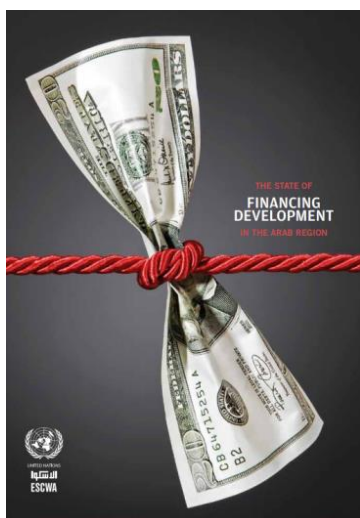


ESCWA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 26-30, 2018



28-29 NOVEMBER 2018

Conference on Financing Sustainable Development

ESCWA organized a conference on Financing for Development to coordinate regional efforts towards combating Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), an important milestone ahead of the 2019 ECOSOC Financing for Development (FfD) Forum.

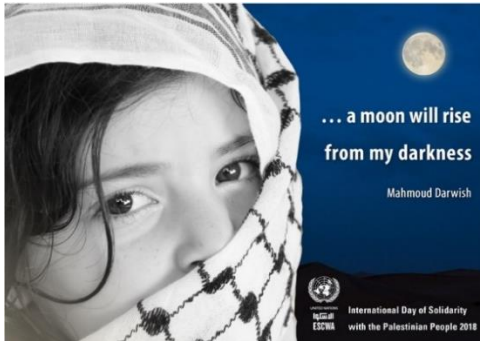
The conference brought together members of the G77 and China as well as 37 representatives of international and regional organizations to reorient the trajectories of development finance and foster a transition from 'funding to financing' transformative change. It provided an inclusive platform for decision-makers, practitioners, international experts, civil society and institutional stakeholders to shape policy outcomes.

Acting Executive Secretary Mounir Tabet opened the conference by drawing the outlines of the regional FfD landscape, pointing out that ESCWA member States bear the brunt of 3 Fs—financial constraints, funding shortfalls and financing inequalities. Speaking on behalf of the Lebanese Prime Minister, Ms. Bahia Al-Hariri highlighted the adverse implications of conflict on financing sustainable development. Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President of the World Bank Group, stressed the need to step up action to mobilize additional development finance in service of the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group's Strategic Financing Results Group, called for a more enabling and conducive global economic environment amidst a rising tide of protectionism in trade and investment.

The high-level segment also saw interventions from Mr. Ahmed Said Khalil, Vice President of the Court of Cassation, Representative of the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (Chairman of the G77 & China); Mr. Mohamed Maait, Minister of Finance, Egypt; Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil, Minister of Finance, Lebanon.

The Conference adopted a multi-stakeholder outcome document: "The Beirut Consensus on Financing for Development" factoring in regional and national specificities to finance the 2030 Agenda. The Beirut Consensus responds to mounting challenges facing developing and least developed countries in mobilizing the trillions needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. These include: (a) weaknesses in the global enabling environment, (b) insufficient public and private finance, (c) policy and market failures across the financial system, and (d) international economic conditions and policy approaches that do not advance sustainable development.

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26 NOVEMBER

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

ESCWA organized a high-profile event to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. A message from the UN Secretary-General was delivered, calling for a reaffirmed commitment to the rights of Palestinians, expressing hope for a future of peace, justice, security and dignity. In parallel, a special exhibition by the Institute for Palestine Studies was displayed at the UN House in support of the cause.

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26-28 NOVEMBER

Committee on Transport and Logistics, 19th Session

High-level officials from transport and interior ministries in Arab countries gathered in Beirut for the 19th session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics. They reviewed geographic Information Systems for the Transport Network; the Logistics Performance Index; Liberalization in Maritime Transport, and the Arab Economic Integration Report. A regional workshop on road safety management in Arab countries was organized in collaboration with the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and the World Bank.

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27-28 NOVEMBER

Road Safety Management in Arab Countries

Coinciding with the Committee on Transport and Logistics and the 7th ESCWA Medical Day, a workshop on road safety took place at the UN House. ESCWA presented the results of its survey on the status of road safety management in Arab countries, which built upon an ESCWA manual on road safety management systems. In parallel, medical staff helped raise awareness of road safety by organizing interactive simulations and games to show the effects of impairment at the wheel.

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DID YOU KNOW?

For every \$1 the Arab region gains through prime cross-border Financing for Development channels, it correspondingly loses \$2.5. This includes many high-income bracket economies.

The Arab region was initially estimated to require \$3.6 trillion in gross fixed capital formation to achieve the SDGs. Yet if current trends continue, the Arab region will instead need to raise \$6.3 trillion by 2030 to achieve the SDGs.

Illicit Financial Flows are estimated to cost the Arab region between 60 and 77 billion USD yearly on average. Read more in the [Illicit Financial Flows in the Arab Region](#) report, to be launched at UN headquarters in 2019.

AROUND THE REGION

18th annual conference of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) of the Arab League, Muscat, Oman, 26 November

Mauritania Independence Day, 28 November

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 29 November

