

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**Thirty-first session
Cairo, 16–18 December 2023

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

**Arab Vision 2045: striving to fulfil aspirations through deliberation,
determination and action****Second round-table discussion: initiatives and projects of the Arab Vision 2045****Introduction**

1. The “Arab Vision 2045: striving to fulfil aspirations through deliberations, determination and action”, prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States, includes strategic initiatives and projects aimed at achieving safety and security, justice, and inclusive sustainable development at the national and regional levels.
2. Each of the six pillars of the Vision has its own set of initiatives, set out in the full text of the Vision (E/ESCWA/31/16, Arabic only). In the safety and security pillar, there are initiatives that bolster regional security in its various dimensions, including energy, water and food security, and cybersecurity. These initiatives adopt a regional preventive diplomacy approach, operationalized in proposals including setting up an early warning system at the League of Arab States to monitor signs of potential conflicts and crises, forming an expert committee to settle disputes, and establishing an Arab bank to fund regional projects aimed at achieving water and food security.
3. Under the socioeconomic justice pillar, initiatives include the development of regional projects seeking to increase social justice by reducing economic and social disparities and inequality, achieving equitable distribution, and ending deliberate marginalization. Such projects include establishing an Arab programme specialized in financing pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries, and building and managing specialized hospitals and clinics.
4. Under the innovation and creativity pillar, initiatives are based on adapting new and emerging technologies to promote regional integration and national development. This includes funding programmes to support a transition to an advanced education system that incorporates artificial intelligence and other technologies to bridge the region’s digital divide, and promoting investment in innovation, and in research and development funding.
5. Under the prosperity and sustainable development pillar, initiatives include introducing sovereign debt repayment mechanisms, issuing green and blue project bonds, launching an Arab digital currency, implementing priority projects for Arab rail connectivity, and promoting river, land and maritime transport.

6. The diversity and vitality pillar presents initiatives on establishing standardized programmes on Arabic culture and language to contribute to building Arab human capital; and to launch Arab dialogue platforms between generations, in which decision makers and experts participate to crystallize new common concepts on strengthening the elements of diversity, vitality, openness and societal stability.

7. The cultural and societal renewal pillar introduces initiatives on providing innovative programmes in the Arab region that support scientific research, encourage research in Arabic, integrate arts in education curriculums as an effective means of reaching excellence, and foster development and growth.

I. Objectives of the round-table discussion

8. The round-table discussion will review some of the strategic initiatives and projects proposed in the Arab Vision 2045 to promote joint Arab action.

9. The discussion will also identify the main challenges that could arise in the implementation process, and the necessary steps to begin the implementation of the Vision by operationalizing its proposed initiatives and projects.

II. Topics of discussion

10. The topics proposed for the round-table discussion will revolve around the following main questions:

(a) What strategic initiatives and projects should be prioritized when starting to implement the Vision?

(b) What are the main challenges that may hinder the implementation of these strategic initiatives and projects?

(c) What actions can be adopted to start implementing some of the Vision's initiatives? What is a realistic and achievable timeline for these initiatives to be completed?

III. Participants

11. Participants at the round-table discussion will include ministers from member States of ESCWA and the League of Arab States, researchers, and representatives of the United Nations system.

IV. Moderator

12. A specialized moderator from the Arab region will moderate the discussion.

V. Language

13. The discussion will be conducted in Arabic.

VI. Focal point

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