

## Concept Note

### National Dialogues on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Lebanon

Beirut - April 4 & 5, 2017

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Agenda 2030 was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 and it included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This new action plan is more ambitious and comprehensive than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it requires an effective engagement of all, developed and developing countries alike.

Since 2013, ANND has actively engaged in the post-2015 process and has highlighted the main gaps of the MDGs framework. In various regional and national meetings, ANND put forward the fact that despite MDGs being noble and sublime, the steps taken towards the application of these goals were without social participation and without paying attention to local contexts. In parallel ANND organized consultation meetings to formulate an indigenous regional perspective for the Agenda 2030.

With a specific project launched, entitled "Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Civil Society agenda", funded by The United Nations Democracy Fund, ANND aims to promote inclusive social dialogue in Arab societies in the wake of the new sustainable development agenda. The dialogue at the national level is central to the project, particularly given that the success of the SDGs depend heavily on localization of the Agenda, establishing inclusive and participatory mechanisms to achieve them and ensuring mutual accountability among all development actors. Moreover, this national dialogue will provide platforms to bring diverse voices together in order to identify priorities among the Goals; as well as adopting policy recommendations corresponding to structural challenges identified.

Currently, the Arab Network of NGOs for Development and Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs - American University of Beirut in collaboration with the Lebanese Observatory for the Rights of Workers and Employees, Lebanese Trade Union Training Center, Mouvement Social, and the Lebanese Transparency Association are organizing national dialogues on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Lebanon. This event will take place on April 4 & 5, 2017 at the Issam Fares Institute (AUB) and will be devoted to plenary session presentations and interactive discussions through Q&A sessions to bring diverse stakeholders at the same level on key issues to be



elaborated. Along the scope of the project, the main themes of the plenary sessions will be clustered on goals 1,8,10 and 16 underlining the need for a holistic approach to address key challenges to address them and to achieve sustainable development. The dialogues will be divided into 4 sessions: **Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere (Goal 1), Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8), Reducing inequality (Goal 10), and Peace, Justice, and Institutions (Goal 16).**

These dialogues will provide an occasion for the discussion of the National report written by Dr. Nasser Yassine, a comprehensive national assessment for Lebanon reflecting the implementation of Agenda 2030 and socio-economic reform initiatives. Working groups will be established (around 10 people each) to elaborate more on the different themes identified, and each will elaborate further to propose alternative approaches.

In order for the event to be effective, each session will be convened by a facilitator to secure participation of wide variety of stakeholder groups. The dialogues will be inclusive, ensuring the engagement of all key interest groups, including women, youth and disabled groups. Moreover, this dialogue will guarantee transparency and broad public awareness engaging media and widely disseminating its outcome report to key stakeholders. Furthermore, this national agenda will allow diverse topics of interests to be elaborated during discussions resulting in joint recommendations in order to strengthen the voice of the different participants.

Finally, it's expected that this event will result in a more elaborated National Report on SDGs implementation, taking into consideration alternative views presented during the dialogue, and ensuring the voices of women, youth and disabled groups. It will also lead to a formation of a statement in the format of an advocacy letter to be disseminated broadly at national level to key stakeholders mainly focusing on joint recommendations developed during the dialogue. In addition to the establishment of a press statement to engage media to the monitoring of the SDGs implementation and to further raise awareness on mainstreaming SDGs in civil society work.