Arab region.

3- Raising the Arab citizen outreach of the importance of sustainable development.

4-Developing Arab vision of the meetings of "High – level political forum on Sustainable development" which is concluded every year in July in the United Nation headquarter in New York.

5-Kicking off numbers of achievable developmental Arab projects jointly with the civil society and private sector.

Arab Sustainable Development Week of 2017 issued "Cairo Declaration" on Sustainable Development. The declaration, recommendations and all the outputs of Arab Week are referred to both of the Arab Committee to Monitoring implementing goals of the 2030 sustainable development in the Arab region, and to the Higher Committee on Coordination of the joint Arab work, Social and Economic council, and the High- Level Political Forum HLPF, the recommendations also were uploaded on the League of Arab States internet portal.

## **Second: The Second edition of Arab Sustainable Development Week**

The League of Arab States General Secretariat under the auspices of His Excellency President Abdel Fatah ElSisi organized the event of "Arab Sustainable Development Week" second edition in the duration from 19-22 /11/2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and administrative reforms of ARE, World Bank and the United Nations Organizations concerned with developmental work in the Arab region. The first day sessions 19/11/2018 were concluded in the League of Arab States Secretariat's premises, whereas the sessions of the second day 20/11/2018, the third day 21/11/2018, and the fourth day (Egypt Day) 22/11/2018 were concluded in Conrad Hotel – Cairo.

### **The Opening Session**

The Secretary General of the League of Arab States His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit inaugurated the event of Arab Week of which inspired its contents and subjects from the spirit of the seventeenth goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, adopting the slogan of " Getting Started" for its second edition.

In his speech he noted that concluding the Arab Sustainable Development Week concurrently for the second year is a serious indicator of the continuity, seriousness and accumulation, particularly, after the First Week (last year) is succeeded in directing the societies' interests and lightening the Arab public opinion of the importance of sustainable development. This year, the Arab Week is concluded under the title "Getting started", explaining that the current moment is the time of action and work, the Arab world has nothing to do but to mobilize and launch all its sons' capacities towards achieving development and construction.

He assured that development process in Arab World is not implemented under natural circumstances or surrounded with well prepared and nurturing environment, in a reference to the state of dis orders and the challenges faced by some Arab countries, he also emphasized that sustainable development became a wide title of many efforts exerted and initiatives performed all along the Arab world. As Arab countries seriously and enthusiastically entered the age of "sustainable development" with all its dimensions. This concept has no longer been merely a slogan or a formative commitment in the Nations agenda, it became an integral part of our countries and governments public outreach.

The deputy executive secretary of Economic and Social Commission for West Asia Mr. Mourner Thabet affirmed from his side that ESCWA is very pleased of the current partnership with the League of Arab States as efforts are concerted to conduct adequate and complementary analysis and information to provide the policy makers with specialized, scientific and

evidence- based decision. He noted that unemployment, and youth unemployment in particular, is the major challenge of the region.

The Minister of Planning, Monitoring and administrative reform of ARE Dr. Hala Alsaeed from her side assured the importance of having this event aiming at raising the Arab citizen's outreach of sustainable development, and identifying the efforts exerted in Egypt in implementing the 2030 sustainable development goals of, referring that deepening the common visions of Arab countries and partners related to programs, actions and plans for implementing goals and aspirations of Sustainable development in the Arab region, as well as creating Arab vision of well-defined goals and clear-drawn roles for each of the League of Arab States and partners thereof in administering the sustainable development portfolio are the objectives for which the conference is looking forward to implement and to be reached by the end of the conference.

### Plenary sessions and side events

Arab Sustainable Development Week's main sessions started after the opening ceremony in which representatives of Arab countries and accredited diplomatic missions by League of Arab States are participated as well as the United Nations organizations, the World Bank, regional and international organizations, civil society and private sector representatives, numbers of academics, media and parliament representatives, it also attracted numbers of participants and Arab speakers and others in the different sessions of the conference representing work and interdependence concepts and methodology, these sessions tackled the important issues of the Arab region within the framework of Monitoring the implementation of 2030 sustainable development agenda as :

- 1- Effective partnerships
- 2- Sustainable funding
- 3- Sustainable Development in conflicts – affected countries
- 4- Investment in human capital
- 5- Organizational climate and its interdependencies
- 6- Eliminate hunger in the Arab region
- 7- Investing in sustainable development
- 8- Support interdependence between disasters risks, climate change and the goals of sustainable development
- 9- Demographic situation and the implementation of sustainable development's goals
- 10- Investing in small and medium sized enterprises
- 11- Urban and rural development interdependence
- 12- The cities' identities and spirits

The Week also included various side events discussed issues which are of particular relevance for the Arab region among which are:

- 1- Digital economy : The future of Arab world
- 2- Establish peaceful societies in conflict - affected areas
- 3- Human building towards sustainable economy
- 4- Corporates citizenship and the way to sustainable growth
- 5- Together to overcome mal nutrition
- 6- Frameworks of Networking Sustainable Development National Forums in Arab countries
- 7- The role played by young people in implementing the 2030 and Sustainable development goals
- 8- Enhance and improve education and its consequences

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development OECD issued a report on financing the sustainable development, and the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development of the League of Arab States General Secretariat organized a round table meeting on Sustainable Financing Initiative, in cooperation with Ministry of Planning in Egypt, Islamic Bank, Ford Corporation for development, United Nations Environment Program UNEP, International Finance Corporation IFC of world Bank, and Arab Union of Banks.

### **Egypt Day**

In the fourth day, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and administrative reform of ARE launched Egypt market for sustainable development, representing Egypt vision 2030, it also arranged four round table meetings under the titles:

- 1- Sustainable Cities and local societies and
- 2- Environmental dimension: Consumption and Production are responsible
- 3- Clean energy at reasonable price
- 4- Creativity and scientific research in the service of sustainable development

### **The fifth meeting Of Arab Committee for monitoring implementation of the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals in Arab region**

The Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development as a technical Secretariat of the Arab committee for Monitoring 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals in the Arab region held the committee's fifth meeting on the sidelines of the Week events during which the Week's Final declaration is approved.

### Third: Opening speeches:

- **Presentation:** Nada Al- egezy Minister Plenipotentiary and the Head of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development Department of League of Arab States
- Ahmed Abul Gheit General Secretary of The league of Arab States
- Senior strategic advisor of Arab countries regional office of UNDP
- Mr. Asheesh Khana Chairman of Djibouti, Yemen and Egypt Program in the World Bank
- Mr. Mouneer Thabet Deputy Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA
- Dr.Hala Alsaied Planning Ministry of ARE

#### Presentation of Head of International cooperation and Sustainable Development Department of League of Arab States Nada Al- egezy

His Excellency Ahmed Abul Gheit Secretary General of League of Arab States

Dr.Hala Alsaied Minister of Planning, Monitoring and administrative reform of ARE

Your Excellency Ambassadors and Representatives of Arab countries

Chairmen and representatives of International, Regional and Arab organizations

Ladies and gentlemen,

A year and half ago was the first discussion platform for all participants partners from the Arab region and the international organizations and agencies on sustainable development in the Arab region which was launched by the General Secretariat titled "Arab Sustainable Development Week" and its first edition was titled " Towards Effective partnership" to support Arab countries in implementing 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals.

And we meet again today in "Arab Sustainable Development Week" second edition to review what was implemented of "Getting Started". Effective partnerships resulted in great achievements of challenges we were required to support Arab countries for overcoming such, the top of which comes support the national efforts to mobilize sustainable financing in implementing



sustainable development goals and activating and promoting private sector partnership.

We also worked to eliminate hunger by improving the capacity of agricultural production and deepening the concept of sustainable cultivation and by support the Arab countries enhancing food security and good nutrition for a healthy society, and search for an equilibrium between urban and rural development so as to create stability in rural life and create dignified jobs opportunities for youth and immigration rate for cities that suffer and moan from the disseminate of squatters and informal activities.

We also endeavored to support our scientific institutions to expand the role of science and technology for the implementation of sustainable development and support the role of social giving institutions in our societies, as well as the role of civil society in presenting and deepening the foundations of sustainable development and to make sure that local and marginal societies are benefiting from its fruits.

We also worked to support the efforts exerted by conflicts-affected countries in defining priorities of sustainable development, enhance peace and security and to create flexibility in societies in the aftermath of conflict, in a region of the world highest rate of instability, displacement and asylum seeking.

These were the efforts we exerted jointly with our partners all along a year and a half of endeavor based on mutual respect, honesty, transparency and confidence.

We are gathering here today, in the second edition of Arab Sustainable Development Week, to review the work implemented by the help of our partners, aiming at building new partnerships so as to support investing in human capital as a step towards human building and effectively push forward social and economic development future, taking in our consideration that our societies are of young people, and the capabilities of rising generation and young people should be used to create a stable sustainable development future in the Arab region, this mainly depends on training, education, health services of high quality.

We also work to build work partnership so as our old and new Arab cities acquire identity and spirit, we support all efforts exerted in implanting a new phase of social enlightenment to awake the Arab conscience from a the state of rigidity and inflexibility, where extremism and terrorism prevailed gnawing the youth minds, kills their conscience which expresses the meaning of human and humanity. Moreover we work to raise outreach and support the role of media and soft power in achieving sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen

I think you agree with me that the League of Arab States General Secretariat devotes great attention to sustainable development, out of its

belief that achieving sustainable development plan in Arab countries, of what it entitles of integrity, interdependency and non-differentiate of its goals and aspirations, will positively reflect significantly in citizens life in the Arab countries.

The serious efforts exerted by the various League of Arab States machineries and the joint Arab institutions to adapt the current endeavors with the spirit, nature and features of 2030 agenda and sustainable development can be clearly seen by everyone.

Finally, as we met in our first edition 500 days ago, although a lot of efforts and work are exerted, yet more work is still a head to implement tangible, and real sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

Let me start the Arab Sustainable Development Week in its second edition by calling to the floor the League of Arab States Secretary General His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit to deliver the opening speech.

### The speech of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit's League of Arab States Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me welcome you in Arab's Home on the occasion of Arab Sustainable Development Week under the auspices of The President of ARE His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fatah Elsis, you may realize the significance of this honorable sponsorship that represents care paid by the leaders for the purpose of implementing the 2030 agenda of sustainable development, typically as the significance of the conference venue for what the League of Arab States represents as the optimal framework to foster such cooperation and to create conditions conducive to interpret UN's agenda to integrated programs performed in the Arab region.

Last year, Arab Sustainable Development Week is concluded under the title "Towards effective partnership" , and the general secretariat, during the period from the first week till our meeting today, is managed to make use of such partnerships to establish different targeted new programs, which are directed to support Arab countries in implementing 2030



agenda and sustainable development goals, to push sustainable development in the Arab region forward, consequently our meeting today is concluded under the slogan of "Getting Started" to review such new programs, and how to invest what has been implemented and to identify its significance in implementing sustainable development goals, and to lay foundations for deepening partnership and cooperation so as to become a reality.

Honorable attendees

On the basis of our effective partnerships, and in the spirit of our platform debates of the second edition of Arab Week, we are working to review the programs adopted by Sustainable Development Arab committee, and to cooperate to set action plans to be jointly implemented with our partners, the goal of all such programs is to serve Arab countries in implementing the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals.

Our partners supporting these programs are represented in: National Institutions in Arab countries, Specialized Arab agencies, UN agencies, International and Regional organization, NGOs, Social giving institutions, Private Sector, Youth and Women. The work is performed through variant methods of Monitoring the new files as for example; the Directive committee for Monitoring the "sustainable Financing" and the "Organizational climate and its interdependency", organize team work to prepare a report on "Achieving sustainable development in conflicts-affected countries", in addition to forming sub committees as the sub -committee of " Hanger elimination in Arab region" which covers a big gap of work priorities in Arab region as it includes many team work formed from the stakeholders and relevant parties.

Seeking to engage all parties, a new civil societies networking is formed, represented in the regional network of sustainable development national forums, Regional forum of social giving institutions, Sustainable Development science and technology network, Sustainable Development Arab Youth. In all the activities we are worked to deepening the concept of integrity, interdependence, and non-fragmentation of work. The ministerial councils and the specialized Arab Organization are engaged in such programs for creating more cooperation.

The fact that, in the course of this week we bring up new programs to be discussed with our partners to be crystalized in new agenda to expand the circle of partners for breaking new grounds in the field of cooperation and coordination for deepening work in sustainable development.

Financial organizational institutions 'round tables are concluded on deepening sustainable financing tools and forming clear roles and incentives so as to engage private sector in financing and implementing sustainable development agenda. Another round table is concluded on the Space and making use of its technology for the sake of sustainable development.

Investment in human capital comes at the top of interests as its significance in meeting challenges of sustainable development future.

There are sessions aiming at a better understanding of urban and rural development equilibriums and interdependency in a way preserving production equilibriums, maintaining cultivated lands and rationalizing migration to cities, and make the cause of preserving cities' spirit and identity is an issue worth to be cared about in a time when some are following systematic schemes to destroy identity and heritage of ancient and esteemed Arab countries.

Dealing with art and soft power becomes a social enlightenment cause after our societies are afflicted by the scourge of extremism and terrorism, and to renounce violence, extremism and intolerance it necessitates adopting positive concepts of development of which environmental, economic and social needs are balanced with spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

The reason of making week's agenda of this year a featured event is the richness and the diversity of its discussed topics, the depth and maturity of the discussed concepts, ideas and issues as they are clearly dealing with Arab citizen's needs. Some may think that topics diversity distracts attention from the definite goals, but in fact it brings into view its integrity and interdependency as they all are connected in goals and aspiration networking to give a better, sound and deep diversity reaching to achieving sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen

How to secure the needed fund for achieving sustainable development plan remains the main obsession of the countries, and how to make it a sustainable financing, capable of regulating and increasing local resources by adopting a better and more qualified tax system, integrate the informal sector into the state's formal sector, and to activate the local societies roles so as to be more stable and clear ones.

And then the roles of private and public banks, and financial organizational national institutions are clearly shown to provide the needed incentives to support the role of private sector and civil society, form sovereign fund, and increase the momentum in the roles of stock market, insurance companies, Social giving institutions, as sustainable financing is the most important input that guarantees the success of sustainable development agenda's policies and programs, and which can turn the political willingness to informed operational capacity.

Thus, sustainable financing comes at the top of Week's agenda for this year, which requires designating one separate axis for sustainable financing, including various relevant activities all through the week around which the doers of that file are gathered to maximize the aspired outputs and to benefit

from the opportunities available for the financial sector so as to implement sustainable development goals and green economy.

In fact we realize the important role of private sector, and the private sector, on the other hand, realizes its increased dependency on the existence of flexible, stable societies capable of enduring the shocks of climate change and natural hazards and others, in a world of increased economic, social and environmental sustainability causes, and new technologies and types of commerce are emerged in the fields of renewable energy, management and efficient use of natural resources.

Ladies and gentlemen

No doubt, the Arab region is the most vulnerable part of the world, for what it witnessed of country disintegration and breaking down and what follows of creating incompatible environment to development that raising momentum to extremism, terrorism, poverty, and unemployment, particularly against woman, children and disabled, impeding youth aspirations of building modern societies capable of satisfying their ambitions. The conflict resulted in geopolitical consequences and new international and regional reality which requires us to follow and pursuing its hot spots and trans- boundary effects.

As we realize the current situation, there is no way out of such crisis but through the commitment to work to regain the role of national country, and to implement the legitimate aspirations of its citizens by identifying its real needs and recognizing its priorities of building and reconstruction and to make sure that the agenda of sustainable development goals is the basis on which it is centered.

Conflict deterioration definitely led to increasing doubts of Arab nations about the effectiveness of development type prevailing for a long time under which the conflict and violence raised, these doubts necessitates finding an answer for the question pertaining to how to enhance development performance in Arab countries while the conflict prevailed and human condition is deteriorated and the conflict resulted in a large numbers of souls lost, in addition to a significant decline in economy and institutions' performance of such countries, a massive destruction of its infra-structure, high rates of poverty and unemployment, besides other great political, environmental, and social consequences, hard to be ignored upon planning for development.

It is important to study how to benefit from the objective global momentum in implementing sustainable development goals in the conflict-affected areas, as a step to tackle the current challenges, and to convert such challenges to new opportunities to realize peace, stability, justice, reduce conflict severity, violence and displacement for the sake of a genuine sustainable development for the human in Arab region. Consequently sustainable development is a step towards peace and stability and justice and to realize the nation's aspirations of peace, development and dignified life.

Honorable attendees

Seeking to achieve economic growth and reduce the unemployment rate, governments invest in physical capital by creating infra structures of new ways, bridges, airports and other infrastructures, which is an important for countries dealing with development and attracting investment, particularly for the countries out of the scope of the challenges of political and security instability.

Yet investments also requires to invest in human capital, which usually gets far less care, and this according to our vision is deemed wrong, as neglecting investment in human capital weakens Arab countries' competitiveness, in a world where technology and knowledge developed in accelerating manner and in high frequency. The economies in this world need an increasing number of talents and qualifications to maintain growth, which requires a good building of human, yet the human capital is not achieved by itself, it should be taken care by the states, due to the fact that individuals are short sighted concerning the benefits of investing in people over the medium and long terms.

In spite of how building and qualifying the human is extremely significant, and the important role of governments' investments in human capital, but the state's policy often stands in the way, as politicians are lacking the impetus to support policies that take decades to pay its costs.

We should highlight that investment in human capital is the right approach for the growth of the economy, as it is helping poor to lift themselves out of the poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen

Although there are dark spots in our Arab present, yet it is good to know that 14 Arab countries are succeeded and managed to implement the millennium goals concerning the issue of Hunger, as they adopted good agricultural and water system, as well as systems ensure food delivery for hungry people, and that the food calories rate in Arab region equals to its equivalent in the developed countries, yet, surely, we are seeking more human safety that based on sequential system of which food and water security is integral part of its structure.

Consequently, we as a General Secretariat attach particular importance to the second goal of sustainable development which is "Hunger elimination", achieve food security, improve nutrition, support sustainable agriculture" not spared to the relevant goals and aspirations.

Thus, establishing "Hunger elimination subcommittee in the Arab region", and endeavor to prepare and launch the "Hunger elimination initiative in the Arab region" is considered an Arab work plan based mainly on the current regional and Arab initiatives in the region, and to satisfy the newly-emerging needs via new programs and projects.

In fact we consider the significance of this committee in the joint Arab work system is represented in the important partnerships made in this concern to realize a better and dignified life for the Arab citizens, that seriously work to support Arab countries exerted efforts in implementing the second goal of sustainable development.

We would like here to reassure the importance of having balanced rural-urban development, as it is associated with great challenges due to what we know of the impacts of water scarcity, climate change and variability during agricultural seasons and decline of agricultural productivity, which in turn resulted in the displacement of people who live in the countryside, of low level of development and services, to the cities.

With the natural growing of cities of imbalanced distribution of population density, the great cities encountered overpopulation, squatters and informal neighborhoods disseminate, and as a result the city lost its identity and spirit which are characterized by them, then turned to be merely cities the majority of them are ill and overworked with problems and mostly are without identity.

Ladies and gentlemen

In fact many countries of world are made the best use of medical advancement in treatment and prevention, and their living conditions are improved due to global advancement and exploring the natural wealth and energy resources. The average age of the region's inhabitants is increased, and the phase which the region is passing through now is the high population growth phase, which is characterized by a remarkable improvement in public health, income standards and nutrition, high percentage of youth which also creates a special demographic reality.

We believe that youth capabilities is an imperative need to support sustainable development, yet their participation in production is limited only in those who practice a productive work. Many Arab countries, actually, are not made the best of this opportunity as other regions of the world did, this is due to the low standard of youth training and qualifying and as a result the low rate of employment to total population.

From the other side, population growth accelerating rate is one of the major challenges before the development efforts exerted to achieve effective economic growth capable of reducing poverty and unemployment rate and consequently improving population living standards, and then the inefficient spending on health and education become ineffective in the development of human capital.

Ladies and gentlemen

From the titles of the Arab Sustainable Development Week starting with "Towards effective partnership" reaching to the title of "Getting started", a lot of serious and fruitful effort is exerted in supporting Arab countries to



## The speech of the Deputy Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Committee for West Asia ESCWA Mr. Mouneer Thabet

### Presentation

The success of implementation of sustainable development agenda is measured by the success of the effective partnerships, and UN's organizations is the significant and effective partner in the Arab region in establishing policies, strategies, programs and activities supporting Arab countries in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals, I wish to pay tribute to the distinguished and powerful role played by UN's agencies and organizations, and to give the floor to the Deputy Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Committee for West Asia ESCWA Mr. Mouneer Thabet to deliver his speech.

His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Abul Ghiet  
, Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Her Excellency Dr. Hala Alsaeid

Your Excellencies and Highness

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honorable attendees



Let me first of all thank you as Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA for inviting me, and I am grateful for this opportunity so to discuss the challenges we face as well as the available opportunities we have on the path of sustainable development.

Our gathering today is a confirmation of our conviction of the significance of sustainable development, which is our discussion for the whole week is focused on, dealing with environmental, social and economic policies supporting such sustainability.

The challenges before us are growing, and getting complicated and deteriorated by the act of conflicts and requires confrontation by urgent, organized and integrated actions.

Social and economic development disparity in the different regions and groups, and the percentage of unemployment, social marginalization, growing population, and climate change make sustainability is getting more complicated because of the interdependence of all these challenges.

Such challenges in turn are getting worse and more complicated in countries suffering conflicts and armed struggles or military occupation, as the case, unfortunately, of a notable group of the region's countries. Tackling each of these challenges in isolation of the others is certainly impossible, as development sustainability needs comprehensive and integrated solutions, and this is one of the main messages of 2030 Agenda.

The examples of various challenges we tackled are:

Increasing population growth in the Arab region, the fastest pace in the world.

The population of the region is doubled more than three times since 1970 exceeding 400 million persons. It is expected to reach 520 million persons by 2030, and 680 million persons by the middle of the century, Population of Algeria, Sudan, Iraq and Yemen is expected to be doubled, and that the urban expansion is increased everywhere. The percentage of population uncovered by social welfare is amounting to 60%, and wherever social service, health care and education in particular, is existed, in most cases it will be exhausted, which limiting the opportunities of creating human capital and narrowing the prospects of development.

The Unemployment or the disguised unemployment rate among youth is one out of three is unemployed, and the percentage among women is 40%, which is the highest in the world.

Migration, the result of scarcity of job opportunities, in not a new phenomenon for the region, as the political and economic disorder led to a rapid increase of migration rate, by the year 2015 the number of immigrants is reached 35 million persons comparing to 15 million persons in the nineties.

Displacement is the destiny of those who are displaced out of their own countries due to conflicts to join those who immigrated due to economic reasons, about 30 million persons in the region were forcibly displaced, most of them are women and girls, and 60 million persons depend on humanitarian aid. Scourge of wars not only eliminates lives and destroys livelihoods, but also undermines the economic capabilities. According to ESCWA estimations, conflicts, by the direct and indirect consequences, caused losses in the economic activity exceeded US\$ half trillion, and financial deficit amounting to US\$ 250 billion.

Honorable attendees

Let us stop for a while at poverty, one of the greatest lesion, measuring poverty rates using only one monetary line reveals that the spread of poverty is limited, but the more accurate indicator reflects a clearer image of the reality, that is to say about the people living in relatively low standard, and this lead us to a formulation of public policies more responsive to reality.

By the help of League of Arab States, Oxford University, and UNICEF, ESCWA set a multi- dimensional poverty indicator, which shows that one of each four persons is poverty threatened, if the economic status worsen due to global or domestic crises.

The studies show that economic growth in the last two decades did not achieve the desired benefits for our region's societies, also the inequality levels either remain at the same level or become worse. Under an extremely interdependent world, poverty causes and consequences are not affected by the reality within the boundaries of only country, but the trans boundary challenges take share in deepening the phenomenon of poverty as well, such as global high prices of basic commodities, disruption of commercial exchange's terms, migration, and conflicts, thus the global and regional reality should be considered by the general policy.

ESCWA conducted studies and analysis, and highlighted data and facts that assure the significance of using the multi-dimensional poverty indicators in drawing poverty reduction policy, that considers linking poverty reduction policy with other developmental policies from one hand, and linking the total national developmental policies with global and regional reality from the other hand.

In this regard we are very pleased of the existent partnership between us and the League of Arab States, where by efforts are exerted to conduct full analysis to provide policy makers with specialized scientific and evidence-based decision.

Unemployment, and particularly, youth unemployment is the biggest challenge threatening the region, which comes at the top of work priorities hierarchy pertaining to the general policy. Unemployment reach its highest rate in lines of youth of educational attainment especially females. It is expected, in the coming three decades, the number of job seekers will be 60 million persons in the Arab region.

We know that the public sector will no longer be able to absorb more manpower since long time ago, and the private sector, with its current growth rate, will not be able to attract the large number of the youth annually entered work market, and it will not be able to do so in the future, if it does not enhance its capabilities by the use of technology so as to increase productivity, furthermore to keep the current approach based on capital growing. At last, informal private sector that constitutes about 20:80% of our

region's economies (it depends on the country) also will not be able to provide a suitable job opportunities for the youth.

The ESCWA is working on country studies of the member states on employment, it cooperates with the International Labor Organization ILO to prepare a report on Employment prospects in the region, focusing on finding the necessary solutions to improve the private sector and enhance its role in employment.

A confirmation of the importance attached by the ESCWA to the issue of employment, one of our main prints is designated to employment issue and it is issued periodically among a series of development prospects in the Arab region.

Our work in the domain of employment is a commitment of sustainable development comprehensive vision that links goal 8 (Dignified job and economic growth) with the rest sustainable development goals as following goal 1 concerned with Poverty, goal 2 concerned with Hunger, goal 4 concerned with Education, goal 5 concerned with woman and gender equality, goal 9 concerned with Industry, creativity and basic structures, goal 10 concerned with reduce inequality.

Back to social policy, the status of disabled persons in our region, in the same time, marginalization challenges from one hand, and the opportunities of tackling such marginalization from other hand. Based on the most conservative estimations, 11 million disabled persons live in our region, which is able to increase by aging, and also under conflicts.

A recent survey on Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon indicates that one out of 5 persons is disabled. Generally speaking, disabled person suffers more than others regarding lack of education and economic activity, especially among women and girls in rural areas.

ESCWA presents integrated analytical prospect covers disability dimensions of the kind of gender, as well as the economic, statistical, technological, and social dimensions.

ESCWA is managed, through close cooperation with member states and civil society, to compile first directory to improve data collection and analysis on disability in Arab countries. In an important precedent, ESCWA is managed to gather statistics relevant parties and policy makers' relevant parties who are mostly working in isolation of each other. In Stockholm recent global meeting on Sustainable development goals. International Disability Alliance praised the joint meeting organized by ESCWA between statisticians and policy makers, as it is one of the best practices that worthy Monitoring in the region.

As for environment; the water scarcity, soil and land deterioration, pollution and climate change constitute an increasing stress on the originally scarce natural resources and the exhausted ecological systems.

Furthermore Ricard Initiative, the joint regional initiative between the UN and League of Arab States with the purpose of making an assessment of climate change impacts on water resources and social and economic sectors vulnerability in the Arab region, predict an increase of temperature amounting to 5 Centigrade by the end of the century. The increasing of weather temperatures, dwindling rainfall and pressure on water resources and exhausted soil will result in serious consequences on agricultural productivity, agricultural activity, city environment, human health as well as food security.

Coordination in the affairs of climate change adaptation would help Arab countries facing such challenges. ESCWA and the regional partners, accordingly, initiated a training for the relevant officials of supporting climate change adaptation policies in agriculture, ecological systems, cities, health and economic planning, with the guidance of the principle of sustainable development goals interdependency.

Endeavoring to implement sustainable development goals under a speedy changing climate, our Arab region can greatly benefit from water, energy and food security interdependency, if integrated development policy in this regard is adopted. ESCWA offers training and technical assistance to the member states to improve the efficiency of using energy in water supply networking, and to estimate and study the visibility of solar-powered water pumping for households and agriculture's usages. ESCWA, in this context, cooperate with the League of Arab States in Arab negotiators capacity building in the negotiation concerning climate change, to get more access to the appropriate technology as well as financing climate relevant activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

If poverty, employment, disability and climate change are essential topics of the aspired general policy of the implementation of sustainable development goals, yet sustainable development financing is the greatest challenge in this context. Direct foreign investment, formal development aids, and financial transfers is part of financing instruments group of development financing as identified by Addis Ababa action plan which represents a crucial divergence upon thinking of development financing.

ESCWA's estimations indicate that the direct foreign investment in Arab countries is declined by 60% in 2006, and that for every 1 dollar incoming into the region, 1.8 dollars outgoing out of the region in the form of Arab investment. Arab sovereign wealth funds invest US\$ 3.5 trillion, most of which is out of the Arab region. Deposits in foreign banks amounting to US\$ 230 billion. For all the previously mentioned, the Arab region is deprived from great opportunities of sustainable development initiative financing.

The Arab region, to restore financial resources, there is much that can be done as to expand the area of private sector partnership according to criteria identified by more balanced social contract not governed by the approach of "Rotation of costs and allocation of profits". The tax base can be expanded by encouraging the private sector and applying a fair and just tax

laws on its activities. A group of recommendations is issued by ESCWA. In this concern, including allocating part of the bank loans to be granted to small and medium environmentally friendly enterprises, and benefiting from the resources of investment sovereign funds in the projects out of infrastructure sector's scope.

Setting financial regulations for public spending and revenues, which clearly determine the long and medium term goals, is a cornerstone of financial sustainability. ESCWA's report issued 2017 under the title "Reconsidering financial policy in the Arab region", the report presents a framework of macroeconomic policies repositioning, so as to be able to tackle the debts challenges and the implementation of sustainable development goals, and in particular, the goals 1,8,10 and 17. ESCWA presents fact sheet (tracking framework) to the Member States which enabling mathematical modeling to guide social, commercial, industrial and financial policy makers, on the path of the implementation of 2030 agenda.

Honorable attendees,

Finally, I cannot fail to attach great importance to the opportunities provided by more economic integration in the region. As economic integration is an engine to generate incomes, employment and promote investment. ESCWA's past studies proved that improving transportation within the region, facilitate workers moving, and implementing Customs Union would increase commercial exchange volume, which in turn increase Gross Domestic Product GDP by 3%, and decrease unemployment by 4%.

ESCWA's Arab integration report assures these points and explains as well the relation between free services and progress on the path of the implementation of sustainable development goals, especially those concerned with gender equality, poverty and environment.

Therefore intensifying efforts of regional cooperation support in the fields of investment, labor movement, measures and criteria, coordinate general policies and other Arab regional economic integration foundations undoubtedly contribute in sustainability of development process.

The Member States, in this regard, can benefit from the ESCWA's socialized researches and normative studies, in addition to technical and consultancy services provided upon the state's request.

Integration is a source of immunity building: As countries closely attached with the people, goods, services and ideas are acquired immunity which reduces the likelihood of falling into crisis. And if it occurred, wither naturally or man-made, security, including food security, acquires immunity gained from the intimate neighborhood relation. Finally, regional integration provides economic specialization and achieves economies of scale, which in turn enhances peace making opportunities in our region on concretes bases and achieve prosperity for our societies and better future for our children.

Honorable attendees,

Common and trans-boundary problems need common and trans-boundary solutions, and as challenges have no end, our confronting policy should be so. As much as it is multilateral approach, today it is under the microscope more than ever, thus today we are in more need to take urgent and collective action more than ever, bearing further in mind our relations with each other and the power we gained from the unity bonds.

ESCWA, having the capability of mobilizing vast experiences in multi-specialty approach of policy making, continues to support member states in the implementation of a real sustainable development integrated and comprehensive approach.

Thank you



## **The speech delivered by Mr. Adel Abdul Lateif the senior strategic Adviser of Arab countries regional office for UNDP M**

### **Presentation:**

United Nations Developmental Program UNDP is one of the most significant development partners in the Arab region, Arab countries regional office supports Arab countries in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals, Allow me to call upon the senior strategic Adviser of Arab countries regional office of UNDP Mr. Adel Abdul Lateif to deliver his speech.

Her Excellency, Dr. Hala Elsaied, The Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative reform

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like at the beginning of my speech to thank the League of Arab States for inviting our organization to participate in this significant meeting as a distinctive regional Arab forum to discuss and think about Sustainable development.

No doubt, this forum acquires value from its ancient and deep rooted League, the oldest regional organization in Today's world, that we wish for her all the success and prosperity. In this context we also wish the success for Beirut development summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I promise I will brief in my speech and I will not go deeper in discussing Arab countries suffering, yet there are four essential points I would like to speak about in this speech, Firstly the efforts exerted by UNDP in supporting Arab countries since the launching of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, which is a significant issue particularly under what we are doing now of reforming the development system in the United Nations.



UNDP launched three main course of action:

The first one is to help countries in setting what is called the path of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, this is performed through the coordination with coordinator settled in each country and UN's groups existing in this country. Since 2015, UNDP provided support, in this context, to about six Arab countries. Of course this support will continue in spite of the reforms of UN organization that will be made as of 2019.

Secondly: UNDP supports countries to prepare Voluntary National Reviews, as you know, there are eight Arab countries submitted such reports to ESC which is concluding in July every year, Egypt already submitted two reports till now.

Thirdly: UNDP support for issues within the program jurisdiction, particularly poverty, environment and arbitration issues relating to administrative development, anti-corruption issues, and local development issues, and all these issues fall under the scope of UNDP.

If you try to follow the track of achievement in Arab countries by reading their voluntary National Reviews submitted by the countries. No doubt these reports for the first time is characterized by high transparency, and most countries' reports not only mentioned their achievements but listed the challenges they faced in the implementation of the agenda as well. As His Excellency the Secretary General mentioned in his speech as: Financing issues and private sector crowding-in.

The greatest achievement is Arab countries ability to move from the special meaning of development of the millennium development goals to the implementation of this agenda in line with its size and diversity, particularly the importance of crowding-in parties out of the government sector especially the private sector.

No doubt that moving from the implementation of the millennium development goals to the implementation of sustainable development goals requires more thinking, particularly that millennium development goals lays basically within the governmental commitment towards citizens, but sustainable development agenda is much wider and requires more coordination with the private sector. As most of these goals are out of government scope of work as we know in its formal form of the set policies, but creating new jobs and tackling the issue of climate change are not a government commitment because most industries are carried out by private sector and require to be reconsidered of how to transform its current status to a more sustainable one in the future.

Thirdly: The issue of challenges mentioned by His Excellency, the Secretary General and my dear colleague Mr. Mouneer Thabet, particularly the challenge of conflicts, in this regard, based on various voluntary National Reviews, regional cooperation issue is still existed only on paper, and is not seriously dealt with, League of Arab States is considered the oldest regional organization which sets an action plan for the economic cooperation even before Rome Agreement set by European States. Therefore the importance of regional cooperation is due to that most Arab countries cannot implement sustainable development Agenda without the existence of regional cooperation, and that most Arab economies even the large countries, wither as for the number of population or financially, will not be able to implement these goals without regional cooperation in the fields of trade, climate change and water management, this issue should be considered in preparing the future reports as most of countries with conflicts will not be able to move, even in case of peace agreements, to another status without regional cooperation.

Fourth issue: The issue of achievement management, most countries in their national reports referred to serious subject of measurement without measurable and reliable data to be used by countries in preparing future plans, thus it will be difficult to say that we achieved a definite achievement by 2030.

Considering indicators that the countries agreed upon for measuring sustainable development goals, we discovered that many Arab countries do not have measurable data , till now, and for some countries, talking about basic indicators issue that can be used, as number of population, even these indicators are rare in many countries especially those with disputes now.

The last population census of Syria was in 2004, and the same for Yemen, while most of the researches related to family and living conditions are outdated, the most relatively recent is the Egypt one of 2015, without having these data it will be hard to talk about any progress achieved.

Countries could spent money and set plans, but the measurement issue remains hard to deal about it without data. Therefore most of UN's organizations especially, UNDP attaches great importance to this issue as it is the cornerstone of achieving progress in the implementation of sustainable development.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to assure that we have important opportunity in the next development summit as we can have by the end of the summit many recommendations that help in formulating regional Arab conception on cooperation and sustainable development, particularly as there is African concept that goes beyond 2063, it is not necessary for Arab countries to abide by this time frame 2030, as we know most of Arab countries will not be able to implement many goals by 2030, yet we can abide

by a wider timeframe that we can imagine a new Arab world by 2040 or 2050 especially for countries with conflicts so as to live in a better condition.

Thank you His Excellency Secretary General

Thank you Her Excellency Minister of Planning



## The speech of Mr. Asheesh Khana Chairman of Djibouti, Yemen and Egypt Program in the World Bank

### Presentation

The World Bank as distinctive partner contributed in the successful launching of the Arab sustainable Development Week – first edition, and Memorandum of Understanding MoU was signed which included that World Bank provide support to Arab countries in the Implementation of Sustainable Development goals, today we are looking forward to activate cooperation program with the World Bank and to enhance our partnership.

Allow me to call for the floor the representative of the World Bank in Cairo, Chairman of Djibouti, Yemen and Egypt Program



His Excellency Secretary General of League of Arab States, Her Excellency Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reforms and distinguished guests, Good morning and Sabah al Khair.

On behalf of Ferid Belhaj, Vice President of Middle East and North Africa for World Bank, let me thank you for providing us the opportunity to join Arab Sustainability Week and wish you all a very warm welcome.

We believe there is great value in our partnership with the League of Arab States. We have progressed a lot since the MoU was signed last year, as it was a distinctive milestone in our cooperation. It has strengthened our collaboration at the technical issues in education, water and energy cooperation and provided a valuable regional exposure.

We are now ready to move our partnership to next level, given the challenges that we face in the region. We believe we now need to think about the next steps, both strategically and technically. As the region faces the daunting challenge of providing jobs to more than 300 million young people who will enter the job market by 2050, I want to highlight some of the new initiatives and orientations that the World Bank is embarking on, and which

President Kim presented to the Arab governors at the Annual Meetings in Bali.

We strongly believe the Region needs to reinvent its economic model to meet the aspirations of its people. It needs a new vision – one where the State engages more effectively with youth, brings more women into the economy, and lays the foundations for new drivers of economic growth.

This vision focuses on three pillars: building human capital, crowding-in the private sector for development, and harnessing new technologies as tools for inclusive, sustainable economic growth. These are the topics we should address during this week.

Many of your countries have volunteered to be early adopters of Human Capital initiative. With aspirations rising and technology changing the nature of work, the need for a healthy and skilled population is critical for jobs of tomorrow. While the Governments of the region need to focus their budgets on improving human capital, there will never be enough public resources to match global development needs especially on large infrastructure projects.

That means we need to use our resources to crowd in private sector investment and make sure that the investments help the poor and marginalized sections of societies. Our Maximizing Finance for Development approach has been successful in Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq, especially in energy sector and need to replicate across other sectors now and in other countries.

Finally, our countries have to develop a more sophisticated digital economy that takes advantage of its young, educated workforces. This will require not just the provision of public goods – including digital ones – but also an overhaul of the regulatory system to ease entry into the market for new businesses.

These are the three themes I put forward to you today. I hope this event can create even stronger momentum in our cooperation.

While each country in the League is unique and would require adaptation of these three themes to their context, the strategic orientation of the three themes remain valid even for countries under conflict given the significant need for economic transformation and providing jobs to youth and women.

This would also require a very different way of working by Governments, regional organizations like the League, as well as multilateral institutions like ourselves – one that pushes collaboration to greater levels across governments and ministries, agility in our responsiveness, and

creativity in our approach. But future does not provide us a choice and we stand ready to work together on these thematic priorities.

Thank you again and we look forward to a successful Arab Sustainable Development Week and our greater cooperation going forward.



**The speech of His Excellency President of ARE delivered on his behalf her Excellency, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative reform**

**Presentation:**

ARE embraced the Arab Sustainable Development Week of its first and second edition, under the generous auspices of His Excellency President of ARE Mr. Abdul Fatah Elsis. And this year the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative reform under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Hala Elsaied is distinctively realized the partnership concept.

We as General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, highly estimate the efforts, cooperation and the total partnership which our joint preparation this year is characterized by. In addition to organizing "Egypt Day" to represent the Egyptian practice in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals.

Allow me to call to the floor Her Excellency Minister Dr. Hala Alsaied to deliver the speech of His Excellency President of ARE Mr. Abdul Fatah Elsis in the inauguration of Arab Sustainable Development Week- second edition.

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit Secretary General of League of Arab States

Your Excellencies the ministers and Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, it gives me pleasure to convey the greeting and welcoming of His Excellency President Abdul Fatah Elsis on opening the proceedings of Arab Sustainable Development Week, second edition, and to convey as well all his deep wishes of every success to this Week, and I was honored to deliver his speech on his behalf on the inauguration of this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen, honorable attendees,



It is our pleasure to gather here today in the League of Arab States premises on the land of Kinanah Egypt, who always welcomes its guests from Arab countries, and all the countries of the world seeking for development and looking forward to a better future where peace, security and welfare prevailed.

After the Success of the First Arab Sustainable Development Week, that Egypt was keen to host and organize last year in May, in a fruitful cooperation with the League of Arab States, World Bank, and UN under the title "Towards an effective partnership". Here we are today resuming what we started of work within the frame of this effective partnership and this fruitful cooperation, so as to launch together the second Arab Sustainable Development Week, under the title "Getting Started", the proceedings of this event will continue for the coming four days in a broad-based and high level participation from the representative of governments, public sector, civil society, women, youth, media, as well as international, regional and Arab organization, universities and specialized research centers to cooperate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals, and to start partnerships to achieve Arab societies goals, to work to find solutions for sustainable development in the Arab region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet here today when the whole world and our Arab region lays in its heart witnesses speedy political and economic variables and circumstances which are of utmost important, and as a consequence this imposes more burdens and challenges, and negatively affects efforts exerted by government to implement development, thus it requires double efforts and serious and hard work.

In the last two decades, the international community attaches great importance to sustainable development and the UN efforts to implement it. As the World Leaders, in UN seventieth session in September 2015, approved "The 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals" considering the World need to new Agenda for resuming the efforts of the implementation of sustainable development beyond 2015, this Agenda gets the approval of 193 countries of UN Member States, the Agenda designated 17 goals to implement sustainable development, and 169 ends to monitor and measure its implementation. The Agenda is entered into force in the first of January 2016, to constitute the basic pillar from which the regional, national developmental plans and goals are started.

Arab countries, wither within collective or national framework, are forerunners in the commitment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals, As the Arab countries show the

commitment of the development goals within the framework of the League of Arab States. In the proceedings of the Twenty seventh Arab summit concluded in Nouakchott 2016, the Arab leaders took a decision of establishing Arab mechanism for monitoring the implementation of 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals in Arab countries. This was activated by establishing "Sustainable Development Arab Committee "to monitor and follow up the implementation of sustainable development goals and to provide support for Arab countries in the implementation of their national agenda. This committee is the basis of establishing a joint Arab work in the field of sustainable development, and it is one of the mechanism that we can depend on to support cooperation with regional and international organizations and in expertise and practices exchange to implement sustainable development. Hence ten Arab countries launched their Sustainable Development National Strategy, Egypt is one of the first countries launching " Sustainable Development Strategy Egypt's vision of 2030 " , in February 2016 to form the systematic general framework of the phased developmental plans and work programs of Egypt in the following years.

Egypt is keen on adapting this vision with the three UN dimensions; economic dimension, social dimension and environmental dimension, Egypt is also keen on formulating, preparing and implementing Egypt's vision 2030 through a partnership between the government and all stakeholders of development partners from the private sector and civil society. Egypt' vision 2030 gives particular attention to expand the participation of the youth and women in implementing the strategy programs, through training programs and capacity building , support entrepreneurship, economic empowering for women to encourage her joining labor market, provide the appropriate climate for small and medium enterprises aiming at creating dignified job opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen

Egypt works on effective participation in all regional and international initiatives relevant to development issue out of her responsibility and its usual keening on cooperation with all parties of international community. Thus it shares UN efforts in the implementation of sustainable development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals SDGs, as well as its keenness on exchanging expertises and good practices in the relevant field. Egypt participated in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, concluded in New York last July, Egypt, among 47 countries of which 8 Arab countries are included, submitted the Voluntary National Reviews of ARE (VNR), which covers the achievement made by Egypt in some fields as: Health, clean water, renewable energy and sustainable cities. Egypt also organizes side events on the sidelines of the Forum as the current Chairman of the Group 77 and China, or as its National capacity. The events are focused on "Green Economy and Youth employment", the role of technology and creativity in implementing

Sustainable Development", "Towards more Sustainable Cities in Egypt". Egypt's achievements in such topics are reviewed during these events.

Egypt also effectively shared in efforts exerted in the implementation of the 2063 Agenda Africa development out of her proudness of Africa belonging, and assuring her keenness on continual coordination and cooperation with her brothers in African countries in the different fields, especially the economic and developmental ones. This will in turn create common investment and trade opportunities to satisfy the growing developmental needs of African countries. Supporting this joint effort and coordination comes on the priorities of Egypt due to her leadership of the African Union.

### Ladies and Gentlemen

Egypt has assured, in the UN General Assembly meeting last September, that the international commitment of the implementation of sustainable and comprehensive development is one of the essential terms of establishing a stable international system, and the best way to prevent armed conflicts and human crisis.

In spite of the fact that The UN agreement on the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development is well received, yet we assure that implementing this aspired plan commitments requires addressing number of issues among which, development financing issue, through providing appropriate international climate for unconditioned resource flow needed for development, as well as support the national efforts to mobilize financing resources for development.

Development financing is still the most important determinants of countries ability of moving forward in the implementation of sustainable development programs, you may agree with me that most common factor in the implementation of development's program and projects, wither within UN frame work 2030 sustainable development Agenda or within the national and Arab frameworks, is the need to provide financing and to mobilize required resources. This highlights its dire need to establish effective partnership between government, private sector and financial institutions to satisfy the growing financing needs. As many studies indicated, the world need to talk about trillions of dollars instead of pillions on dealing with sustainable development programs, the report of Development and Environment Arab Forum 2018 on the volume of financing needs for the whole countries of the world to implement sustainable development goals is ranged from US\$ 5-7 trillion annually till the year 2030, our Arab countries only need US\$ 230 billion annually to implement sustainable development goals.

Dealing with challenges that our Arab countries meet on the path of sustainable development, we should indicate the need to create job opportunities and employment under the increased unemployment rate, is one of the most significant social and economic problems face our Arab countries. According to the report of Arab's economic prospect issued from Arab Monetary Fund in September 2018, unemployment rate in Arab countries is amounting to 15% in 2017 exceeding the double of global rate that is amounting to 5.7%, where youth unemployment rate in Arab countries is 29% which is the highest rate in the world. Challenges are increased as the youth rate is increased, people whom their age is under 30 years is about 60% of the total population (Arab human development report 2016).

Although this massive human power impose challenges, yet it promises to bring with it opportunities we should benefited through encouraging investing in human capital, we need in our Arab world to establish a clear vision and plan in which all countries, agencies, and Arab financial institutions are participated to rebuild the Arab human to maximize the use of his capabilities so as to support efforts of implementation of sustainable and comprehensive development.

I would like to indicate, dealing with investing in human capital, Egypt attaches the utmost importance to investment, Egypt sets a comprehensive plan of rebuilding the Egyptian man, which is one the main pillars of governmental work agenda in the period from 2018-2022, it provides that building the Egyptian man is on the top of the state and development plan's priorities. Here when we talk about building the Egyptian man, we mean a comprehensive concept includes all aspects as; health, education, culture, and sports with the purpose of building Egyptian character able to positively deal with the international and local updates.

I would like to assure again that our Arab world, due to the demographic, social and economic challenges he faces, is more demanding than ever to speed up sustainable economy through working on varying the economic structure, shifting to knowledge economy, adopt structural reforms to increase labor market flexibility and products, increase productivity, enhance competitiveness, elevate levels of human capital through improving education and health services, increase women integrating in manpower, create more dignified job opportunities by encouraging entrepreneurships and promote the free lancing concept and encourage creativity.

Our Arab countries should also seriously work on promoting Inter- Arab transactions particularly in trade, investment and common financing, and to use these transactions in integrative manner appropriate to Arab countries resources and capabilities and to what they meet of needs, to support the implementation of sustainable and comprehensive development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Arab Sustainable Development Week presents a suitable opportunity to meet and exchange experiences, and for serious and continual discussion between all effective partners relevant to sustainable development in our Arab countries. So let us grasp the opportunity to get clear visions and applicable work programs where all international, regional and national efforts are integrated for the implementation of sustainable and comprehensive development to satisfy our people aspirations, realizing that sustainable development is made by man for the sake of man.

Finally, I wish all the success to your conference and to push forward the efforts exerted for the implantation of sustainable development for the benefit of Arab citizen.

Peace and Allah mercy and blessing be upon you



## Fourth: The Week's sessions

### The role of smart partnerships in the implementation of sustainable development in Arab countries

Monday 19 November 2018

The Grand Hall (12:00-13:30)



#### **Facilitator:**

- Dr. Rami Ahmed The SDGs special envoy of Islamic Bank for Development, and Senior Adviser of Islamic Bank for Development

### **Speakers:**

- , Dr. Hala Elasaeid Minister of Planning, Monitoring and administrative reform of ARE
- Her Highness Princess .Haifaa Bent Abdul Aziz AlMegran Assistant undersecretary for SDG's Affairs, and G20 Affairs of Ministry of Commerce and Planning KSA
- Dr. Abdul Salam Weld Ahmed The Regional Director of UN Food And Agriculture Organization FAO
- Dr. Ismaeel Abdul Ghafar The Chairman of The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime
- Dr. Noha Elmekawy Ford's MENA Regional Office Manager
- Dr. Waleed Abdul Wahab Countries Programs General Manger of The Islamic Bank for Development

### **Theme of the session:**

Multilateral partnerships play a pivotal role in the implementation of development plans and programs on the international and local level, the latest reports show that partnerships which adopted compatible strategies to international SDG's will open new horizons of economic opportunities via 60 sites/sectors at a value exceeding US\$12 trillion, and introduce about 380 million new jobs over the world by 2030.

While the success of development efforts in the past depend, to a great extent, on the availability of financial resources and political willingness, but the implementation of Sustainable development goals in the future depends on the ability of the partners to work together in new spirit and with thinking relies on the givens of the contemporary economy which generates profits for all parties.

The big challenge facing Arab countries in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda requires establishing smart partnerships and collective work on all levels, as there is no country, sector, or society's category can implement sustainable development goals individually.

Reports and studies indicate that if we manage to work together as Arab countries, we will provide new investment opportunities amounting to US\$ 637 billion and create jobs amounting to 12.4 million in the Middle East and North Africa by 2030.

This session would be a platform for policy makers and those who work on different development fields, international organizations to discuss the guiding principles on how to form strategic partnerships for the implementation of SDGs, and to submit reviews on the previous

partnerships concluded to support sustainable development in Arab world. The session aims also to give a chance of exchange countries experiences and case well as the successful best practices between the multiple stakeholders.

Many topics are discussed and various questions are raised during the session with the various relevant stakeholders about what kind of partnership we need for the implementation of SDGs? And what are the main components of successful strategic partnership? Why some partnership are successful while the other are not? What is the nature of the partnership that the country concluded with the parliament, civil society and private sector for the implementation of SDGs? It also discussed the experiences of Arab countries and the multilateral banks in establishing smart partnerships of SDGs.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Arab countries need to issue seasonal reports to identify the gaps and the required measures from all the main stakeholders on the local and national level for monitoring the implementation of SDGs.
- 2- There is a dire need of exerting strenuous efforts to mobilize resources from private sector through smart partnerships for financing SDGs in Arab world. Thus we need US\$ 230 billion annually for the implementation of SDGs in Arab countries, and our financing gap is amounting to more than US\$ 100 billion annually.
- 3- The need to work on improving and supporting concepts of the partnerships between government and private sector.
- 4- The necessity of more focusing on economic empowering.
- 5- Youth sharing in developmental plans.
- 6- Islamic Bank for Development supports the Member States in developing the Voluntary National Review VNR via the interconnection mechanisms, as the countries would benefit from each other expertise in report developing and in monitoring progress. This way worth to be repeated in another institution and should be used, especially for the Arab countries who did not launch their VNR yet.

## "Sustainable Financing"

Monday 19 November 2018

The Grand Hall (13:45 – 15:15)



### **Chairman**

- Mr. Richard Dekeits UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt

### **Speakers**

- Executive Vice President of Ford Corporation Mrs. Hillary Pennington
- OECD Development financing policies analyst Mr. Gium Delandandy
- Executive Manager of Sewers Corporation Mrs. Noura Saleem
- Representative of Arab Banking Union Dr. Ahmed Fuad

### **Theme of the session**

The implementation of SDGs requires from US\$ 5-7 trillion, with a gap of investment in developing countries is amounting to US\$2.5 trillion, and at

the same time a recent report prepared by the Development Assistance Committee DAC of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development OECD, indicates that in 2016 the total official developmental assistance increased to a high rate amounted to US\$ 142.6 billion.

It is expected that private financing resources (including financial investment) and public resources (including the international and local) would participate with trillions of US\$ in sustainable development in the coming years.

The session discussed the investment impact aiming at generating definite useful environmental or social impacts, in addition to the financial gains, and how to create around 380 million jobs with the implementation of SDGs by 2030.

The role of institutional investors as possible source of financing SDGs, due to the size of assets they manage, and the long term commitment of some investors which in turn enable the needed long term investment for sustainable development .

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The essence of Sustainable development is to support partnerships with corporations , private sector and non-governmental Organizations NGOs as well.
- 2- Investments work on the implementation of SDGs, and any financial resources would make great impact on the investment process.
- 3- Adopt direct investment to tackle some problems as poverty and the most serious environmental issues.
- 4- The project of Sola power in ARE (Aswan) is important as a sustainable project that should be financed as infra-structure, and the solar power investment value in the world is amounting to 400 million and 6 thousand job opportunities.
- 5- The significance of expanding the partnership with the Academy for its important role in thinking and creativity as for ex; MIT, to absorb the risk of the lacking of financial revenue as the sustainable flexible financing of grants.
- 6- The significant role of Social giving institutions in financing activity through providing loans and grants allocated to financing.
- 7- Referring to financial technology as one option of sustainable financing.

## Sustainable Development in the conflicts affected countries

Monday 19 November 2018

The Grand Hall (16:15 – 18:00)



### **Chairman**

- Ambassador: Hossam Zaki Assistant Secretary General, Chief of the office of League of Arab States Secretary General

### **Speakers**

- Mrs. Carmella Judo Regional Manager of Middle East and North Africa for International Migration Organization IOM
- Mr. Ziad Abeedat Secretary General of Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- Mrs. Naglaa Ali Murad General Manager of Poverty Reduction Strategy of Ministry of Planning - Iraq
- 
- Dr. Abdul Salam Weld Ahmed Regional Manager for United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
- Mr. Nicolas Oberlin Regional Vice Manager of International Food Program
- Mr. Mehrnaz Mostafafy Head of Security of Human Security Unit for U
- Mr. Keshan KHuday Arab Countries Regional Office for UNDP

### **Theme of the session**

The main partners are met in this session to discuss the various challenges which conflicted countries meet as for the implementation of sustainable development goals. A discussion with the public was conducted on challenges and the needed measures.

Representative of Iraq explained that her country faces various problems as destruction of infra- structure, development, Identity, and what organization ISIS caused of destruction, displacement of thousands of people to another region, consequently, Iraqi government forced to spend about 30% of its income on armament, while spends 9% on education and 3% on health.

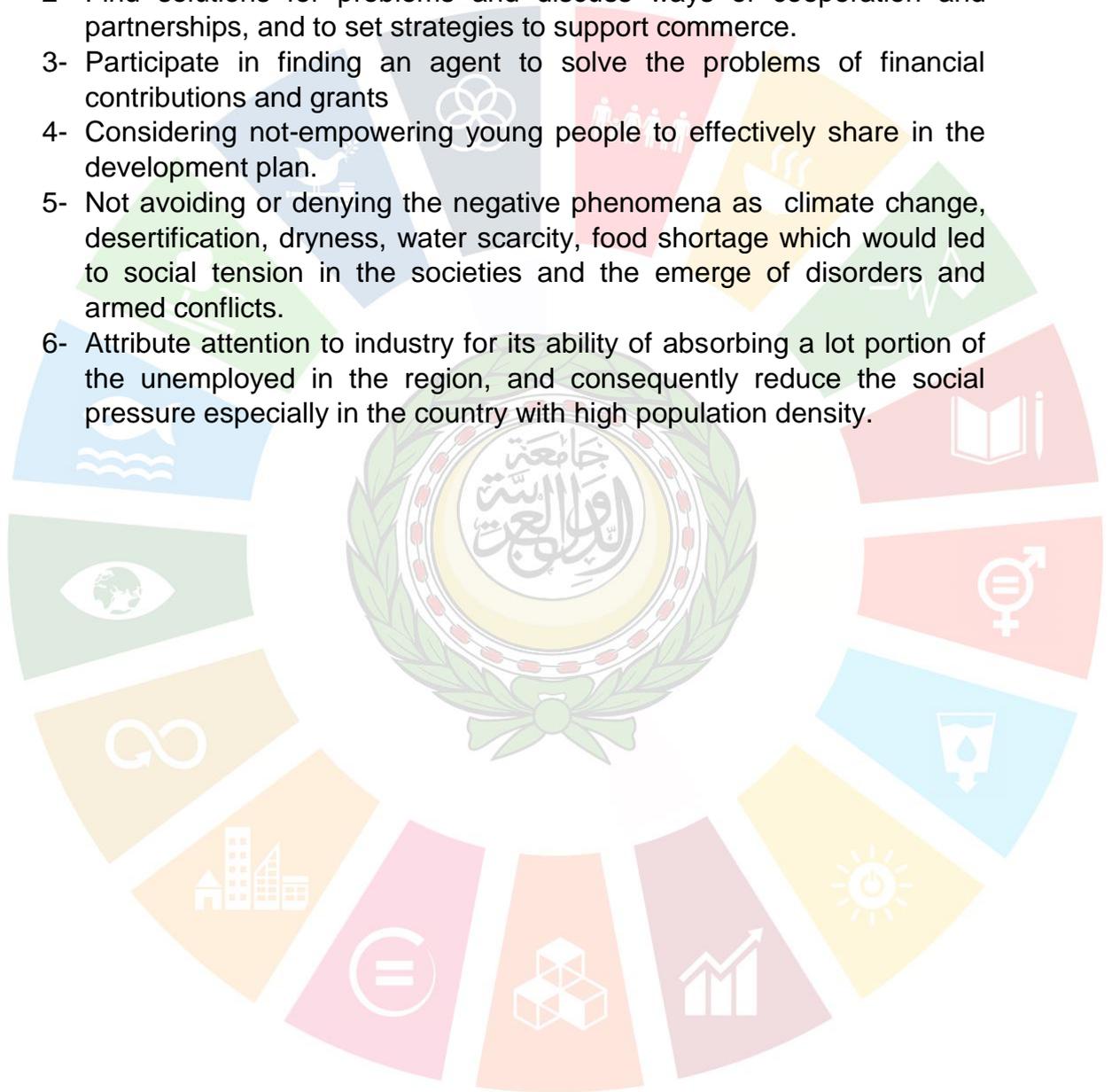
Iraqi vision of 2030 is presented which domains three pillars: Sound governance, Human development and Environment.

Mr. Ziad Abeedat referred to the problems affected Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan which concentrated on the following topics:

- The impacts of the conflicts arisen in the region directly on Jordan or indirectly on development sectors.
- Refugee flow into Jordan rate is amounting to 30% and as consequence affects elements of development, Jordan is considered one of the world poorest country in water, thus it had to resort to underground and wells water to satisfy citizen and refugees needs.
- Overcrowded schools, and the scarcity of teachers and increasing pressure on hospitals, with impacts and unprecedented decline in exports and as a result the unemployment rate extremely increased.

## Recommendation

- 1- Concentrate on development and reduce crisis and adding investment in societies to reduce migration.
- 2- Find solutions for problems and discuss ways of cooperation and partnerships, and to set strategies to support commerce.
- 3- Participate in finding an agent to solve the problems of financial contributions and grants
- 4- Considering not-empowering young people to effectively share in the development plan.
- 5- Not avoiding or denying the negative phenomena as climate change, desertification, dryness, water scarcity, food shortage which would led to social tension in the societies and the emerge of disorders and armed conflicts.
- 6- Attribute attention to industry for its ability of absorbing a lot portion of the unemployed in the region, and consequently reduce the social pressure especially in the country with high population density.



## Education as one pillar of investment in human capital

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Conrad Hall (9:00-10:30)



### Chairman

- Dr. Ismaeel Abdul Ghafar The Chairman of The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime

### Speakers

- Dr. Tarek Shawky The Minister of Education for ARE
- Dr. Haifaa Abo-Ghazala Assistant Secretary General of Social Affairs Sector of The League of Arab States
- Dr. Jehad Ammer The Head of Youth committee of Supreme Council of Culture and Member of Parliament of Egypt
- 
- Dr. Khaled Zakaria Ameen The Manager of the Center of Macroeconomic Policy for National Planning Institute ARE
- Mrs. Haneen Ismail Sayed, The Human Development Programs Team Leader in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan for the World Bank

### **Theme of the session:**

Human capital is defined as the knowledge, skills, assets, experiences, various attributes, and characteristics that an individual has and related to economic performance. Human capital is not relies only on knowledge, skills and capabilities that an individual has, but also the extent of making use of them in productive manner which add value to economic activity.

Experiences is one component of human capital, wither practical experience or life experience, as for qualifications is an important component of human capital because using the scientific and professional qualifications in developing knowledge and skills and building capacity are not only drivers of human capital, but this component creates countries capacity variations relevant to world competitiveness as well.

As for innovation and creativity are important component for human capital especially under the speedy developing world and the spread of technology. Investing in human capital is defined as the spending on developing the human capacity, talents and skills thus the components of human capital will be then available and his productivity rate will increases.

The speakers has indicated that to support countries human capital, it should be focused on investing in definite sectors as for example Health sector: because health services and reducing mortality rate of children and mothers, as well as investing in public health would have a direct impact on human capital. On the other hand investing in learning, training and vocational education would participate in enhancing human capital quality and efficiency. As investing in education is considered a long term policy, most countries are lacking the motivation to invest in a policy that generates its benefits after a long term.

In spite of the primary school, in some developing countries, is delivered for free, and parents are obliged to send their children to school, yet a lot of problems are aroused due to the high price of transportations and school supplies, in addition to the inefficiency of teachers responsible of providing children with information and skills which in turn weakening the children level, consequently the human capital will be inefficient.

Higher education and vocational education policies are of great significance relating to investing in human capital. Investing in human capital is affected by various factors; economic, political, social and cultural of the country. As long as the country is politically and economically stable, investing in human capital will reap the fruits.

Arab countries is characterized by large population, youth constitutes 60% of Arab region population, which is relatively high percentage, and Arab countries should make the utmost use of it so as to be among the most competitive regions in the world. Each Arab country faces different kind of challenges on supporting education policy that participates in human capital building.

- Moreover, the session included a presentation by the World Bank representative, Mrs. Hannen Ismaeil First expert of Middle East social protection, employment and gender Affairs, on Investing in human capital program adopted by the World Bank. In addition to another presentation by: Dr. Gehad Ammer the Head of Youth committee of Supreme Council of Culture and Member of Parliament of Egypt on Education competitiveness and skills of the youth.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to support shifting from line-item budget to performance budget by which performance can be measured and monitored, using clear indicators.
- 2- The need to activate the principle of accountability using real indicators reflect all the human capital relevant issues and its various components.
- 3- Support spending decentralization in the education process, and applying decision making decentralization in decision related to human capital through delegating authorities and responsibilities from central level to the lower levels. As well as decentralization of vocational education, so that it will be a vocational education directed to each governorate or region appropriate to its needs, and fill different development gaps.
- 4- Rationalize spending according to definite priorities, and to invest in mind building more than in education infra-structure.
- 5- Support institutional reforms in the Arab region, and the importance of coordinate between the different bodies and authorities of a significant role in the education process, so as to overcome conflict of roles of governmental bodies.
- 6- Take part in improving education as one pillar of supporting cooperation between public and private sectors, to assure linking education with labor market needs. As well as setting strategies and establishing policies and mechanisms to connect higher education in Arab countries to labor market needs.
- 7- Expand in the implementation of education reforms and labor market projects with focusing also on the relationship between labor market and the outputs of higher and vocational education. Furthermore providing the needed essential skills to the future learning, the children in the course of childhood till the early years of primary education.
- 8- Call for supporting education system gives the priority to mastering skills instead of memorizing, whereby the student progress is measured by the acquired analytical and testing skills. As appropriate to the market needs and enhance competitiveness.

- 9- The need for the region countries cooperation and concerted efforts from all relevant parties of government representatives, education, and business sector representatives for the purpose of setting a national strategy for vocational training and to be applied not only domestically, but regionally as well.
- 10-Categorize stages of education to configure the output of each stage independently so s to tackle challenges in different approaches.
- 11-Reform the teacher map and support his position and capacity as it is the most important input of the education process, and to be accurately selected and to continue his career developing.
- 12-The need to update teaching methods and educational practices to support research, creativity and creativity, as well as to benefit from technology to support education advancement and encourage learning for students and teachers and to qualify student for growing digital world.
- 13-Assure that education burden is not totally placed on government, education reform needs social willingness to change the statuesque to a better future for our coming generation. Parents should have roles as well in supporting educational process until a genuine change is achieved.
- 14-Support the civil society role especially the media in raising the public outreach of education reforms issues and the significance of reforms activity for the whole society.



## "Digital Economy"

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Nile Hall (9:00-10:45)



### **Facilitator**

- Mrs. Marina Almasry The media director of Nile Radio Network

### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Huda Dahroug The Officer-in charge of the Central Department of Social Development and The regional Manager of Information and Communication Technology Egyptian Fund
- Mr. Asheesh Khana Chairman of Djibouti, Yemen and Egypt Program in the World Bank
- Mr. Ahmed Alalfy The Manager of Swary Company
- 

### **Theme of the session**

The significant role of digital economy in the implementation of sustainable development. Although creativity would, probably, positively and negatively affect advancement, spreading new technology becomes inevitable

for the implementation of sustainable development, taking into consideration, the need to obtain a speedy progress to implement goals by 2030.

Besides the unavailability of new technology for marginalized population constitutes the major challenge to make sure the fourth industrial revolution not leaving any one behind. In addition to considering the various opportunities and risks which are still unknown and that can be rapidly crystalized without being tackled by the organizers in the convenient time.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to reinvent economic modeling for the region to meet the peoples' aspirations. Thus it needs a new vision - so that the country more effectively work with youth and crowding-in more women to commerce, and to set the pillars of new drivers of economic growth.
- 2- This vision is focused on three pillars: building human capital, highlight the role played by private sector in development and Information and communication technology ICT as tools for the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable economic growth. It is important for the decision makers to be quite familiar with technology changing and to to comprehend it as much as possible.
- 3- The need to provide healthy environment and skilled population is inevitable for the future jobs.
- 4- Governments of the region need to allocate their budgets to improving the human capital, as there is no public budget would be able to meet the needs of international development, particularly, regarding big projects of infrastructure. This entails the need to use resources to be mobilized in private sector investment and to make sure these investments would help the poor and marginalized categories in the societies.
- 5- Finally, region countries should develop more highly advanced digital economy that benefited from the educated and young manpower. For this end, not only providing the general commodities – including the digital commodities- is required but also a comprehensive reform of structural system as well to facilitate the entry of new companies to the market.

## "The climate Facility and its Interdependencies"

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Ida Hall (9:00- 10:45)



### **Facilitator:**

Dr.Wadeed Erian The program coordinator of Climate risks initiative.

### **Speakers**

- Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid The Chairman of Arab Water Council
- Mrs. Zena Ali Ahmed The regional manager of United Nations Human Settlements Program

- Mr. Suget Kumar Mohanti The Regional Manager of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- Mr. Kishan KHudai The Regional Team Leader of Climate Change and Disaster Reduction and Flexability in Arab region for UNDP
- Mr.Calo Scaramla The Regional Vice- Manager of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and MENA region for The International Food Program
- Mrs. Jaida Hadad.Representative of UN Environment Program Financing Initiative.

### **Theme of the session**

Each participant has talked about his designated role in the Climate interdependencies facility, the coming steps after the launching the facility has also been discussed, with the reference to the climate international agreements including Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the results thereof., and the interdependencies of SDGs , goal 13 in particular with the goals 5,3,2,1 and other goals, and focusing on the various risks dimensions which embedding the implementation of Sustainable development goals.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Agree on launching the" Climate Facility interdependencies "in the coming Arab Water Council General Assembly session in March 2019.
- 2- The initiative would be keen to receive technical assistance provided by the private sector.
- 3- Attribute thanking for parties member of the Facility for their exerted efforts and for cooperating with each other on what they achieved of facility's work mechanism.

## "Establishing Peaceful societies in the conflicted regions"

Tuesday 20 November 2018

The Nile Hall (11:00 – 12:45)



### Chairman

- Mr. Ayman Okeel The Chief of UN Great Africa Group of NGOs, President of the Maat Foundation for Peace and Development

### Facilitator:

- Representative of Media – CMD channel Mr. Amr Khaleil

### Speakers:

- Dr. Astrik SHToklburger UN and EU human Right Advisor
- Mr. Andrews Besesh Sustainable development expert and representative of International Alliance for Peace and Development

### Theme of the session

The discussion tackled the most effective way of peacemaking on the long term, and the key factors of peace through non-interference and development, as well as the importance of individuals' participation in the implementation of sustainable goals and to exchange development expertise and the need to direct attention to commerce and the coming investments.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, out of its concern with sustainable development issues and the human rights, assured the utmost importance of the partnership between government, international and regional organization, private sector, civil society and all relevant stakeholders of sustainable development.
- 2- Considering the importance of peace and security support, Cairo declaration of November 2018, is launched during the Arab Sustainable Development Week. This declaration is a joint strategy of which all parties from formal and non-formal agencies on the international and regional level can implement on the ground, aiming at establishing post – conflict peaceful societies in the Arab region.
- 3- Setting a strategy vision of reconstructing Arab countries who, in the last years, witnessed a tragic situations, which requires all Arab world to fix the cracked part of the structure firmly joined. It is agreed that the vision should be in conformity with UN charter on International Disputes Settlement, or incidents that threatening peace and to be peacefully settled, in accordance with the principles of international law and justice, respecting the rule of law in an environment appropriate for achieving the purposes of the charter.
- 4- Therefore Cairo Declaration recommends the following:

#### **Firstly: Restore security and stability**

- The need of a full cooperation between UN and AL to restore the state of security as it used to be, through the full empowering of the peacekeeping force in the three conflicted countries, and to be supported by reserve forces sent by Arab countries, provided that these forces will be the only joint international forces with the international legitimacy for interference for peace keeping and preservation, apart from any interference of other international or regional forces does serve but its own interests.
- Under take definite activities as cease fire monitoring, demobilization and reintegrating combatants, helping in refugees and displaces return, helping in organizing and monitoring election to form new government, supporting reforms of justice and security sector, enhancing human rights safeguard, supporting reconciliation after the past atrocities. The importance of coordination and exchanging information about troop's movement within terrorist organizations. The forces also

provide support and training on illegal smuggling of weapons, people, money, and public and private property.

#### Secondly: Establishing non-governmental international partnership to face the extremist thought

- The need to engage the NGOs in this mechanism that they are not distance themselves from their community, therefor (an International – Arab) entity including all NGOs, should be established to face the extremist thought, with a strategic goals to combat extremism, and to support peaceful coexistence and tolerance among peoples, on the assumption that NGOs are the most able to directly deal with such issues to be absorbed in informal channels.

#### Thirdly: Provide international financing to redevelop the infrastructure

- Convening an international conference to invite all the international donors of governmental and non-governmental International institutions, aiming at collecting all available financing resources to recon structuring the infrastructure damaged by war. A formal International Fund is formed, and it should be under the auspices of joint Arab countries, and is worked to requalify\_all forms of infrastructure according to long, medium and short term strategy.

#### Fourthly: Qualifying economy and improving work environment

- Strenuous joint effort is exerted to promote small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and creativity, the essential drivers for competitiveness. As well as the partnership for non-banking financial sector, enhance financial inclusion through amending structural and legal framework to create a climate for all economic effective parties, in addition to simplifying the structural environment.
- The need to engage the international organizations, particularly, economic ones, to provide supportive image both for investors and states as well, to improve the business environment for the both of them.

#### Fifthly: Widening social protection umbrella

- Undoubtedly the state of war that Arab countries witnessed resulted in violent shakings in the social classes, which directly reflected in the living standards, particularly, for vulnerable and marginalized categories, consequently, the social protection umbrella for these categories should be widened, and to be included in development policies. And to be distanced as far as possible from the abject poverty line, without prejudice to their most basic human rights during the re-constructing process.

### Sixthly: Create a partnership for institutional reforms and rational governance

- Post- conflict country needs a new institutional reforms in conformity with perceptions and requirements of the new phase, and as result, it necessitates to cooperate for forming "consultancy committee", which is composed of experts in all the sectors that the country needs. Those experts should have various and variable political, scientific and cultural backgrounds, the committee decision is merely a consultative and not used in imposing definite political patterns.
- The committee supports the rule of constitution and respect laws through the mentioned countries supporting of establishing effective and powerful national institutions depend in its formation on competency and not mediation to gradually reduce corruption and bribery rate in governmental institutions until it eventually ends up.

### Seventh: The development of human resources

- First dimension: Establish new partnerships between countries, governments, Parliamentary, national, regional, and international organizations, leaders, and religious references to disseminate the culture of facing extremism, reject intolerance, discrimination, hatred, and deter all forms of terrorism through spreading the sound concepts of religions, and plant principles of tolerance and peace in post conflict societies.
- Second dimension: Citizens rehabilitation and training as convenience to the re-structuring phase, which entails focusing on enhancing technical and practical skills, without neglecting the psychological rehabilitation aspect, especially for the displaced and the physically affected and those who lost their families. In addition to setting policies of absorbing refugees in other countries, especially the European countries in conformity with the Arab identity and culture.
- Third dimension: Stop all forms of women and children exploitation, and to focuses on setting a clear plans for youth and women civic engagement and to build their capacity, to enhance their citizenship, provide opportunities, and to remove all obstacles that hinder their participation in the development.
- Fourth dimension: The need to establish a scientific international partnership to support the scientific structure and exchange knowledge, and for research cooperation as well as building capacity in all fields. As in the conflicted countries, there is no way to implement sustainable development without the existence of sustainable education.

## Building the human towards sustainable development

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Ida Hall (11:00 - 12:45)



### **Facilitator**

Mrs. Sahar Elpazar Consultant of the Minister of Social solidarity of ARE

### **Speakers**

- Dr. Khwan Manwell Garsea Chief of program in MENA region- Ghon Kennedy collage for governmental sciences – Harvard University
- Dr. Ghonas Dreaigy Advisor and Member of postdoctoral researches – Harvard University

### **Theme of the session**

The approach of Evidence for Policy Design is " EPoD" is defined related to policy researches based on evidences and programs in the whole world, the session highlighted in-depth examples of the works of EPoD in and out the Arab world, it also presented works of Harvard University to give more explanation about EPoD, and details and results of the researches conducted and how it would add value to the policy makers and policy making.

The session also discussed the issues of women employment in KSA, and the increasing of employment centers relevant to women workers, as well as the social criteria that effect women workers.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to address the issue of actual learning for the children in the primary school, this requires a correction mechanism and to address the political challenges more practically and efficiently so as to generate and integrate evidences to be developed and implanted to set and implement new policies.
- 2- In all the research interdependencies relevant to policy, EPoD approach always is guided by the six steps of designing and implementing smart policy as following:
  - Identify the persistent political problem
  - Diagnoses the underlying causes
  - Design a solving policy of high possibility and practicality.
  - Implement and monitor suggested solution on the ground
  - Test the possible solution with accurate appraisal
  - Enhance the solution based on continuous monitoring and notices.
- 3- The need to enhance the policy makers' ability of methodically apply evidences through discussion, training, support creativity, interactive tools used to copy data through researches of promoting human capital in the countries by studying examples of education, markets, skills and creating jobs for youth and workers.



## "Eliminating hunger in the Arab region"

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Conrad Hall (13:00 – 15:00)



### **Facilitator**

Dr. Wadeed Erean Program coordinator of Climate risks initiative

### **Speakers**

- Dr. Ibrahim Basbar Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Sudan
- Mr. Abdul Salam Weld Ahmed Regional Manager of UNFAO
- Dr. Ahmed Almonzery Regional Manager of WHO
- Dr. Ibraheem Eldekheery General Manager of Arab Organization of Agriculture Development AOAD
- Mr. Carlo Scaramla Deputy Regional Manager of MENA, Central Asia and Eastern Europe of World Food Program

### **Theme of the session**

Aiming at discussing and analyzing the challenges and the current and future solutions for the implementation of goal 2 of SDGs in the Arab region, The United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture UNFAO, Department for Sustainable Development and international Cooperation of the League of Arab States, organized a seminar on Eliminating Hunger in Arab region within the events of Arab Sustainable Development Week, to highlight

the challenges of eliminating hunger of Arab region and to learn from the organization working in food security and development in the region.

Arab region encounters various food security challenges including shrinking and scarcity of natural resources in the midst of increasing demands due to population increasing, the long standing social and political crisis including wars and occupation.

In Arab countries, food demand, has been for ages exceeding the domestic agricultural production due to the high annual population growth rate average amounting to 2% compared to the world average amounting to 1.1%. There is no big chance to expand the cultivated lands in the Arab region due to scarcity of the appropriate lands, unavailability of water resources, apart from some exception as Sudan.

Arab region became the largest grain importer in the world, due to the limited productive resources as lands and water. Imported grains provide about half of the consumed calories, and most Arab countries went through political transitional stage, or were affected by civil disorders which led to the largest forces migration in the world since more than half century.

In some Arab countries as Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Sudan, more than 20% of households are suffering from food insecurity, while in Yemen it increased to 75%.

Many countries of the region managed to implement policies that puts agriculture on the path of structural transformation and achieved positive outcomes regarding food exports and poverty reduction. In spite of all the commendable efforts, there are still more concerns about food security in the region.

Sustainable Development Goals, goal 2 in particular, provides a historic opportunity for countries to obtain the optimal returns from its economic, social and environmental policies to reduce poverty, create wealth, and ensure social justice to achieve stability. Considering the complicated and interrelated challenges in the Arab region, setting ambitious goals for food security and nutrition would probably pressing on the whole development agenda.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Food and agriculture issue is an essential factor of the implementation of the whole set of SDGs, and not only the second goal.
- 2- Partnerships should rely on common understanding and basic lines regarding the major motives and measures, so as to ease providing integrated approaches.
- 3- Arab organizations and the UN agencies should cooperate in the regional allies for the implementation of the needed strategies on the national level.

- 4- Government should support the joint approaches among ministries regarding eliminating hunger and moving from the diagnosis stage to planning stage and then to allocating resources.



## "Investing in Sustainable Development"

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Nile Hall (13:00 - !5:00)



### **Chairman:**

- Dr.Mohamed Elkhiat Chairman of new and renewable energy Authority ARE

### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Ahmed Badr Head of renewable energy and energy efficiency section of the energy department of League of Arab States
- Eng. Lamia Yousef Abdul Hady Responsible official of Solar power structure project from Electricity holding company
- Mr. Ashesh Khan Chief of sustainable development and infra-structure program from the World Bank office in Cairo
- Dr. Hesham Iesa Co- founder of the DCarbon Egypt

### **Theme of session**

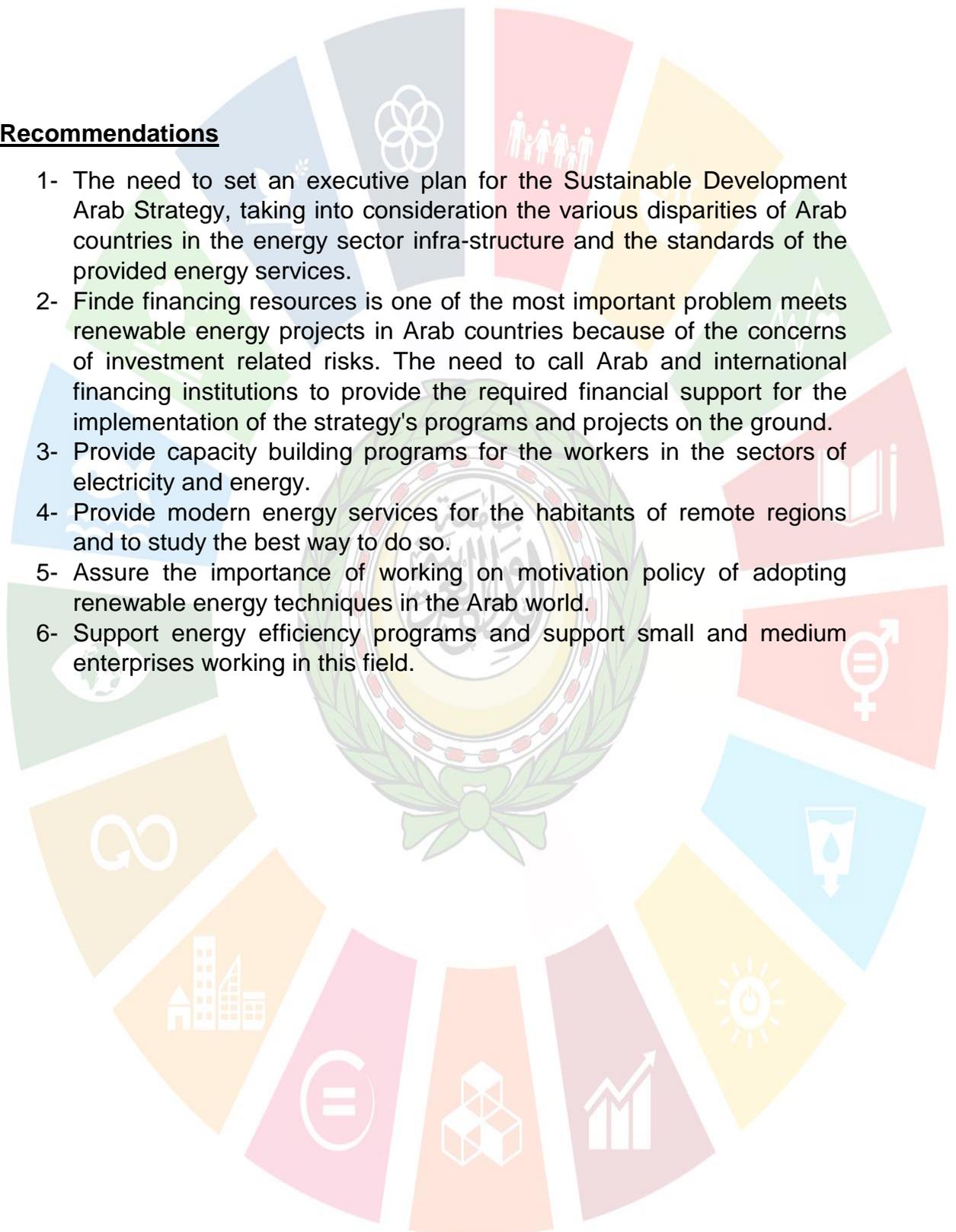
The Arab ministerial council for electricity assigned the League of Arab States- Energy Department to set the sustainable energy Arab strategy for the period (2014 – 2030). The strategy defines the aspired development path that the energy systems take as a part of Arab countries comprehensive development in conformity with the 2030 Sustainable Development International Agenda, implicitly, goal 7 relevant to sustainable energy system, this is achieved from an integrated prospective, aiming at three targets including easy and credible accessibility to energy services for all social categories, increase the renewable energy share in the energy mix, and adopt

effective measures to rationalize energy consumption, and to improve its efficiency.

The participants of the session reviewed the most important dimensions and results of the sustainable development Arab strategy, which is issued by Arab ministerial council for electricity, in addition to the international partners point views, as well as Egypt experience in one of the leading project in renewable energy, it also discussed the private sector vision in this field.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to set an executive plan for the Sustainable Development Arab Strategy, taking into consideration the various disparities of Arab countries in the energy sector infra-structure and the standards of the provided energy services.
- 2- Finding financing resources is one of the most important problems for renewable energy projects in Arab countries because of the concerns of investment related risks. The need to call Arab and international financing institutions to provide the required financial support for the implementation of the strategy's programs and projects on the ground.
- 3- Provide capacity building programs for the workers in the sectors of electricity and energy.
- 4- Provide modern energy services for the inhabitants of remote regions and to study the best way to do so.
- 5- Assure the importance of working on motivation policy of adopting renewable energy techniques in the Arab world.
- 6- Support energy efficiency programs and support small and medium enterprises working in this field.



**"Sustainable Development and launching the report of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development"**

**Tuesday 20 November 2018**

**Ida Hall (13:00 – 15:00)**



**The Speakers**

- Mrs. Nada Elegezy Manager of sustainable development and international cooperation Department of League of Arab States
- Dr. Ata Allah Ketab Chairman and founder of SANED Consultancy Company for Social giving in Arab region
- Dr. Noha Elmekawy Regional office Manager of MENA region –Ford coorporation
- Mr. Gium Delndandy Developmental financing policy analyst for OECD
- Mr. Emeluo Shyovalu Policy analyst for OECD

**Theme of session**

The session tackled the findings and recommendations of other reports on the role of social giving sector in development financing, mixed financing, and the international prospect of Sustainable Development financing, In this context data is shown on social giving sector funding flows to MENA region.

OECD's report on "Sectors' financing in the age of Sustainable Development Goals "is also reviewed, which details the formal development financing to the different sectors in the period from 2012-2016.

The report also reviewed the prevailed financing tendencies, they are five sectors: Health, education, infra-structure, industrial production, banks, and business sector and sectors various projects.

Furthermore, the report reviewed financing via the different financing mechanisms as grants and loans, the country developmental level, financing channels as multi-lateral organizations, and civil society organization. The report provides policy makers and sectors expert with a prospect on the 2030 Agenda impact on sectorial strategy of the development partners.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to use private sector advanced technology and administrative experience in the management of the large and complicated programs, and to motivate private sector to provide social and public services.
- 2- The need for private sector to balance between his profit-making role and the harms that may affect the society and the environment due to his activity.
- 3- The importance of reconsidering this systemic change, which is essential in building partnerships and in sectors integrations.
- 4- Enhance sectors policies integrity on development partners national level using another strategies based on the cross cutting issues.
- 5- Development partners need to intensify their efforts in discussion, coordination, researches and provision of data enabling the utmost use of special resources, and formal grants for the implementation of sustainable development and to enhance its efficiency.

## "Demographic situation and the implementation of sustainable development goals and the soft power role

Conrad Hall (16:00 – 18:00)



### Facilitator

- Dr. Saeed Almasry Secretary General of Culture Supreme Council ARE

### Speakers

- Hala Yousef Regional consultant of population and development, Un Population Fund
- Mrs. Hala Abu Aly Economic expert and parliament member
- Consultant. Shoaab Desouky Population researches and studies department, League of Arab States consultant.
- Dr. Maged Othman Manager of Baseera center
- Dr. Nourhan Kandeel Nutrition specialist and blogger on social networking and the spokesman of the campaign "you are the most important"
- Dr. Amr Hassan Chief of National Council for Population ARE
- Mrs. Merouj Ibrahim Media director

### Theme of session:

A visual presentation is delivered on the joint Arab work in Development and Population, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of Sustainable development goals, on the demographic situation in Arab countries and its impact on sustainable development agenda.

Eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only essential right of human rights, but also a decisive action accelerating the implementation of sustainable development, furthermore empowering women and girls would have a double effect on pushing economic growth and development forward in all aspects.

It has proven that the three pillars of: civil society, arts and media have a great impact on formulating concepts as gender and equality, and on facing threatens and obstacles embedding ensuring equal rights in economic resources as land and property for woman, or ensuring the provision of high quality services of sexual and productive health.

### **Recommendation**

- 1- The need to highlight the gap that is still big between the current woman life and the woman negative stereotype image in media, as woman is less existed in the content or, expression and the time assigned to her, 76% of those who appear in media are men, as for women working in this vast media are less fame and experience, and their appearance is weaker than men, as for experts women, or formulas they only constitutes 18% of media coverage.
- 2- The need to disseminate targeted programs in media that help to disseminate an image more equal of man and woman in the Arab world and disseminate the positive messages that support woman.
- 3- Enhance policies that encourage women occupying leadership positions, and the positive role played by media of guiding public opinion to create woman supported community, which gives her the full opportunity to increase her efficiency and experiences for the implementation of sustainable Arab comprehensive development.
- 4- The need for effective cooperation between civil society, arts and new media represented in new social networking means as it has been proved that these three pillars have the most impact in formulating the gender concepts.
- 5- Activate the role of social networking in conveying Arab cultural and civilized message which represented in values, principals and positive thinking system to renounce gender based violence, and to highlight the women successful examples in the Arab community, as well as the developmental example which enrich the discussion of gender equality dimensions, seeking to implement the fifth goal of sustainable development goals.
- 6- Work on intensifying efforts for empowering the newly established Arab Council for Population and Development in the League of Arab States system, to undertake its responsibilities, which in turn supports population issue on the regional and Arab levels.
- 7- Assure the close and integral relation between the International Conference on Population and Development's Agenda and Cairo Declaration and the 2030 sustainable development agenda, and to

assure also the need to focus on population dimension in the implementation of SDGs.

- 8- Call for youth political, social, and economic empowering, building their capacity and training them, in addition to engage the youth in policy making and implementing and monitoring population programs so as to use the demographic yield.
- 9- Introduce new indicators in conformity with the situation of countries facing crises to be included in population plans and policies.
- 10-Work on taking into consideration population dynamics in national and sub-national developmental plan for the implementation of balanced development.



## Support interdependencies of disaster risks, climate change and sustainable development goals

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Nile Hall (16:00 – 18:00)



### **Facilitator**

- Dr. Adel Abdul Latief Senior strategic consultant of UNDP Arab countries regional office

### **Speakers**

- Dr, Hesham Elaskari Computer science and post graduate program manager- Chapman University California
- Dr. Ismail Abdul Jaleel Desertification Expert
- Dr, Wadeed Erian Climate Risks Initiative Program Coordinator

### **Theme of the session**

The participants discussed the alignment of partners and stakeholders in reducing the disaster risks in conformity with Paris Agreement on climate change and Sendai framework for Disaster Risks Reduction, taking the desertification as example and factor of climate change factors, which resulted in social problems as displacement and emigration from countries. It also addressed the use of scientific technics and modern technology as early warning in risk management reaching to balance the urban and rural development.

## Recommendations

- 1- Support coordination between all partners of disaster risks reduction for the alignment of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 -2030 to ensure that climate and other phenomena challenges are actually included in sustainable development strategy.
- 2- The significance of addressing the desertification issue as an obstacle before the implementation of sustainable development in the Arab region, and one reason of population displacement from rural regions and emigration especially among youth.
- 3- Science and technology is the base of monitoring risks, and the early warning and that is essential in risk management, and reducing its environmental, social, economic negative impacts.
- 4- Local societies is interested in addressing risks of dryness, to put strategy of building resilience and flexibility, particularly regarding environmental, social and economic aspects.
- 5- Balance between rural development and urban development, an important input to the stability of food, water and human security in the Arab region.



## Corporate citizenship and the ways to achieve sustainable development

Wednesday 21 November 2018

Conrad Hall

(9:00 – 10:45)



### Chairman:

- Mr. Hassan Mustafa Chairman of board of director, and The executive Manager of CSR Egypt Company

### Speakers

- Eng. Amany Arafa Member of board of director the Feral Egyptian Assembly for mentally disabled "Reaia"
- Mrs. Reem Seiam Chairman of Economic council of Alexandria business women affiliated to The Egyptian Chamber of Commerce Federation Mrs.
- Eng. Shehab Elnawawy Chairman of board of director, and The executive Manager of Giza Systems
- Mr. Moataz Darwesh Deputy Chairman of the board of Shell Egypt
- Dr. Neveen Abdul Khalek Deputy Managing Director and Human resources and institutional development of Engineers Consultant Group

## **Theme of the session**

The session is aimed at disseminating the significance of corporate citizenship concept, and how it reflected in the implementation of sustainable growth that led to the implementation of sustainable development on the ground, in addition to the implementation of corporate citizenship mechanisms, and how to achieve effective partnerships and the characteristics of effective partnerships, it also discussed the responsibilities of these corporates before the shareholders, besides highlighting its responsibility before the community.

The session also discussed integrating sustainable development strategies within the general strategy of investment entities, and it also discussed ways of integrating the development partners efforts (government – private sector – civil society – media), in addition to highlight the mechanism of applying the concept of "Go Green"

## **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to take care of workers and improve the work environment to promote their productive capability.
- 2- Make initiatives for promoting leadership and business models based on sustainability principles and green economy.
- 3- Activate the role of civil society in woman supporting and empowering through supporting her business activities and fostering her efficiency by training.
- 4- Corporate commitment with citizenship concept to ensure the satisfaction of shareholders and other community parties dealing with it.
- 5- The need to pay attention to vocational education as it is important part of achieving sustainable growth.
- 6- Unify the efforts exerted by the corporates working in the field of Energy to support small enterprises, and disseminate the culture of using green energy.

## "Together to eliminate malnutrition"

Wednesday 21 November 2018

Nile Hall (9:00 - 10:45)



### The Chairman

- Mrs. Nahla Kamal Head of corporate affairs of MENA region Nestle Company

### Speakers

- Dr. Adel Eladawy Former Minister of Health ARE
- Dr. Ahmed Elbleedy Member of the Egyptian Medical Association, Children Medical Association, and Egyptian Association for New born care
- Dr. Abla Elalfy Head of the Egyptian Association of Members of Royal Collage for Pediatrics and Child Health
- Regional Director of Health and Wellness for nutrition Nestle Company – Mr. Sara Kanaan Middle East

### Theme of the session

The session included a seminar on fighting malnutrition in Arab world through determining the problem size and its impact on people and society, the importance of early interference, and finding ways of public and private sectors partnerships, then afterwards making recommendations in order to set a comprehensive strategy to eliminate malnutrition and participate in the implementation of sustainable development goals.

## Recommendations

- 1- Create effective system of the examination, diagnosis, and management for malnutrition treatment, and to focus on the first 1000 days after being pregnant.
- 2- Integrate and adjusting nutrition goals in development policy and executive programs of each country to ease the implementation of sustainable development goals in the Arab region
- 3- Engage the private sector in supporting the implementation of effective and directed solutions to serve the national plans in fighting malnutrition. Nestle company, in this context, can lead the efforts under the League of Arab States umbrella to urge private sector to pledge to reduce sugar, salt, and fats in its products.
- 4- Coordinate and cooperate among Arab countries in fighting malnutrition under the umbrella of League of Arab States.



## "Investing in small and medium enterprises"

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

Conrad Hall (11:00 – 12:45)



### Facilitator

- Mrs. Reem Al-Saady Regional manager of small and medium enterprises Program of the European Bank for Restructure and Development

### Speakers

- Dr. Heba Aly Executive manager of European Bank for Restructure and Development
- Mr. Ahmed Bahaa Shalaby Managing director of MB for Engineering
- Dr. Waeil Desouki Director of Entrepreneurship Center of Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime

### Theme of the session

The session presented an overview of European Bank for Restructure and Development to support competitiveness and the growth of small and medium enterprises, and the new emerging companies, consultant services and business development for small and medium sized enterprise and others.

The session included two presentations by two corporates benefited the European Bank for Restructure and Development, and provided consultancy to enhance its works. The two corporates presented their experience and how they could manage to preserve their works.

During the same session, one of the main consultants in the European Bank for Restructure and Development delivered his speech on the potentials of small and medium enterprises and newly emerged corporates in Egypt, furthermore a number of advices are given to be adhered with as commitment, the need to well-formed work team, speedy growing entrepreneurship, and not to be over a year or two, to know the reason behind entrepreneurship, and the time to be convenient for implementing the idea, and the idea to be new and desired.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to support the role of university as the basis of youth qualification to be able to perform investments works
- 2- The need to psychologically and financially support the youth and to raise their scientific and knowledge capacity.
- 3- The significance of giving the priority to scientific research development as essential factor in corporate structure, with no new entrepreneurs, we will not be able to cope with labor market.

## "Interdependencies frameworks of sustainable development national forums"

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018



### Facilitator

- Dr. Emad Eldeen Adly General Coordinator of environment Arab Network, Chairman of board of trustees of sustainable development of Egyptian forum

### Speakers

- Dr. Almohamdi Eid Vice President of Sustainable Development Egyptian Forum
- Dr. Anhar Hegazy Sustainable Development Egyptian Forum
- Dr. Hala Yuosry Anthropologist in Desert Researches Center and A member of Sustainable Development Egyptian Forum.

### Theme of t session

The attendees discussed the growing role of civil societies in Arab countries and their engagement in Arab region, and the ways to achieve integrity of all parties for the implementation of environmental, social, and economic plans in the context of the implementation of sustainable development goals. In addition to the need to create a civil vision on the persistent issues on the Arab arena in conformity with sustainable development UN strategy.

Under the concrete challenges, financing opportunities for sustainable development national forum in the Arab countries has been monitored. In addition to a rational framework of the cooperation opportunities between national forums, sustainable development forum and Arab committee for sustainable development of the League of Arab States has been set. As well as highlighting the partnerships role as one important input of the implementation of sustainable development, particularly, between governmental, civil and private sectors.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- The need to introduce institutional framework for the management of sustainable development in each country similarly as the model of sustainable development Egyptian Forum of ARE.
- 2- Establish regional network relevant to the implementation of sustainable development, and to be enabled of monitoring the progress achieved regarding sustainability and to track indicators.
- 3- Support the international, regional and national partnerships with the all various social sectors, under the League of Arab States umbrella.
- 4- Prepare Arab shadow report to measure progress in the implementation of sustainable development goals.
- 5- Call Arab governments to more flexibility in dealing with civil society organizations to enhance their engagement in the implementation of sustainable development goals.
- 6- Establishing media platform with the purpose of exchanging experiences between countries from one hand, and to be used in spreading awareness of Sustainable Development from the other hand.
- 7- Necessity of attaching much attention to activate education for sustainability principles in the Arab countries and strengthen regional cooperation in this regard.
- 8- Attaching attention to integrate sectors of youth and women into outreach plans and strategies as well as sustainability capacity building.
- 9- Calling for creation of incentives to achieve private sector attraction and integration into actions to achieve sustainable development.
- 10 - Regional cooperation by concluding outreach protocols between civil society organizations and League of Arab States.
- 11 - Building environmental media cadres aware of the sustainable development and goals thereof.
- 12- Referring to the Administrative Capital as guidance for being one of the most important repeatable sustainable models. 13- Drafting of regional projects on sustainable development and searching for implementation funding opportunities.

## “Role of Youth in implementing 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2018

Conrad Hall (13:00 – 15:00)



### Chairman

Secretary General of Arab Youth for Sustainable Development. Mr. -  
Walid Atef,

### Facilitator

- Mrs. Dalia Ashraf, Media Director at DMC Channel

### Speakers

- Her Excellency Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform in Arab Republic of Egypt.
- Mr. Sameh Kamel, regional representative of the Middle East and North Africa for United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs at Arab Youth for Sustainable Development.
- Razan Farhan Alaqil, a board member of the Saudi Federation of Mass Participation.

- Dr. Ismail Anwar, Lecturer and Consultant of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Cairo University and a Co-Founder of Curo Trip company for therapeutic tourism services.
- Mr. Abdelrahman Ayman, Co-Founder of Leadership Factory and Global President of AIESEC International Organization 2017 – 2018.
- Mrs. Saba Youssef, Secretary of specialist committees at Arab Youth for Sustainable Development.
- Mrs. Yousra Ahmad, Director of Economic Relations Department at October 6 University and Academic Supervisor of Enact us, October 6 that won second place at Entrepreneurship World Cup 2018.

### **Theme of the session**

According to UN Secretary General's Office for Youth Affairs, Youth represent about 28% of Middle East and Northern African population, to be the largest worldwide number of youth ever, creating unprecedented capabilities for economy and social progress.

In addition, the active participation of youth in development focuses on developing, implementing, monitoring, following-up and reviewing development policies that promote inclusive societies, guarantee not to leave any one behind and lead to creativity and approach entrepreneurship.

In this spirit, Arab Youth for Sustainable Development organized a panel discussion on the value of youth participation in designing, implementing, monitoring, following-up and reviewing UN sustainable development agenda 2030 at the global and regional levels as well as addressing the best way for youth to participate in implementation, follow-up and review of 2030 plan in the Arab region.

Light was also shed on successful examples for youth participation from international and national entities and how these leaders helped youth to draft global agenda as well as national vision thereof.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Establish Arab Youth Council for sustainable development In order to promote UN youth strategy, the Arab Youth Council for Sustainable Development to be established as one of youth councils aiming for youth participation in the implementation of sustainable development goals 2030 and including main Arab youth entities, particularly those related to sustainable development goals as well as youth representatives.
- 2- Youth to be represented abroad in international conferences  
Facilitate Arab youth participation in international conferences, forums and summits to allow youth contribution in developments.
- 3- Arab Youth Council for Sustainable Development forum to be held

In order to activate priority areas of UN youth strategy, “Arab Youth Council for Sustainable Development forum” to be held annually as one of the preparatory events related to “The Arab Sustainable Development Week”.

- 4- Disseminate sustainable development concept among Arab youth
- By launching “Arab Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development Goals outreach” that works on four main pillars:

- Field outreach (Arab schools and universities).
- Media outreach (TV interviews).
- Cultural outreach (Forums, conferences and workshops).
- Outreach via social media.

5- Launch and support youth creativities

- An enabling environment for Arab youth to launch creativities thereof to be promoted by holding workshops and panel discussions and by providing support for their ideas to be carried out as well as consultative guidance for sustainability thereof.

6-Youth to be involved in the implementation of sustainable development goals by youth initiatives adoption

- “Idea adoption committee” to be formed in order to adopt creative ideas of Arab youth and translate them into youth initiatives and programmes that help in the implementation of sustainable development goals in the Arab countries. Such committee includes academics as well as members of Arab youth initiatives.

7- Arab youth to be attracted and encouraged to carry out volunteer work

- By disseminating volunteer work concept among Arab youth via “Arab Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development Goals outreach” to be launched, and by allowing participation of Arab Youth Sustainable Development Council in events and initiatives as well.

**“Rural-Urban Interdependence”**  
**Wednesday, 21st of November, 2018**  
**Nile Hall (13:00 – 15:00)**



**Chairman**

- Mrs. Nada El Agizy, Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at League of Arab States.

**Facilitator**

- Mrs. Zena Ali Ahmad, Director for UNHABITAT Regional Office for Arab States.

**Speakers**

- Mrs. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director for Arab States at International Organization for Migration.
- Mr. Ahmad Saad El Din, Regional Director for the Middle East at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- Mrs. Rania Hedeya, Director of UN-Habitat Egypt Country Program.
- Mr. Salah Zoughaib, Independent Expert.
- Mr. Dawood El-Gendi Sulaiman, Iraq's Nineveh Governorate member

## **Theme of the session**

The session started with a review of rural-urban splits in the region then turned to challenges of such split, including impacts thereof on rural-urban areas development.

There is a need to overcome rural-urban splits in rapidly urbanizing area by ensuring the interdependence of economy, environment and governance in order to achieve resilience, balanced development and poverty reduction.

In the Arab region, there are disparities among and inside states with a major imbalance in human, social and economic indicators between urban and rural areas. Such imbalance has great impacts on state development process, and bridging the rural-urban economic gap is thus a part of solving the problem.

The session has addressed such protracted issue that is very sensitive as for the urban-rural interdependencies to achieve states' development welfare and that studies the prevailing patterns in the region in order to understand major drivers, determine consequences and come up with future recommendations for the development of policies and programs.

The session has also addressed topics like agriculture as being one of the major factors to achieve food security, rural-urban compatibility as a key for future sustainable development and poverty ratio that increases in rural areas than in urban areas in all Arab states.

Concerning migration and reasons thereof, Mrs. Carmela discussed negative indicators resulting from migration from rural areas to urban areas including low and neglected agricultural production, search for service utilities and conversion of agricultural land into land for construction.

## **Recommendations**

- 1- The need for holding a meeting by a group of specialized experts to consider the issue deeply and a meeting for Arab experts should be held to discuss planning issues, including land-use planning, governance and legislative frameworks, provision of required services, infrastructure and capabilities, culture, aspirations and gaps among generations as well as conflict-related migration.
- 2- Issues related to digital gap and technology, including destructive technologies, should be considered regarding their impacts on rural-urban imbalances.

- 3- Planning is one of the major issues that affect the rural-urban gap, including strategic planning and the need for integrated vertical and horizontal relationships.
- 4- Partners, stakeholders and citizens should be involved in the decision-making process.
- 5- Common economic prosperity issues of rural and urban areas should be taken into consideration.
- 6- Land tenure needs to be analyzed, discussed and formalized since it is considered an essential physical capital for marginalized and poor people.
- 7- Climate change is one driver for migration from rural areas to urban areas. Actions therefore should be taken to address such impact to achieve stability of rural population in their regions.
- 8- Cultural issues are essential and should be taken into consideration and included in any discussion pertaining to rural-urban development relationship.
- 9- Private sector should undertake an active role and contribute to gap reduction of rural-urban development as well as the effective interference of such development in conformity with local development and sustainable development goals.
- 10-Income and labor prospective should be developed by creating more sustainable livelihood frameworks bearing in mind social capital, land ownership and resources.
- 11-Migration is more than a mere movement. It is rather a mechanism to deal with weak categories of population under pressure. Migrants and refugees in host states should be considered as resources rather than burdens.

**“Cities have identity and Spirit”  
Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2018  
Nile Hall (16:00 – 18:00)**



**Facilitator**

- - Mrs. Noha El Mikawy, Ford's Executive Director for the Middle East and North Africa Office
- - **Speakers**
- 
- Mr. Ahmad Mansour, Built Environment Collective / Megawra
- Mrs. Abir Saksouk, Co-founder of Public Works Studio
- Mrs. Mona Fawaz, Associate professor of Urban Planning and Design and Co-Director of Urban Studies
- Mrs. Rima Mismar, Executive Director of Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC)
- Mr. Dawood El-Gendi Sulaiman, Iraq's Nineveh Governorate council member

**Theme of the Session**

The Arab Region is one of the fastest urban areas in the world, as 56% of the populations amounting to 357 million live in cities with an increase in such number. Population growth, climate change and promise of a better and safer life lead more people to search for their destiny in cities even with a capacity problem thereof.

Members of League of Arab States declared their obligation to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” (Goal 11 of Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2015 as well as Arab states strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030).

As League of Arab States as well as national and local governments move forward to carry out such obligations, participants reviewed the main factors forming the Arab city and how can cultural heritage’s perspectives which focus more on humans in the region help cities to preserve spirit thereof and expand its identity to become more inclusive, more secure, more resilient and more sustainable for the growing population thereof and also what are the proven practices helping in the implementation thereof. The session has also addressed emerging approach and practices for an inclusive, sustainable and rooted development in the identity and spirit of the Arab city at national, local and vital levels.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Good planning as well as reference to geological and climate factors of territories as well as the region are considered of the major steps necessary for construction and reconstruction.
- 2- “Green building” concept should be supported.
- 3- Different sectors should cooperate together to form a strong core for participation and reconstruction.

**American University: “Educational Improvement and Development and respective Impacts”  
Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2018  
Aida Hall (16:00 – 18:00)**



**Chairman**

- Dr. Mohammad Siraj, Professor of Islamic Studies at The American University in Cairo (AUC)

**Rapporteur**

- Dr. Wafia Hamouda, Lecturer at The American University in Cairo (AUC)

**Speakers**

- Dr. Yasmin Amin, Muslims’ affairs Advisor at the British Parliament and Advisor of UK Muslim Women’s Council
- Dr. Brian Wright, Researcher in jurisprudence, principles of jurisprudence and Sharia, Islamic legal and Sufi development as well as Qur’anic studies
- Dr. Amr Shalakany, Associate Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Law and Society Research Unit at The American University in Cairo (AUC)

- Dr. Loay El-Shawarby, Professor of Business Administration Law at The American University in Cairo (AUC)
- Dr. Moatasem el-Gheriani, German University of Cairo (GUC)

### **Theme of the sessio**

The session has addressed a project presentation of the Department of Islamic Studies at AUC on the preparation, analysis and collection of archival materials selected from court cases of Islamic Sharia within four historical periods; the early classical period, pre-modern time era, the nineteenth century and modern times.

Ways to issue regular leaflets that provide legal issues in both English and Arabic languages to be used as educational materials that allow critical thinking and active inductive learning as well as ways to promote involvement in the development of legal education in the Arab World were also discussed.

### **Recommendations**

- 1- Work with the Department of Sustainable Development at AUC to reach an agreement on legal education development in the Arab region, and seek to issue a memorandum of understanding among member states as a fundamental pillar to achieve sustainable development goals, particularly via Arab Studies Institution of the Arab League that had the head start in that context from the beginning.
- 2- Communicate with variant institutions and departments of League of Arab States (e.g. Arab Studies Institution) to create a comparative law unit that works to unify laws in Arab member states in order to activate a legal, judicial and educational system that helps in the development and regulation of the status of women and children, the elimination of poverty and hunger, the conservation of resources and the rationalization thereof.
- 3- Encourage AUC Students to participate in the sustainable development youth platform of the League of Arab States and to work and coordinate between the administration of the League of Arab States and The American University in Cairo and partners thereof to activate a research agenda relevant to sustainable development goals and to assess what has been achieved and consider obstacles as well as ways to overcome such obstacles.
- 4- Emphasize the necessity of participation in international forums to present the importance of sustainable development in developing

the Arab region, ending conflicts thereof and achieving equality of opportunity among citizens in the region.





### Speakers

- Her Excellency Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mr. Richard Dictus, UN Resident Coordinator in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Ambassador Khalil Zawady, Assistant Secretary General and Head of the Arab Affairs and National Security at the League of Arab States
- His Excellency Engineer Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Her Excellency Dr. Yasmin Fouad, Minister of Environment in Arab Republic of Egypt

## **Speech of Her Excellency Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform**

I have the pleasure to meet you again on the closing day of the second Arab Sustainable Development Week hosted by Egypt and under the generous auspices of the President of the Republic. During the last three days, we were pleased with the distinguished and high level attendees of the week's sessions and events. Such concrete interaction is commensurate with the importance of issues and topics addressed during such sessions. We would like to reiterate that the Arab Sustainable Development Week represents an Arab forum and an annual occasion that gather in one place all development partners; including representatives of governments, private sector, civil society, women, youth, media, in addition to Arab, regional and international organizations as well as specialized research universities and centers in order to discuss and consider the present and future of the achievement of sustainable development in our Arab region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As culminating success of this week's events, the closing day comes in such distinguished event "Egypt Day" to highlight the Egyptian experience in sustainable development as well as the serious work and fruitful cooperation started by Egypt during recent years among all development partners. The Arab Republic of Egypt has always been keen on coordination, cooperation as well as exchange of successful expertise and experience with Arab brothers in all issues and topics; primarily development issues. Challenges facing our Arab states – despite being different in severity – are still similar and what we all hope and seek to is a better future in which the Egyptian citizen reaps the benefits of development including good life (degnified life) as well as prosperity.

When Egypt started efforts thereof four years ago to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic, social and environmental development, such efforts were launched amid several challenges and difficulties due to political changes that Egypt witnessed in 2011 as well as economic consequences thereof which cumulatively resulted in a decline in performance and macro indicators via a decrease in growth rates, investment and operation, and general state revenues, as well as an overall deficit increase, a balance-of-payment deficit and a lowest level decline in cash reserve, in addition to regional and international political and economic changes as well as events witnessed in the Arab region and Egypt's neighboring states which increased the severity of challenges and difficulties facing the Egyptian economy.

State of Egypt developed a comprehensive strategy for achieving development represented in “Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030” launched by the government in February, 2016 in the presence of the President of the Republic to assure attention and support given to such strategy and that it is considered to be the general framework organizing work programs in the coming years. As part of such framework came The Social and Economic Reform Program which the government started to implement as of November, 2016 and via which the state has carried out several reforms and taken actions to achieve an inclusive and sustainable growth by liberalization of exchange rate as well as structural reform of some sectors, primarily the energy sector, in order to increase competitive capabilities, restore investors’ confidence in the Egyptian economy and stimulate economic growth led by the private sector as a government’s main partner in achieving the development. Such actions and reforms were based on:

First: Reform existing legislative and institutional system by issuing a set of laws and legislations aiming to increase institutional efficiency and configure business environment (Industrial Licensing Act, New Investment Law and Bankruptcy or out of Market Law) in order to simplify procedures of project establishment and encourage private sector as well as local and foreign investments, in addition to actions taken to support and encourage small and medium enterprises to create suitable job opportunities.

Second: Work on configuring main infrastructure needed for development process by intensifying investment in infrastructure projects, most importantly the national network of road project and the energy sector’s projects including the expansion of new and renewable energy production projects (establishment of the world’s largest solar energy plant in Ban ban region in Aswan governorate), in addition to Suez Canal axis development projects as well as the establishment of industrial regions and new cities including the new administrative capital and other major national projects.

Third: Reform the state’s administrative machinery for the purposes of increasing institutional efficiency and configuring business environment that supports the private sector’s role and attracts local and foreign investment, and for being a main factor for achieving inclusive and sustainable development as well as Egypt Vision 2030. This can take place by implementing a comprehensive strategy for administrative reform of which implementation is supervised by the Ministry of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform and which includes a number of pillars, most importantly the legislative reform, modernization of laws organizing the work of the state’s administrative

apparatus, institutional development, creation of new departments for human resources, internal review and scrutiny, training and building capacities at different administrative levels, in addition to the enhancement and automation of governmental services. This context also includes the dissemination of the culture and concept of institutional excellence inside the state's administrative machinery, promotion of competitive performance, creativity as well as sustainable development of capabilities or services by launching Egypt Government Excellence Award (Last week).

Fourth: Shift to be a digital community, as the Egyptian government adopts a serious trend to achieve that transition and to stimulate and encourage the use of e-payment methods and achieve the financial inclusion as one pillar of the inclusive and sustainable economic and social development, This is considered to be one of the main goals of plans and programmes of the government's work to implement "Egypt Vision 2030". This trend as well as steps and executive actions thereof are fully supported by the political leadership and the establishment of the National Council for Payments in February, 2017 headed by the President of the Republic with the membership of the Central Bank of Egypt as well as competent authorities was part of that context.

I would like here to confirm that all these efforts are taking place through a participatory approach taken by the Egyptian state to mobilize all available resources and capabilities of the government, private sector and civil society, with an active participation of the community in which youth and women play a prominent role in achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

The Egyptian state perceives youth as being the present and future of the development process. The government therefore carries out several training and capacity building programs, including training programs, scholarships for young people working at state's administrative apparatus, Government Business Administration Program in cooperation with ESLSCA Egypt, Presidential Leadership Program (PLP), establishment of National Academy for Youth Training and Rehabilitation, in addition to the encouragement of entrepreneurship, creativity and entrepreneurial culture among youth (Entrepreneurs Program 2030). All that is preceded by the constant interest of the state, starting from the political leadership, in reaching permanent contact and dialogue with youth via holding regular and periodic youth conferences attended by the President of the Republic. Such conferences witness notable interaction as well as success and has developed and expanded within the last two years to become an Egyptian global event with Sharm El-Sheikh City organizing and hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Youth Forum in early November.

While speaking about the participation of community in implementing Egypt Vision 2030, it is necessary to indicate the role of the Egyptian woman in that area as well as the political leadership's confidence in her to carry out that role. Woman has become an active partner with man, either at the executive level, assuming leadership positions and political participation, with 8 ministerial portfolios held by women in the Egyptian government, accounting for one quarter of the government's members (25%) which represents a ratio exceeding the representation of women in many developed states, or at the economic level and labor market participation, or in women's presence and assumption of leadership positions at state's administrative apparatus. I would like to refer here that such Egyptian trend to encourage women's participation and role in development is compatible with recommendations of the studies which indicate that increasing women's participation in labor market as well as equality promote economic growth opportunities. (Aguirre Study – An increase in the ratio of woman's/women's participation in labor market with the same ratio of men's participation leads to an increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of states with different ratios, including Egypt (34%).

I also confirm here that despite challenges, we have already started to reap initial positive benefits and outcomes for reforms and efforts exerted during the recent period, most importantly are the following:

- The Egyptian economy has achieved the highest annual growth rate since ten years, 5.3% during fiscal year 17/2018. The same rate has been achieved in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 18/2019 compared to 2.9% growth rate of the fiscal year 13/2014. We are talking here about a progressive growth rate including for the first time positive growth rates in all economic sectors as well as a radical change in the philosophy and structure of the achieved economic growth led by investment and net exports (74% of the source of growth achieved) rather than consumption.
- One of the positive indicators achieved is a decline in the unemployment rate to 9.9% compared to 13.2% in 13/2014.
- Balance of payments on the other hand achieved a surplus of nearly US\$12.8 billion in 17/2018 compared to a deficit of US\$11.3 billion in 11/2012.

- Foreign cash reserve also increased from US\$14.9 billion (in June, 2014) to US\$ 44.5 billion (in October, 2018) covering nine months of merchandise imports up from only three months that were previously covered.
- As reaping benefits of public investments pumped by the state within the previous four years of about one trillion Egyptian pounds (EGP), the first quarter of the current year 18/2019 witnessed the completion of 425 projects at a cost of 44 billion EGP in many sectors, primarily: electricity, housing, oil and education.
- Such positive outcomes were promoted by the optimistic outlook of credit rating agencies and international institutions of the Egyptian economy. Egypt's credit rating therefore improved (from stable to positive) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) keeps looking positively to the Egyptian economy expecting a growth rate of 5.3% in 2018 and 5.5% in 2019 despite difficulties which face the global economy and which lead IMF to decrease global economy growth expectations thereof in the next two years.
- The Egyptian state seeks to complete the steps and the hard work which it has started during the previous period within the framework of the National Program of Economic and Social Reform and Egypt Vision 2030,
- The government developed a comprehensive work program for the next four years (2018 – 2022) that focuses on:
  - Give top priority to Egyptian national security in its broad sense that includes citizen security, water security, food security and energy security and keep investing in humans by setting a plan for a comprehensive building of the Egyptian citizens in all areas: health, education, culture and sports.
  - Keep working to raise sustainable economic growth rates via the promotion of private investment's role in driving such growth by continuing efforts exerted to enhance business environment, particularly the automation of the incorporation of companies as well as simplification and reduction of costs of procedures thereof, and via the expansion of free zones and establishment of 12 new investment areas as well as formation of a comprehensive platform to stimulate the entrepreneurial environment through four main pillars; funding, rehabilitation of entrepreneurs as well as entrepreneurship service centers and the new legislative and regulatory reforms.

- The government also attaches great importance to give a development push to promising sectors with value added that have strong interrelations with the rest of sectors (e.g. processing industry, wholesale and retail trade, tourism, constructions, real estate activities and utilities, communications and information technology, extraction activity and agriculture). A work plan is currently prepared to carry out structural reforms in such sectors and to determine implementation programs and mechanisms as well as performance indicators via the coordination among all ministries and stakeholders and through cooperation and partnership with the private sector, in addition to the development of micro, small and medium enterprises as well as the promotion of interrelations with large enterprises.
- To mitigate impacts of reform program application on citizens, the government gives top priority to the social dimension in achieving development, as the government's work program includes a major focus on the enhancement of citizens' standard of living by establishing 14 new cities of the fourth generation over an area of 450 thousand acres in order to increase urbanization and to relieve pressure on services available in the existing cities, and also on the completion of insecure areas development, the expansion of the provision of adequate housing units to all citizens by building 764 thousand housing units provided in the social housing project and about 400 thousand units more provided in the middle-income housing, the establishment of 1600 km. in the national road network, the enhancement of drinking water services by implementing 265 projects in addition to 594 sanitation services development projects as well as the expansion of social safety nets via Takaful and Karama (Solidarity and Dignity) Program (to get about 18 million citizens covered).
- The government seeks on the other hand to create more effective partnership opportunities between public and private sectors to implement joint investments that achieve mutual benefits and interests and help at the same time to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. One of such mechanisms is Egypt's Sovereign Wealth Fund (under the decree of the President of the Republic in August, 2018 on the issuance of Law No. 177 of the year 2018 with a registered capital of 200 billion Egyptian pounds (EGP) and paid-in capital of 5 billion Egyptian pounds) that aims to mobilize resources and make greater use of State's untapped capabilities, assets and resources in order to maximize their value and increase joint investment with the private sector, investment institutions and Arab and international sovereign funds to give a strong push to sustainable

development that protects interests and rights of the coming generations.

Ladies and gentlemen .....

I would like to confirm here that Egypt's efforts to achieve a nationwide development do not distract it from its effective role in achieving sustainable development either at the international or the regional and Arab level. Egypt participates in all initiatives and efforts exerted to achieve sustainable development at League of Arab States. The Egyptian role in that area is based on a firm belief in the importance of complementarity of variant development efforts and initiatives as well as the need for states' harmonized and supporting efforts.

We are fully aware that the Arab citizen is still waiting for more and that he indeed deserves that. Let's therefore seize this momentum as well as the attention given to the Arab Sustainable Development Week in order to reach clear visions and applicable work programmes via which national, Arab and international efforts integrate to achieve inclusive and sustainable development meeting the aspirations of our people.

Allow me in such occasion to ask the Assembly to adopt this week a recommendation on the establishment of a Development Observatory for Arab states embraced by League of Arab States to monitor results and accomplishments achieved in our Arab states for the implementation of sustainable development goals and to support Arab-national efforts exerted to implement such goals in the light of opportunities and capabilities that our states have. It is also my pleasure to confirm that Egypt is willing to fully cooperate with Arab brothers in order to establish and support the role of this Observatory in the light of the expertise thereof in such area (via Central Bureau of General Mobilization and Statistics).

Finally, I would like to thank League of Arab States, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform in Arab Republic of Egypt, World Bank, United Nations Organization and all the staff working on good arrangement and organization of The Arab Sustainable Development Week,

I would like to wish that this effort be crowned with success.

## Recommendations

- Shed light on the energy sector in the economic reform due to the importance and impact of such sector.
- Devote attention to the role of youth in governmental entrepreneurship and give them opportunities through training courses as well as Master of Governmental Entrepreneurship.
- Devote attention to sectors of (commerce, tourism, constructions, transportations, extractions and agriculture) in the economic reform in order not to hinder progress and reform in the rest of sectors.
- Establish a Development Observatory embraced by League of Arab States to monitor accomplishments and results in Arab states in order to achieve sustainable development goals and to support Arab-national efforts exerted to achieve such goals in the light of opportunities and capabilities that our states have.
- Invest in humans and Egyptian citizens (Education, culture, health and marginalized groups).
- Establish information centers at universities to build capacity and export skills to Arab, African and European states.
- Develop Palaces of Culture by providing computer labs with equipment and holding training courses for skill development in science and technology sectors.
- Ministry of Health seeks to establish remote diagnosis centers as well as the first technical center for disabled.
- Create a digital participatory environment for performance control (performance measurement standards for each plan) with Ministry of Planning.
- Conserve natural resources and implement Egypt's commitments in the international agreements.
- Implement priorities of the government's programme including: improvement of River Nile water quality / improvement of air

quality / development of waste system / increasing the efficiency of the main environment of investment in natural reserves.

- Devote attention to scientific research in order to reduce the gap between policy and science and also without attaching attention to scientific research, there will be no good for the proposed scientific Observatory. An Example is the absence of required Arab representation in the number of researchers in climate change reports or others.
- To close the funding gap internationally in achieving sustainable development goals: 1- Benefit from practices of the private sector in the Arab region as well as the way of sharing experience from such sector, in a voluntary then compulsory procedure, and the private sector will accept that due to the application of new energy prices and the achievement of higher profit margin. 2- Integration of environmental dimension in all sectors as well as non-environmental sectors will save the cost of sustainability future reforms.
- Benefit from successful experiences of Arab states similar to Egypt in: (sustainable energy, optimal use of recycling, actions taken to reduce hazardous wastes and use of green and circular economy) via localization process.
- Integrate sustainable development concepts into curriculums in order to create a new generation with behaviors and practices compatible with sustainable development goals.
- Egypt is in the forefront of the Arab states with regard to its care of sustainable development goals and many successes have been achieved however it still facing some challenges (population density, access to clean water and climate changes) that can be solved through investment in (humans, technology as well as science and trade).
- Emphasize the importance of scientific research in Egypt and that it is the future driver.

**“Prospects for Sustainable Development: Egypt Vision 2030”  
Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2018  
Conrad Hall (10:30 – 11:30)**



**Speakers**

- Dr. Ahmed Kamaly, Deputy Minister for Planning Affairs and Senior Advisor to the Minister of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform for Planning Affairs
- Dr. Hany Mahmoud, Chairman of Vodafone Egypt and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Terous Foundation
- Dr. Randa Abu El- Hassan, Director of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dr. Gehan Saleh, Economic Advisor for Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt
- Dr. Ahmed Zahran, Chairman of Board of Directors of Karmsolar Corporation

## Recommendations

- 1- Population intensity and water scarcity should be given priority in order to achieve sustainable development goals.
- 2- Coordinate internally and build partnerships among institutions of state's administrative machinery.
- 3- Activate the role of private sector and civil society by building partnerships aiming to achieve sustainable development goals.
- 4- Encourage private sector investment via Egypt's Sovereign Wealth Fund.
- 5- Benefit from experiences of development corporations in the international community.
- 6- Dimension Partnership: Each sector takes into consideration the three dimensions of sustainable development strategy (economic, social and environmental dimensions).
- 7- Egypt can only achieve progress in sustainable development area by building effective partnerships among governmental institutions, private sector and civil society.
- 8- Work of civil society institutions should be coordinated in order to avoid effort repetition and to guarantee that subsidies are given to those entitled thereto.
- 9- State's resources should be directed via sustainable plans as well as effort coordination in an institutionalized manner to achieve sustainable development.
- 10- Policies should be popularized, accelerated and supported for the implementation of sustainable development goals.
- 11- Limited resources should be targeted in priority areas for reaping quick and immediate benefits in order to maintain sustainable performance.
- 12- Work on political orientations to activate integration of development corporations to achieve goals.

13-Set ambitious goals as well as policies leading to achievement of goals.

14-Promotion of civil society institutions can help in reaping benefits of economic development and enhancing the status of middle-income group.

15-Integrated changes in policies are needed (through sectors and over the long term) to put Egypt on the right track of achieving sustainable development goals.

16-Some goals are more difficult to achieve (e.g. goals related to nutrition, sanitation and birth control), as they need effective and innovative policies.

17-Egypt needs more sustainable policies in water and food security as well as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

18-Development of main services infrastructure is necessary to cope with global technology developments in sustainable development area (e.g. transition from gasoline-powered vehicles to electricity-powered vehicles as well as the use of renewable energy in generating electricity).



## Sustainable Local Cities and Societies

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018

Nile Hall (10:30 – 12:00)



### Facilitator

- Mrs. Rania Hedeya, Member of UN-Habitat Egypt Country Programme

### Speakers

- Her Excellency Dr. Laila Iskander, Former Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Dr. Assem El Gazzar, Deputy Housing Minister in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Engineer Tarek Shoukry, Head of Chamber of Real Estate Development in Arab Republic of Egypt

## Recommendations

- 1- Urbanized areas in Egypt represent 7%, a ratio that is not enough to achieve financial return. Therefore, Egyptian national strategic plan 2052 aims to double urbanized areas up to (12% - 14%).
- 2- Establish a national cities network to attract urbanization and population, e.g.: (New El Alamein City, New East Port Said City and Nasser City).
- 3- To stimulate investors and developers to come back to Egypt after losing all incentives, e.g. cheap lands and tax exemption, a strategic change should take place in investment and real estate areas via the following:
  - Establish fully finished economic units of 120 m. area with variant prices of 800 – 900 thousand Egyptian pounds (EGP) to be paid in installments over a number of years. This can stimulate lower-income groups (40% to 50% of society) to move to other clean areas providing entertainment.
  - Projects carried out by private sector in variant areas in the state with help gaining profits for the government (increase in the meter price in the region) and for the private sector (project profitability), such as Sheikh Zayed district expansion project in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City.
- 4- Reasons of informal settlements increase: Concrete poverty and limited capabilities of the municipal to manage and enhance such areas, in addition to the request of population in such new areas to apply Security of Tenure Act, a law to inherit properties to children who will be obliged to pay for repairs of facilities.
- 5- Secure means of transportation available for everyone will solve many informal settlement problems and here comes the role of society.
- 6- Attach attention to urban planning graduates for their advanced and satisfactory thinking for society interests.
- 7- Attach attention to health units provided by the government and solve problems thereof including places, appointments and medical devices development.

## “Clean and Affordable Energy”

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018

Conrad Hall (12:00 – 13:15)



### Speakers:

- His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Shaker, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Engineer Emad Ghaly, Chief Executive Officer of Siemens corporation
- Dr. Khaled Abu Bakr, Executive Chairman of Board of TAQA Arabia Company and Representative of Egyptian institution of Electricity Producers and Distributors – under construction
- Dr. Sherif El kholy, Regional Director of Actus Corporation for Economic Investment
- Mr. Sherif El Gebaly, Chairman of Board of Directors of Enara Capital Group

## Recommendations

- 1- Support and stimulate the private sector to invest in renewable and conventional energy generation fields.
- 2- Encourage investment in renewable energy technology, particularly after the legislative transition via Feed-in tariff in renewable energy and electricity generation sector.
- 3- Maximize the role of cooperatives via electric utility regulatory body which is responsible for consumer protection as well as getting experts from non-governmental organizations to work in the electric utility regulatory body.
- 4- Youth should participate in international conferences in order to present their experiences in fields of renewable energy and electricity generation as well as sustainable cities.



## “Innovation and Scientific Research in the Service of Sustainable Development”

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018

Conrad Hall (13:45 – 15:15)



### Speakers:

- His Excellency Dr. Tarek Shawki, Minister of Education in Arab Republic of Egypt
- His Excellency Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mrs. Hanan Al Rihani, Head of Education Sector at Misr El Iheir Foundation
- Mrs. Nagwa El Sayed, Head of Scientific Research and Innovation Sector at Misr El Iheir Foundation
- Engineer Ahmed El Sewedy, El Sewedy Electric corporation
- Dr. Yasser Abdel Aziz, Journalist

### Recommendations

- 1- Reduce population growth rates.
- 2- Establish new schools to absorb population increase and reduce class density.

- 3- Establish new universities to absorb population increase, as it is supposed to have one university for every million.
- 4- Add new specializations at universities to cope with modern technology and new fields of specialization.
- 5- Educate parents about modern educational techniques and new systems.



## Environmental Dimension: Consumption and Production are the responsible

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018

Nile Hall (13:00 – 15:15)



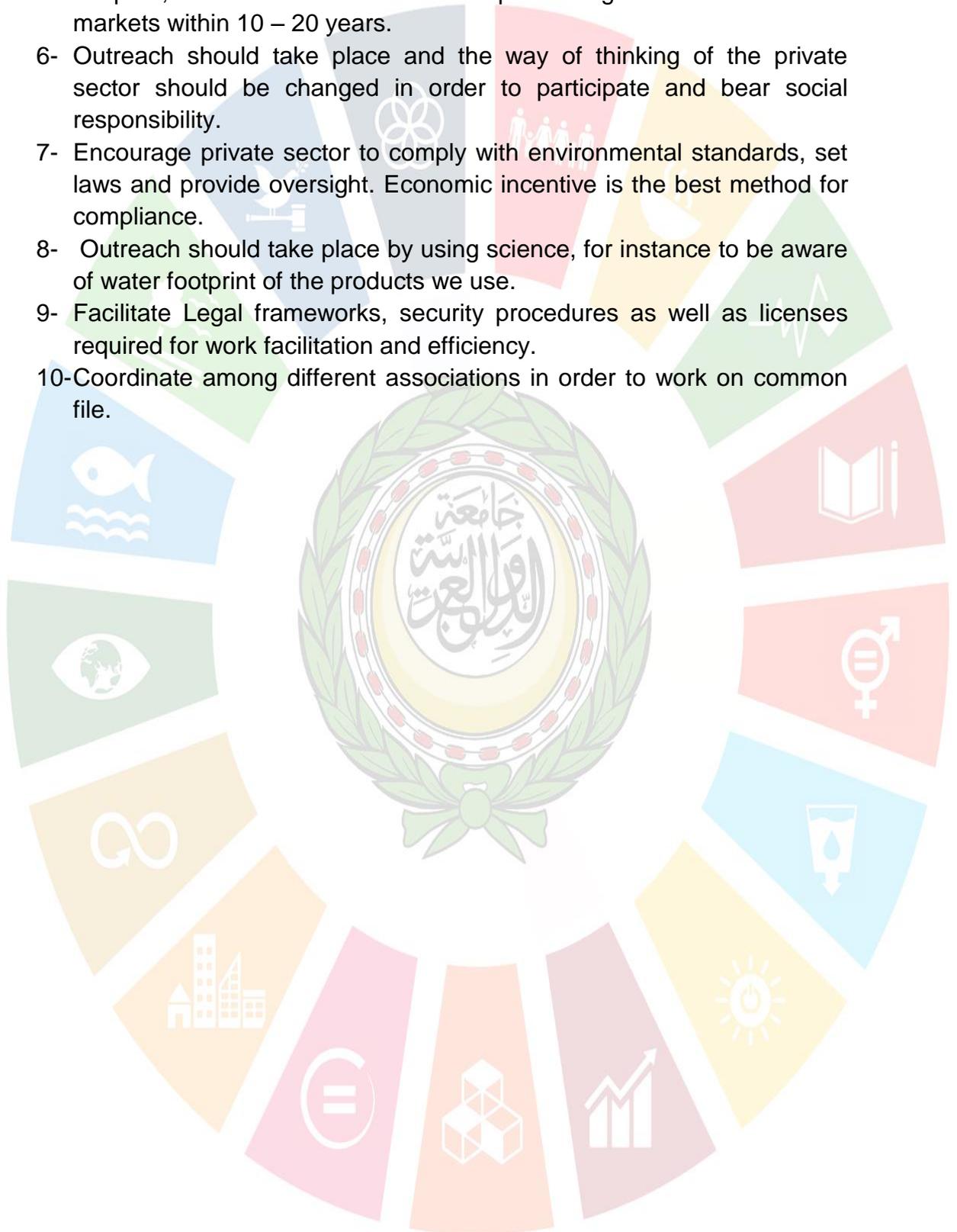
### Speakers:

- Dr. Mohamed Salah, Executive Chairman of Environmental Affairs Agency in Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mrs. Seyada Elhamy Gergis, Head of Association for protection of Environment (APE)
- Dr. Omar Eldahan, Assistant to the President of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development
- Dina Abdul Karim, Media woman

### Recommendation

- 1- Adopt and activate strategies and policies to reduce air pollution.
- 2- Observe and monitor water quality of the River Nile via a system for water quality measurement and prevention of drainage in the Nile.
- 3- Manage solid, electronic, agricultural and hazardous wastes.

- 4- Conserve protected areas and develop management techniques thereof to ensure funding sustainability.
- 5- Adhere to Environmental standards like CO2 emissions and Carbon footprint, as we will not be able to export to high-standard advanced markets within 10 – 20 years.
- 6- Outreach should take place and the way of thinking of the private sector should be changed in order to participate and bear social responsibility.
- 7- Encourage private sector to comply with environmental standards, set laws and provide oversight. Economic incentive is the best method for compliance.
- 8- Outreach should take place by using science, for instance to be aware of water footprint of the products we use.
- 9- Facilitate Legal frameworks, security procedures as well as licenses required for work facilitation and efficiency.
- 10-Coordinate among different associations in order to work on common file.



## Closing Session

### “Major Discussions and Future Steps (Egypt)”

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2018

Conrad Hall (15:30 – 16:45)

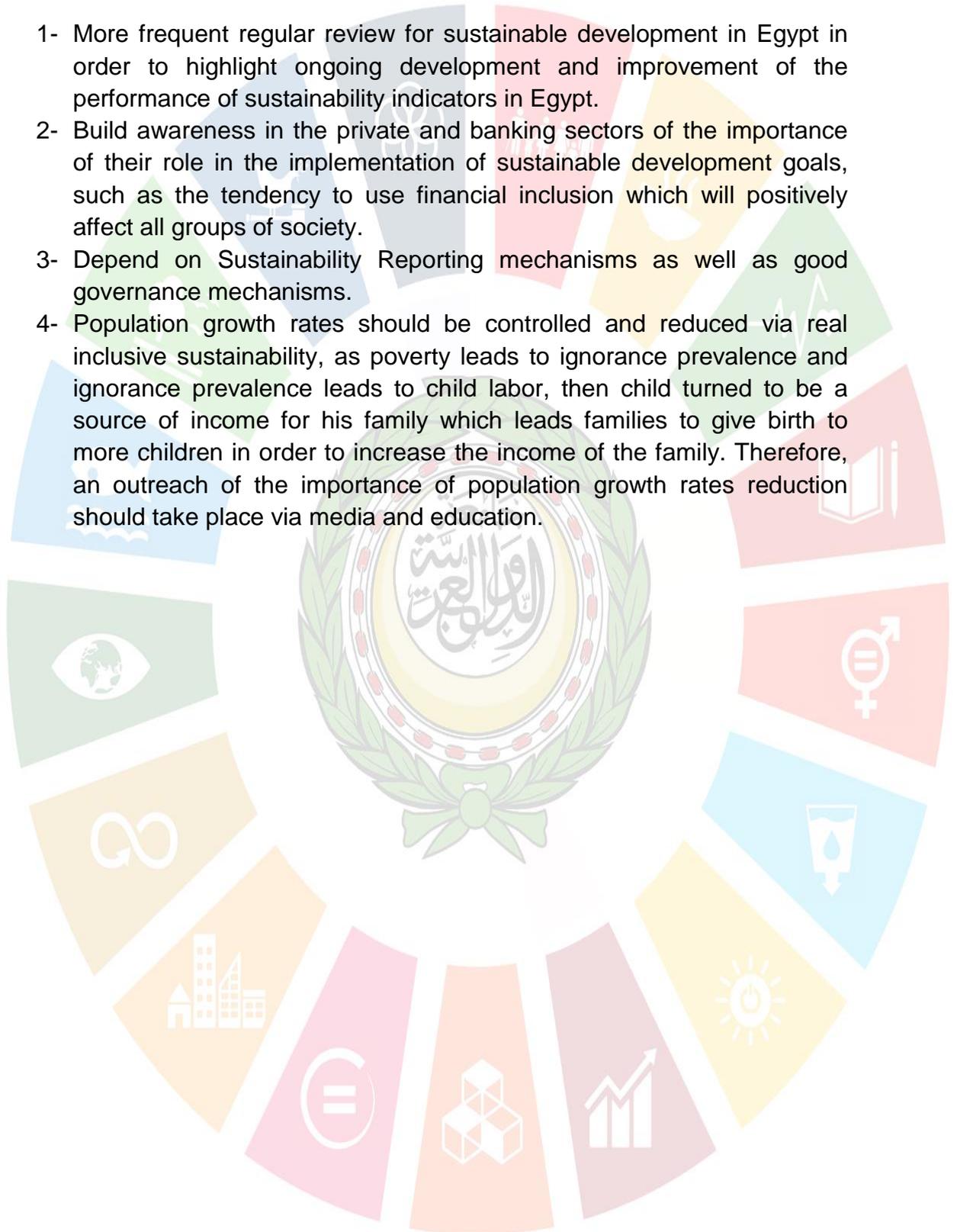


### Speakers

- Major General Khairat Barakat, Chairperson of Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAMPAS)
- Dr. Sherifa Sherif, Executive Director of National Management Institute
- Mrs. Maha Hasebou, General Manager of Sustainability and Strategy at the National Bank of Egypt
- Dr. Amr Hassan, Head of National Population Council

## Recommendations

- 1- More frequent regular review for sustainable development in Egypt in order to highlight ongoing development and improvement of the performance of sustainability indicators in Egypt.
- 2- Build awareness in the private and banking sectors of the importance of their role in the implementation of sustainable development goals, such as the tendency to use financial inclusion which will positively affect all groups of society.
- 3- Depend on Sustainability Reporting mechanisms as well as good governance mechanisms.
- 4- Population growth rates should be controlled and reduced via real inclusive sustainability, as poverty leads to ignorance prevalence and ignorance prevalence leads to child labor, then child turned to be a source of income for his family which leads families to give birth to more children in order to increase the income of the family. Therefore, an outreach of the importance of population growth rates reduction should take place via media and education.



**Final Communiqué**  
**Of Arab Sustainable Development Week**  
**Second Version 19 – 22 November, 2018 in Cairo**

Arab Sustainable Development Week in its second version was held within the period 19 – 22 November, 2018 under the theme “Towards Work” to support Arab states in achieving 2030 sustainable development plan in conformity with United Nations’ plan in its programs to address sustainable development issues in the Arab region and launch partnerships achieved within the period since the first edition of Arab Sustainable Development Week was launched under the theme “Toward Effective Partnerships”, in order to achieve the main goals on which future of Arab societies depend and to provide a platform for dialogue and search in sustainable development issues in the Arab region with relevant stakeholders.

The most important outcomes are those related to increase Arab citizens’ public awareness of sustainable development importance.

We would like to emphasize that the auspices of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of Arab Republic of Egypt, of this week was one of the main factors of Arab Week’s success in achieving its goals, particularly after managing to dedicate one day of the week for the hosting state “Egypt Day” of which sessions integrated with programs and sessions of the week but from Egypt’s strategy perspective 2030 as well as its programs including Egypt’s vision of prospects for sustainable development, environmental dimension for consumption and production, clean energy, innovation and scientific research.

In this regard, actions adopted by Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at League of Arab States with Arab Committee for Sustainable Development Goals Follow-up in the Arab region and partners held a central place primarily in lines of actions as well as sessions of the week. The goal was to present such programs to the related parties and get their opinions and visions regarding actions launched.

The main programs for which special sessions were held include the following:

- Sustainable financing
- “Sustainable development goals achievement in conflict-affected areas” report
- Elimination of Hunger in the Arab region
- Initial launch of “climate interdependencies facility” initiative

- Arab Youth for sustainable development
- Arab Network for sustainable development national forums

Such main programs are linked to relevant topics that deepen dialogue on such programs including:

- Establishment of peaceful societies in conflict areas
- Building humans toward sustainable economy
- Sustainable development financing and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report launching
- Promotion of interdependence between disasters' crisis, climate change and sustainable development goals
- Corporate citizenship and path towards sustainable growth
- Together to eliminate malnutrition
- Investment in small and medium sized enterprises
- Interdependence between rural and urban development
- Demographic situation in the Arab region

Arab Sustainable Development Second Week addressed related topics approved by Arab Committee on Sustainable Development and Economic and Social Council that support Arab states' achievement of sustainable development plan 2030 including:

- Investment in human capital
- Digital Economy
- Investment in sustainable energy
- Soft powers and social media
- Education improvement and development
- Cities have identity and Spirit

From the above, major recommendations can be determined as the following:

- 1- Establish a Development Observatory at the level of the Arab States to monitor efforts achieved and direct Arab States' support in the achievement of sustainable development goals.
- 2- An Arab initiative on "sustainable funding and mechanisms of sustainable development goals 2030 funding support in Arab states" should be developed and launched to close existing funding gap and stimulate role of private banks by the transition to compulsory status in order to support private sector's participation in the implementation of sustainable development goals 2030.
- 3- Efforts of Secretariat of League of Arab states regarding the preparation of a report on "Achieving sustainable development goals in conflict-affected states" should be welcomed, taking into consideration priorities of such states, depending on data and information that take account of the importance of development of rural areas in post-conflict

- states, supporting efforts of building resilience and steadfastness and considering impact of conflict on women, children, disabled and youth.
- 4- Welcome the formation of the Subcommittee for the Elimination of Hunger in the Arab region which needs to have an integrated role with several goals and targets in order to work in an integrated and harmonized way with them. This needs to develop “Elimination of Hunger Initiative” by the working groups formed in a complementary way taking into account intersecting dimensions through the working groups.
  - 5- Attach special attention to broaden the dialogue on deepening the concept of interdependence between rural and urban development, taking advantage of discussions on planning dimensions, legislations and raising capabilities of services and infrastructure, taking into account cultural aspects, closing gaps, linking with conflict and migration as well as inviting private sector to have an influential and effective role in participating to reduce weakness of interdependence between rural and urban development and implement its programmes.
  - 6- Support a network of stakeholders regarding investments of sustainable social impact and attach special attention to the role of development banks as well as central and commercial banks in a way that raises banks’ programs already exist in the field of corporations’ social responsibility to a higher level than partnerships for sustainable development.
  - 7- Work together with networks of charitable work and social philanthropy in order to increase the contribution of this sector in sustainable development goals in the Arab region.
  - 8- A network of governments, non-governmental organizations and municipal should be formed to protect identity and spirit of the Arab cities in order to achieve goal No. 11 regarding inclusive urban expansion and sustainable partnerships should be created between governments, civil society and private sector in the Arab region in implementation of goal No. 17.
  - 9- Encourage youth voluntary initiatives due to their special importance in building balanced youth more interconnected with labor market dynamics.
  - 10- Support and enable youth to participate in the achievement of plan 2030 for their special importance in the demographic situation in the Arab region which requires a mechanism for participation by the Arab youth for sustainable development in the implementation of such plan in Arab states.
  - 11- Emphasize that continuation of Israeli occupation of Palestine and prevention of Palestinian people from determining their own destiny and establish their own independent state represent a major obstacle

to Palestine's ability to achieve its national priorities for sustainable development.

12-Promote status of women and families as an effective partner in supporting sustainable development and adopt an approach based on gender equality in drafting and implementing national legislations.

