



**Economic Development and Integration Division
Economic Governance and Planning Section**

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Expert Group Meeting on “Implementing Agenda 2030: Economic Governance and National Development Planning in the Arab Region”

On 9 and 10 May 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia

Agenda

Day 1

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| 8:30 - 09:00 | Arrival and registration |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | Welcome & Opening Session of the EGM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Khalil Laabidi, President of Tunisian Investment Authority• Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, Director, EDID, UNESCWA <p>Keynote speech - “Socio-Economic challenges and transformation of governance in the Middle East”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Ellen Lust-Okar¹, Yale University and University of Gothenburg |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | Session 1: Setting the stage <p>Sustainable socio-economic developments and sound economic governance are enablers for prevention as well as constructive resolution of political conflicts. The consideration of political economy drivers in the Arab region are critical in national development planning efforts, both at the technical and the administrative level. For example, effective national development planning requires a legislative environment (e.g. conducive fiscal policy frameworks) for transparent budgetary processes towards the adoption of viable national budgets (with resource allocations according development priorities). Thus, the session will also discuss the role of competition policy as an important institutional pillar for a thriving market economy, enhancing a country's attractiveness as a business location and triggering national and foreign investments.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA• Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee break |

¹ Founding Director of the Programs on Governance and Local Development at Yale University (est. 2013) and at the University of Gothenburg (est. 2015), and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg

- 11:30 - 13:00 **Session 2: The Arab experience with national development planning under existing economic governance infrastructures**
- The discussion of national experiences with development planning draws out the lessons learned on challenges and best practices with respect to identifying national priorities, as well as it differentiates approaches and priorities vis-a-vis mainstreaming the SDGs. Regarding specific policies (e.g. investment), the country presentations could cover the following dimensions of national development planning: institutions, design, implementation, results, participation, link to SDGs/Agenda 2030, latent risk factors, and so on.
- Presentations (app. 30 min each):*
- Ms. Monia Braham, Tunisian Investment Authority
 - Mr. Hassan Berri, Moroccan Competition Authority
 - Mr. Abbas Koreina, National Council for Strategic Planning, Sudan
 - Mr. Mohamed Teghre, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mauritania
- 13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Session 3: Frameworks and tools for integrated national development planning**
- Summary of ESCWA's research on the guidelines of good planning using the case of the Arab region and introduction to ESCWA's national development planning database. Participants to share their national development planning tools and their usage.
- Speakers:*
- Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, UNESCWA
 - Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA
 - Ms. Chantal Dupasquier, UNCTAD
- 15:30 - 16:30 **Session 4: Inter-agency planning support to Arab countries - The UN Development Assistance Framework and National Development Plans**
- The session will introduce and discuss the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as the most important UN country planning instrument in support of the 2030 Agenda. For example, to support Arab countries' national development planning efforts, the United Nations also need to have a more robust planning process as a coordination tool between national, regional and international entities present and active in Arab countries. The session will highlight the experience of Tunisia (current UNDAF until 2019) in the context of additional challenges due to the Libya conflict.
- Speakers:*
- Mr. Diego Zorrilla, UN Resident Coordinator for Tunisia
 - Ms. Iman Shawwa, Head of Coordination Support Office, O/DSRSG/RHC/RR UNSMIL
- 16:30 - 18:00 **Reception hosted by the President of the Tunisian Investment Authority, Mr. Khalil Laabidi**
- Venue: Golden Tulip Hotel**

Day 2

08:45 - 09:00

Arrival

09:00 - 10:30

Session 5: National experiences on effective resource allocation/budgeting in support of national development planning

The discussion of national experiences vis-à-vis allocation of resources towards effective implementation of national draws out the lessons learned (e.g. funding mechanisms) and highlights existing or possible opportunities for international and regional development support.

Speakers (app. 30 min each):

- Ahmed Zairi, Principal Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Antonius Verheijen, Country Manager for Tunisia, MENA, World Bank (tbc)
- Shuaib A. Al Zaghir, Ministry of Planning and International cooperation, Republic of Yemen

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Session 6: Institutional infrastructure and partnerships for Agenda 2030-aligned development planning

The discussion covers the roles and responsibilities of stakeholder institutions in the national development planning process (e.g. public, private, civil society). Participants share also views on strengths and weaknesses of current governance structures in place.

Speakers:

- Presentation by H.E. Abdulla N. Lootah (Director General Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority and Vice-Chair of UAEs National Committee on SDGs) and Ms. Hanan Ahli (Director of Secretariat to the National Committee on SDGs)
- Presentation by Mr. Bashar Seifi, Manager of Nablus Office, Ministry of National Economy Palestine

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 15:00

Session 7: A path towards the future – Mainstreaming the SDGs into national development plans as well as successful monitoring and reporting

Open platform for discussion: With emphasis on the need for national ownership and accountability of the SDGs for success in implementing the goals, this session aims to identify lessons learned with respect to the needed national institutional infrastructure for planning, data and resource requirements as well as partnerships with due consideration of economic governance reform needs in the Arab region.

Moderation: Ms. Denise Sumpf, UNESCWA

15:00 - 16:00

Conclusions & Closing

Mr. Mohamed El-Hacene, Director, EDID, UNESCWA
