



### **League of Arab States-ESCWA-UNEP Joint Side Event**

#### **Regional Visions for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs**

**Time:** 13:00hrs-14:30hrs Tuesday, 24 May 2016

**Room:** Tent 1

The side event will provide an overview of the regional visions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in West Asia, Asia Pacific, and North America. It will highlight how different regions with very different context all engage and address the goals, and how some regions have, building on outcomes of an intensive regional consultation processes in the development of the SDGs, considered their priorities, implementation strategies and accountability frameworks, and are now moving forward with implementing the SDGs. Through a moderated discussion it is hoped to draw out synergies and opportunities for experience exchange amongst these different regions in support of innovation in the implementation of the SDGs.

#### **Programme:**

Session Moderator: Iyad Abumoghli, Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for West Asia

#### ***Introduction:***

Dr. Djameledinne Djaballah, League of Arab States (5 mins)

#### ***The Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development and key findings of the Arab Sustainable Development Report:***

Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (15 mins)

#### ***Implementing the SDGs: Universality and Integration as applied to the North American context:***

Patricia Beneke, Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for North America (5 mins)

Dan Balzer, Chief, Multilateral Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State (10 mins)

Scott Vaughan, President and CEO, International Institute for Sustainable Development (10 mins)

#### ***The Asia-Pacific Perspective on implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs:***

Ms. Isabelle Louis, Regional Director a.i., Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (10 min)

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Sri Lanka (10 min)

Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Samoa (10 min)

### ***General Discussion and Questions from the Floor***

#### **Background to the Regional Approaches**

##### **The Arab Region Vision for Implementing the SDGs**

This panel will provide an overview of the League of Arab States (LAS) vision for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in this region faced with a myriad of challenges; but where the 2030 Agenda and SDGs have been embraced and recognized as critical. It will show how the region is building on work of the MDGs and the Arab Initiative on Sustainable Development (an outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development) and how the more central issue of peace and security is interconnected with human dignity and wellbeing, natural resource management and sustainable development. Building on outcomes of an intensive regional consultation process in the development of the SDGs, the region has considered its priorities, potential implementation strategies and accountability frameworks and countries are now deliberating on strategies for implementation. The session will present the key findings of the first Arab Sustainable Development Report (ASDR), prepared by ESCWA and UNEP with a comprehensive review of sustainable development progress and trends in the Arab region over the past two decades.

##### **Implementing the SDGs: Universality and Integration as applied to the North American context**

The panel will address how two large developed nations are taking the SDGs on board both in domestic policy initiatives and through international engagement on a broad range of issues, including climate change, sustainable energy, food waste, and the environmental rule of law. North American panelists will address the role of both governments and other stakeholders in expanding understanding of the implications of the SDGs both at home and abroad and in providing technical assistance for their effective implementation worldwide. This segment of the side event will focus in particular on the principles of universality and integration as applied to the North American context.

##### **The Asia-Pacific Perspective on implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs**

ROAP engages with regional and subregional intergovernmental forums and processes, as well as partners with UN systems and UN Partners to collectively implement the SDGs. The Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) will show how, through its PoW activities, it supports member states in applying an *integrated approach* to policy making to ensure that social, environmental and economic dimensions of the SDGs and their targets and outcomes are addressed as relevant in national development, economic planning and implementation. ROAP will also demonstrate how it supports national SDG data assessments, national indicators development, monitoring and reporting.