

Background and Selection Criteria for Participants to the Study Week

Scoping the Trade and Investment policies in the Global South to address more accurately the development issues

Geneva (September/October 2015)

BRIEF ABOUT THE STUDY WEEK

*The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), along with the South Centre and Third World Network, is launching the selection process for its 3rd study week on development initiatives at the global level. As in former occasions¹ the study week will provide the opportunity to have discussions and debates with **high-level specialists** on the common priorities-issues for the Global South on macro-economic, trade and investment policies. For this purpose, we are looking for **specialized activists** from the Arab region, who will give **an added value and an enlightening point of view on the selected topics**. Eventually, we aim at setting up a **working group** which would have the capacity to monitor the developmental initiatives in the trade and investment field in the Arab region.*

2015 is a specially important year for the planet, as major processes concerning global governance are being held or on the way to be achieved: the Post-2015 agenda, the Financing for Development talks in Addis Ababa, the Paris COP 21 and so on... are all presenting the high pretensions to step on the path of a more comprehensive, fair and sustainable global development process. A range of global challenges – economic, social, and political – continue to face the Arab region: the persistent geographic, factional, and social disparities, the breakdown of food security and worsening environmental problems, the spread of violence and conflicts, the rampant corruption and growing crony capitalism, and the weakness of the state and the absence of the rule of law... are the results of decades of "structural adjustment" policies and austerity measures. This is added to many challenges related to unemployment, poverty, social marginalization, growing extremism and terrorist movements, worsening immigration, aging, and lack of freedoms, not to mention the Israeli occupation of Palestine and entailed economic, security, and social barriers in the region. Besides, the western countries are making "business as usual", implementing free-trade and imposing neo-liberalist patterns to the new potentates which replaced the old ones.

Within this context, the role of CSOs in the Arab region in influencing the economic policies and in addressing human rights and development dimensions is still often limited relative to other endeavors. Given the increased interest of foreign actors and their influential role in designing economic policies in the Arab region, there is a need to equip civil society with deeper knowledge on economic policies and actors.

Therefore, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) seeks to expand the expertise and knowledge among its members and partners organizations on issues that are pertinent to debates on macro-economic development policies as well as on reduced scopes, with people being able to deliver an expertise on trade and investment matter.

¹ For a short outcome about the latest study week : <http://enewsletter.annd.org/new/october2014/english/three.html>

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WEEK :

- Enhancing civil society advocacy on economic policies in the region by building capacities and raising awareness on the elected priority-issues.
- Building towards establishing a working group of civil society activists from various Arab countries cooperating with the Network on studying the different layers of developmental process in order to have a wider scope of the development solutions and priorities for the Arab societies, according to the expertise coming from different contexts.

TARGET GROUP:

Countries of Focus: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen (to be specified later)

Total number of participants: 12 (to be specified later)

Venue of the meeting : Geneva, Switzerland

LIST OF THE TOPICS THAT WOULD BE COVERED

****Topics will be selected based on the group of participant's preferences and areas of focus – However, a list of thematic priorities has been issued****

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Professional standards

- A relevant academic degree in economics, law, political sciences, international relations and cooperation & development – or other related majors
- Minimum of 2 years-experience in a CSO or in an academic research center / Campaign dealing with the above mentioned topics and the commitments to pursue work on these topics in the coming year
- Previous experiences writing about or addressing any of these issues (providing track record on that: publication, conferences, courses...)
- Willingness to join a working group on these issues (which would cooperate with ANND members on research and advocacy work related to issues covered by the study week).

2. Personal attributes

- Young (better under age 35), motivated, committed in CSOs
- Good command of English language
- Team work spirit – capacity of listening and proposing – open minded

3. Consideration of selection criteria

The selection of participants will be taken by a joint committee including members of ANND, TWN, and the South Center based on the above mentioned criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following documents in English :

- An updated CV

- A short cover letter (max. 500 words) about your experiences, the projects on the relevant thematic and the reasons why you wish to attend this study week – as well as the added value you can bring to the event.
- Short letter from your actual employer explaining your role in the organization you are working in **or** at least one recommendation letter.

Please send applications to Zahra Bazzi at Zahra.bazzi@annd.org

Applications will be accepted until Friday 3rd July 2015.