

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Manual for Practitioners

Regional Validation Session

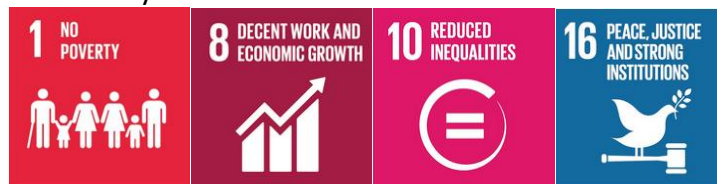
Beirut, Hotel Dunes Verdun, 16&17 June 2017

Background: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in September 2015, including a declaration, 17 Goals and 169 Targets. The preparatory phase of the Agenda was very inclusive, diverting distinctively from the previous development agenda, the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, ensuring a transformative agenda and leaving no one behind, as promised by the 2030 Agenda, would be the real test-case for the success of the Agenda. In this regard, effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation is key and is the real challenge. This must involve all development actors in light of the mutual accountability principle.

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) as a regional network organization, prior to the adoption of the Agenda 2030 enabled regional exchange platforms for formulating civil society recommendations for the Agenda and supporting civil society advocacy for a rights-based Agenda. In this regard, ANND undertook several capacity development activities as well as making resource-material on mutual accountability available, focusing on different roles played by development actors within the Agenda 2030 context. Furthermore, starting with the adoption and implementation of the SDGs, ANND has engaged in effective monitoring and contributed with its members and partners in national reviews as part of the Reflection Group, a new 2030 watch initiative. Currently ANND implements a project entitled "Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Civil Society agenda".

Within this project, ANND is developing a Manual on the SDGs aiming at principally facilitating civil society engagement with the Agenda. The Manual considers the Agenda 2030 and its Preamble as a whole, takes a holistic approach to Goals and their implementation to effectively identify challenges on sustainable development. A critical reading of the Agenda 2030 is provided, to highlight civil society concerns on the Agenda and its implementation. The Manual focuses on specific Goals mainly to highlight systemic and structural challenges in terms of sustainable development and includes policy recommendations, but reference to other Goals is also made in the Manual.

The Goals which are covered by the Manual are:



In this context, ANND is organizing a two-day validation session for the finalization of the Manual. The session will bring together key development stakeholders in order to discuss main findings and recommendations included in the Manual and to elaborate further on the implementation of the Agenda at national and regional levels. Participating stakeholders from civil society, trade union, academics will be encouraged to present cases from national levels, in order to ensure the exchange of best-practices and lessons-learnt. The lead researcher of the Manual and the lead-discussant will ensure that the interactive discussions help achieve

capacity-building of the participating civil society representatives on the Manual and to strengthen its further use at national levels as a resource-tool, as it will enable trainers and users to engage in detailed discussions and familiarize themselves in depth with the Manual. National capacity-building activities will be replicated in follow-up of the two-day event.

Agenda

DAY I	Understanding the Agenda 2030 and adopting a Human rights-based approach
09:00-10:15	<p><u>Session I: Welcome, General overview and introduction of the Manual</u></p> <p>This session will present an overview of the Manual to the participants. The main outline and sections of the Manual will be introduced, its objectives will be explained. The session will include an open-floor discussion to gather first reactions and general comments to the Manual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Project and moderation by Ziad Abdel Samad-ANND (10 min) • Introduction of the Manual by the Author Mervat Rishmawi (20 min) • Key Discussant- Adib Nehmeh-ESCWA (10 min) <p>Open discussion (30 min)</p>
10:15-11:45	<p><u>Session II: The Agenda 2030 : setting the framework for discussion</u></p> <p>The session will discuss the Agenda 2030, critical perspectives, lessons learnt from MDGs to SDGs particularly on monitoring the implementation and the key challenges for development in the Arab region. Presentations will try to answer :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2015, where did the Arab region stand in terms of sustainable development? • Is the Agenda 2030 compatible with international human rights framework? • How effective is the monitoring mechanisms within SDGs? <p><u>Main speaker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merwat Rishmawi, answers from the guidebook (15 min) <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <p>Adib Nehmeh-ESCWA (10 min) Shaza EL Jondi- ILO (10 min) Akram Khalifa – United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner</p>



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	<p><u>Thematic Cases (presented from floor)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender rights and Agenda 2030: Manar Zaiter (5 min) • Disability rights and Agenda 2030: Sylvana Lakkis-LPHU (5 min) • Youth and SDGs: Tamam Mroue (5min) <p><u>Open Discussions (30 min)</u></p>
11:45-12:00	Coffee break (and division of 3 Working Groups)
12:00-13:00	<p><u>Session III: Parallel Working Groups on SDG 1-8-10 and 16</u></p> <p>Introductory intervention by Ziad Abdel Samad (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does the Manual focus on specific Goals (1,8,10 and 16). • What is their importance in the Arab region context? <p>Following the introductory intervention, the participants will ensemble in three WG identified prior to the coffee break. The group discussions will discuss the content and propose amendments to the respective sections of the Manual. After 45 min discussion in each group, the session will be convened for presentations and open discussion.</p> <p><u>WG 1</u> : SDG Goal 1 and Goal 10 moderated by Ahmad Mroue <u>WG2</u> : SDG Goal 8 moderated by Zeina Abla and Hassan Sherry <u>WG 3</u> : SDG 16 moderated by Ziad Abdul Samad</p> <p><u>The groups discussion will try to answer:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the importance of the Goal in the Arab region context? • What are the key challenges in achieving the Goal? • What are the critical issues and links between the Goal and the Agenda 2030 adopting a holistic approach to sustainable development?
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:30	<p>Plenary session convened for presentations from each WG (10 min each) followed with open discussion (30 min)</p> <p>Moderated by: Magdy AbdelHamid Belal-EACPE</p>
15:30-16:00	Wrap up and going through the agenda of DAY II
DAY II	SDGs implementation and the role of different actors
09:00-10:30	<p><u>Session I: Ensuring a participatory and inclusive implementation of the SDGs</u></p> <p>The session will be devoted to discuss the role of different parties in the Agenda 2030 implementation. Discussions will identify the role of other actors with focused discussion on the role of civil society and trade union.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why monitoring is key for the fulfillment of human rights? How have civil society engagement in SDGs implementation been at national and global levels?

With the Support of:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the available human rights mechanisms for integrating SDGs monitoring? How can civil society engage in effective monitoring? • What role do development actors play in achieving SDGs? <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mervat Rishmawi (10 min)</p> <p>Official review process and the experiences from HLPF: Adib Nehme-ESCWA (10 min)</p> <p>Open discussion and elaboration on the role of Civil Society and trade unions</p>
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:45	<p>Session II: Discussing the way forward for national capacity and preliminary Launch of the e-platform</p> <p>The session opens with 3 cases sharing the outcomes and lessons learnt of the SDGs national dialogues organized in Tunisia, Palestine and Lebanon (5 min each).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iyad Amra, Palestine • Omar Ghannam, Egypt • Chokri Elfidha, Tunisia • Ahmad Awad, Jordan • Maysa Baroud, Lebanon <p>Then based on lessons-learnt and identifications on capacity needs, the session will elaborate on the way forward for mainstreaming SDGs in civil society work and the best ways to use Manual in this regard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main challenges ahead for SDGs implementation? • How can we best coordinate civil society and other actors efforts? • What is the e-platform and how can we promote it? • What are the best ways to use the Manual at national level? • Who should be the primary audience for the capacity building sessions? • How can we collaborate with Media and ensure visibility to civil society efforts? <p>Moderated by ANND</p>