



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA

WEEKLY NEWS



National Agenda for the Future of Syria new website

The National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) programme of ESCWA launched on 20 May its new website: nafsprogramme.info.

The programme, developed by ESCWA in 2012, established a platform for technical dialogue for Syrians to think about the future of the country during the conflict. It works in collaboration with various partners to anticipate technical challenges facing the post-conflict transition.

The programme has been able to produce an analysis of the root causes of the conflict and is developing policy choices for the future of the country while reflecting the voices of as many Syrians as possible through its inclusive platform for technical dialogue.

[Read more](#)



Promoting climate action in the Arab region

The Jordanian minister of water and irrigation, Mr. Raed Abu Al-Saud, discussed on 21 May mutual cooperation with an ESCWA delegation comprising Roula Majdalani, Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), as well as Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief of the Water Resources Section and Reem Nejdawi, Director of the Amman-based ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC).

Discussions revolved around areas of collaboration and potential ESCWA support on mainstreaming climate action into related sectoral development plans and programs adopted by lines ministries.

This meeting was held in the context of a coordination mission with key regional stakeholders and partners to advance the operationalization of the Arab Climate Change Policy Centre.

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Water for peacebuilding

ESCWA is collaborating with UNESCO on a regional initiative to promote sustainable management of water resources as a driver for peace in the region.

The Director of ESCWA Sustainable Development Policies Division, Ms. Roula Majdalani, participated in a high-Level panel as a speaker in the side event on “Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development of Water Resources in the Arab Region” which was held during the UNESCO international Conference in Paris on 13-14 May.

The initiative, which was launched by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States, aims to contribute to the establishment of a regional water status that is based on equitable, efficient, and sustainable utilization of water resources of the Arab region and neighbouring countries.

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Leadership for road safety

In the context of the 5th UN Global Road Safety Week 2019 entitled “Leadership for Road Safety”, ESCWA organized in collaboration with YASA a workshop on “Leadership for Safer Mobility in Cities” at the UN House in Beirut on 23 May.

The workshop was attended by the minister of public works and transport in Lebanon, Mr. Youssef Fenianos, as well as more than 60 representatives of NGOs working in the field of Road Safety and Soft Mobility in Lebanon.

Participants emphasized the importance and the magnitude of the problem in the transport sector and road safety in Lebanon. They also expressed their aspirations for cooperation with ESCWA, and among themselves to improve road safety in Lebanon.





ESCWA Chief pays condolences in Maronite Patriarchate

On May 17, ESCWA Executive Secretary Rola Dashti called on the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkerki, Lebanon, to present condolences on the passing of Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir, Patriarch of Antioch and the Whole Levant.

The late patriarch dedicated his life to maintain peace and strengthen rapprochement and forgiveness, that are also goals pursued by the United Nations, Dashti said in a statement.



Did you Know...

... that worldwide, the number of children out of school has dropped by 50%? By 2016, the participation rate in early childhood and primary education had increased to 70%.

The Arab region has seen vast progress: it has quadrupled the average rate of schooling since 1960, halved illiteracy since 1980 and achieved almost complete gender parity in primary education.

However, there is still room to improve in early childhood and primary education participation where, in some areas, rates were as low as 52%. In addition, conflict threatens to erase and even reverse these gains as enrolment rates are dropping in Arab countries experiencing conflict.

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