## UNITED NATIONS



Twentieth meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

Beirut, 11 December 2014

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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| **Thursday, 11 December 2014** | | | | |
| 9:00 |  | **Opening of the Meeting** |  |  |
|  |  | The 20th meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) begins at 9:00 a.m. on 11 December 2014, at the United Nations House in Beirut. The meeting will open with statements from representatives of international and regional organizations, as follows:  **Ms. Rima Khalaf**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ESCWA  **Mr. Tarik Nabulsi**, Head of Coordination and Follow-up, Social Department, LAS  **Mr. Mourad Wahba**, Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP | | |
| 9:40 |  | **Session 1: Influencing the Global Processes on Regional Priority Issues: The Post-2015 Development Agenda** | | |
|  |  | **Chairperson: Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, ASG and ILO Regional Director** | | |
|  |  | Globally, the UN and member states are approaching agreement on a [sustainable development agenda for post-2015](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/), one that will provide a blueprint for development programming and cooperation for the next 15 years. The Secretary General is preparing his Synthesis Report and the different work-streams are converging ahead of the 2015 General Assembly.  Session Objective:  To have a common understanding on the overall global vision of and processes leading to the post-2015 development agenda, and the regional processes in support of a sustainable development framework.  The discussion will address questions such as:   * What are the key findings of the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report? * What implementation mechanisms will be required for the Sustainable Development Goals? * What accountability framework is the most suitable for the region? * What are some concrete recommendations for joint inter-agency work on post 2015 agenda?   Presentations:  **Mr. Thomas Gass**, Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA: “The Global Vision for the Post-2015 and the Role of the HLPF”  **Ms. Roula Majdalani**, ESCWA: “The Regional Processes in Support of the Post-2015 Agenda” | | |
| 10:45 |  | **Break** | | |
| 11:00 |  | **Session 2: Enhancing Coordination on Priority Issues: Justice in a Time of Crisis** | | |
|  |  | **Moderator: Mr. Fateh Azzam, Director, Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, AUB** | | |
|  |  | The year 2014 witnessed unprecedented levels of crisis, conflict, violence and instability that have threatened to compromise development gains in several countries, and that have put issues of good governance, human rights, and social justice front and centre in the debate.  Session Objectives:   1. Review the status of the Arab uprisings after four years and the current erosion of social justice across the region: Identify key lessons learnt from this trajectory; 2. Explore how the United Nations can better support efforts for reform within this context; and 3. Discuss the role of the UN in crisis and conflicts – how can humanitarian and developmental efforts better support each other?   The session will include a keynote address and a panel that will address the following questions:   * What lessons can the UN draw from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria with regard to supporting transition in the Arab region? * Is there a relationship between social justice (or lack thereof) and violence in the Arab region? * How can people’s demands for reform for social justice be better supported? * To what extent have UN organizations’ programmes of work changed in response to the Arab uprisings? In response to the conflicts? * How can the UN play a more effective role in preventing or ameliorating the impact of crisis and conflict? In supporting reconstruction efforts? * What has the UN learned from years of conflict and occupation in the Arab region, and how can it better apply those lessons? | | |
|  |  | **Part I: Promoting Sustainable Development and Social Justice in a Time of Crisis and Transition**  Keynote Address:  **H.E. Mr. Tarik Mitri**, Director of Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut; former Minister (Lebanon) and former SRSG-Libya | | |
|  |  | **Part II: Panel Discussion: The Role of the UN in a Time of Crisis and Lessons Learned**  Discussants:  **Mr. Abdallah Al-Dardari**, ESCWA: The Regional Impact of Crisis and Conflict  **Mr. Adel Abdellatif, UNDP**: Building Resilience: The Role of the UN in Development in Crises  **Mr. Ala Alwan**, WHO: Health Systems in the Context of Development and Humanitarian Crises  **Mr. Samir El Hawary,** OCHA: Coping with Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Crises  **Ms. Samira Atallah,** ESCWA: Protecting Women and Children in Crisis and Conflict | | |
| 13:20 |  | ***Launch of ESCWA-SIDA Regional Project on Water and Food Security*** | | |
| 13:30 |  | **Lunch** | | |
| 15:00 |  | **Session 3: Towards an Enabling Environment for Regional Integration: The UN and LAS** | | |
|  |  | **Moderator: Mr. Nadim Khouri, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA** | | |
|  |  | The League of Arab States (LAS) and United Nations organizations in the Arab Region have a privileged relationship in coordination of development support to Member Countries. In June 2014, the LAS and UN development organizations met in Geneva to review priorities and put in place a new [Matrix of joint activities for 2014 – 2016](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=448).  Session Objective:  Review with the League of Arab States strategic priorities defined by LAS for collaboration with UN.  Presentation:  **Mr. Tarik Nabulsi, LAS**: “Priorities of LAS for UN Development Support” | | |
| 15:45 |  | **Session 4: Progress of Work & Information Sharing** | | |
|  |  | **Moderator: Mr. Amjad Abbasher**, Regional Director UNISDR | | |
|  |  | The 19th Meeting of the RCM issued a number of [recommendations to RCM members](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=444) for follow-up. In addition, the five Thematic Working Groups of the RCM undertook a number of collaborative inter-agency activities.  Session Objectives:   1. Review progress briefs of the five RCM Thematic Working Groups and determine any areas for follow-up ([Climate Change](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=454); [Food Security](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=476), [Statistics](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=472); [International Migration](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=456); [MDGs](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=458)); 2. Review [ToRs for Transitional TWG on MDG/Post-2015](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=478); 3. Consider proposal for regional development [stakeholder consultation](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=464) for [2016 World Humanitarian Summit](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=466); and 4. Update on [HABITAT III Conference](http://www.escwa.un.org/rcm/editor/Download.asp?table_name=rcm_meetings&field_name=id&FileID=480), 2016   *There will be no presentations in this Session, however, Chairpersons of the Thematic Working Groups will be asked to present to the RCM any items requiring decisions by the members.* | | |
| 16:45 |  | **Break** | | |
| 17:00 |  | **Closing Session: Recommendations and Follow-up** | |  |
|  |  | **Moderator: Mr. Abdallah Al-Dardari, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA** | | |
|  |  | The final session will be an opportunity to:  (a) Review the recommendations of the 20th Meeting of the RCM;  (b) Review plans for the 21st RCM Meeting | | |