



## Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians in the Arab Region on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN House, Beirut, 8 – 9 November 2017

### Preliminary Programme of Work

Day 1 – Wednesday 8 November 2017	
08:30 – 9:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:45	Opening Ms. Khawla Mattar, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN ESCWA Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi, Director, Regional Hub in Amman, UNDP Mr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, Senior Advisor to the President, Islamic Development Bank Group
09:45 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15 – 12:30	Session 1: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Moderator: Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi, Director, Regional Hub in Amman, UNDP
	<p>This session introduces the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda, according to General Assembly Resolution 70/1 “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” The session will also cover the different components of the Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the preamble and other international agreements of relevance. Interventions will highlight the Agenda’s approach to development, one that is rights-based and political, striving for justice and inclusivity and the participation of multiple stakeholders. The session sets the stage for clarifying the role of parliamentarians in the implementation and Follow-up and Review (FUR) of the Agenda and the importance of their engagement with all its components.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>Keynote Address: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a Global Process</b>            Sir Hugh Bayley, Former MP, Former Minister for Social Security, UK, Co-Author of the International Development Committee’s Report on Post-2015 Development Goals” (30 minutes)            Q&amp;A (20 minutes)</p> <p><b>The 2030 Agenda: Framework and Components</b>            Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Regional Advisor, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA (25 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion</p>



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12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 2: The Role of Parliament in the Implementation and Follow-up and Review (FUR) of the 2030 Agenda  Moderator: Ms. Karima El Korri, Head of the Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</p>
	<p>This Session focuses on the intersection of parliamentary functions with the implementation and FUR of the 2030 Agenda and national development planning to ensure inclusive and sustainable development. Interventions will introduce national experiences from countries of the region that address development priorities in line with the parliamentary functions of representation, legislation, budgeting and oversight. Discussion will link these experiences to the SDGs and will emphasize ways for parliamentarians to engage in sustainable development and ensure effective partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders.</p> <p><b>National Experiences:</b></p> <p>Iraq: Parliamentary action for national reconciliation efforts (8 minutes)  Somalia: Parliamentary engagement with youth groups (8 minutes)  Lebanon: Role of parliament in protecting the Litani River from pollution (8 minutes)  Morocco: Parliamentary efforts against corruption (8 minutes)</p> <p><b>Synthesis:</b> Intersection of parliamentary functions with the implementation and FUR of the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Discussion</p>
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 16:45	<p>Launch: Parliament’s Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, A Handbook</p>
	<p>The Handbook, produced by UNDP, GOPAC and the IsDB is an easy-to-use resource, global in scope, and provides best practices from around the world showcasing the role of parliamentarians in the implementations of the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b>  Mr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, Senior Advisor to the President, Islamic Development Bank Group  Mr. Olivier Pierre Louveaux, Programme Specialist, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP</p>



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09:15 – 10:00	<p><b>Keynote Address</b>  Moderator: Mr. Olivier Pierre Louveaux, Programme Specialist, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP</p>
	<p><b>The Political Dimensions of Sustainable Development</b>  Mr. Stephen Twigg, Chair of the International Development Committee and Member, UK House of Commons (30 minutes)  Q&amp;A (15 minutes)</p>
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30– 12:30	<p>Session 3: Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the 2030 Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities  Moderator: Mr. Azmi Shuaibi, Board Member, Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption, and Former Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council</p>
	<p>This Session will assess the engagement of Arab parliaments in the implementation and FUR of the 2030 Agenda, and existing and expected opportunities and bottlenecks, taking into account the reality of parliamentary work in different countries across the region. Issues to be discussed include modalities of work, knowledge and capacity gaps, human and financial resources, as well as engagement and communication within parliaments and with governmental bodies. Discussion will highlight the need for creative and improvised methods to adapt to the inclusive and transformative nature of the Agenda.</p> <p>Speakers:  <b>The 2030 Agenda in Arab Countries: An Overview of Engagement (10 minutes)</b>  Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Sustainable Development Officer, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</p> <p><b>Assessing Opportunities and Challenges in the Arab Region</b>  Ms. Hala Abou-Ali, House of Representatives, Egypt (7 minutes)  Mr. Mohamed Kabbani, Parliament, Lebanon (7 minutes)  Mr. Ziad Obeidat, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan (7 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 4: Towards an Action Plan for Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the 2030 Agenda in the Arab Region  Facilitator: Mr. Adib Nehmeh, Regional Advisor, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA</p>
	<p>Building on preceding discussions, this Session will formulate the elements of a draft Action Plan to support the engagement of parliamentarians with the 2030 Agenda. It will identify concrete recommendations to design or adapt modalities of work and engagement at national</p>



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and regional levels. It will also suggest activities for ESCWA and UNDP and their partners to build the capacities of parliamentarians in the region and ensure an active parliamentary role in the drive for sustainable, inclusive, rights-based development.

15:30 – 16:15

**Closing Session: Key Messages and the Way Forward**

Building on the ideas and recommendations of the Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this session will present key messages and the way forward. It will translate the draft action plan to enhance the role of parliamentarians in the 2030 Agenda into an implementable program of work at the national and regional levels, and one that strengthens the visibility of parliamentarians in regional and global fora on sustainable development, including the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD), organized annually, and whose outcome is delivered to the global High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Mr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, Senior Advisor to the President, Islamic Development Bank Group

Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi, Director, Regional Hub in Amman, UNDP

Ms. Khawla Mattar, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA