

SPECIAL SESSION 4

Localization and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Means to Materialize the 2030 Agenda in Conflict-affected Countries

Monday 29 March 2021, 17:30-19:00 Beirut time (Virtual)

Background and objective

Global literature on the attainment of the 2030 Agenda suggests that countries affected by conflict are far behind in realizing Sustainable Development Goals. As conflicts in the Arab Region prove fluid, protracted and complex, localization is critical to ensure a whole-of-society approach, prevent vulnerable groups from being left behind and strengthen national and local-level coordination. Involvement of local communities, including local authorities and civil society groups, represents an opportunity to ensure that national policy decisions yield results at the local level by increasing capacities of local actors to understand, inform and engage in national efforts to accomplish and monitor the effective attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In contexts facing violence and multidimensional fragility, there is growing concern that many of the SDGs will remain unattainable unless the unique challenges faced by conflict-affected countries are addressed. The session seeks to examine the contribution of localization efforts in the attainment of SDGs in the Arab Region, particularly as pertains to human security and the key 2030 Agenda principle of Leave no One Behind (LNOB). This includes exploring the critical role of local actors in conflict-affected settings in absorbing unforeseen shocks and stresses, such as that presented by COVID-19, to attenuate risk of derailment of SDG attainment efforts.

Questions to be addressed

1. What is the positive impact of engaging local actors in national frameworks on SDGs in conflict-affected countries to ensure LNOB?
2. How could opportunities in realizing SDGs be maximized through engagement of various stakeholders in post-conflict settings?
3. How could the 2030 Agenda be used a vehicle towards achieving peace and sustainable development at the local level?
4. What are the key lessons learnt and good practices in working towards advancing SDGs in conflict-affected settings?

Facilitators

- **Mr. Karam Karam**, Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Opening

- **Ambassador Hossam Zaki**, Assistant Secretary-General, League of Arab States (LAS)
- **Ms. Carmela Godeau**, MENA Regional Director for the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Panelists

- **Ms. Buthainah Mahmood Abbas**, Chief, Hawa'a Organization for Relief and Development, member of the National Sustainable Development Network 2030 (Iraq)
- **Mr. Ahmed Awad**, Director, Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies (Jordan)
- **Ms. Ola Sidani**, Senior Economic Officer, Economic Unit Office of the Prime Minister Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Lebanon)
- **Mr. Tahir Abu El Hassan**, Chairman, the Commission on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Planning (Libya)

The session will be organized over Zoom. To join, please register via [this link](#).

Languages: **Arabic and English**

