

## Environment and Natural Resources: their Role in integration

Wednesday 25 April 2018 | 11:00-12:30 | Main Hall | UN House, Beirut

### Background:

In preparation for the AFSD-2018, ESCWA, UN Environment and the League of Arab States' Secretariat, in cooperation with UN-Habitat organized the "Arab Preparatory Meeting on Environmental and Natural Resources Issues for the 2018 AFSD & HLPF" on 11-12 April 2018 in Cairo, Egypt, addressing SDGs 11, 12 and 15, alongside the inter-connectivity amongst and between the goals. The Special Session will build upon the discussions held in Cairo and bring into focus some of the practical tools that countries are using to meet the targets under these goals as well as policy mainstreaming opportunities.

### Session Objective:

To provide a forum for discussion among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders on the main challenges related to effectively integrating environment into development planning and elaborate demonstrated success stories, main lessons and good practices towards an integrated approach incorporating the environmental dimensions at all levels.

### Themes of Discussion:

- Sustainable Urban Development (SDG11);
- Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG12);
- Land degradation and biodiversity (SDG15);
- The Poverty-Environment Initiative, introducing a case study from Mauritania, which addresses integrating natural resources in development planning and introducing Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development; and
- Ecosystem Resilience in Crisis Contexts, reviewing the important role that ecosystem degradation plays in the onset of crisis and ways that ecosystem restoration is vital for achieving resilient recovery of communities affected by conflict and disasters.

The Session will be followed by the launch of the Arab Poverty-Environment Initiative Handbook.

### Facilitator:

- **Ms. Melanie Hutchinson**, Regional Development Coordinator, UN Environment

### Panelists:

- **Mr. Hammou Laamrani**, Senior Expert, Water, Energy, Food and Climate Change, League of Arab States
- **Ms. Soha Farouk**, Associate Programme Officer, UN-Habitat
- **Mr. Mohamed Afana**, Director of Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Jordan
- **Mr. Zaghoul Samhan**, Director-General of Policies & Planning Directorate Environment Quality Authority (EQA) Palestine
- **Ms. Amy Fraenkel**, Convention on Biological Diversity Head for Mainstreaming, cooperation and Outreach Support, Netherlands Enterprise Agency
- **Mr. Limam Abdawa**, Team leader, Sustainable Development Unit, Poverty-Environment Initiative, Mauritania
- **Mr. Hassan Abdirisak Ahmed**, Project Officer, Somalia Climate Resilience Initiative, UNDP