

Under the high patronage of His Excellency,
the President of the Republic of Lebanon,
General Joseph Aoun

AFSD 2026
Arab Forum for
Sustainable Development



E/ESCWA/CL5.SDGS/2026/RFSD/INF.1/Rev.1

Information note

Overview

The 2026 edition of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD 2026) is held under the high patronage of His Excellency, the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Joseph Aoun. The Republic of Tunisia is the Chair of AFSD 2026.

The Forum was initially planned as a hybrid event to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, and online. Due to the conflict in the region, the in-person component has been postponed to a date to be confirmed. Interim preparations include the organization of online preparatory sessions.

During the month of May, online sessions will address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the [2026 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#), namely SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), with a focus on the impact of conflict on the achievement of these Goals and on mechanisms for building regional resilience.

Special sessions will also be organized to further strengthen SDG integration into selected regional priorities, in line with the overall theme of the 2026 HLPF: “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all”.¹

About the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

AFSD is the primary regional mechanism for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region.

AFSD is organized annually by the [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#), in collaboration with other United Nations agencies working in the Arab region and the League of Arab States. The Forum brings together Governments and various stakeholders from the region to discuss progress, review experiences and policy solutions, and consider the latest developments and implementation mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at national and regional levels.

The report of AFSD formally delivers the voice of the region to the global HLPF, held annually in New York. It sets out key messages on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the Arab region and on the ongoing global processes for sustainable development.

Eleven forums for the Arab region have been held since 2014. For more information, please visit www.unescwa.org/2030-afsd.

1. United Nations General Assembly, resolution 285/78 ([A/RES/285/78](#)).

The online AFSD 2026 preparatory sessions will bring together high-level government representatives and various stakeholders to formulate a set of key messages for submission to the HLPF and to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The in-person event (its date and venue to be confirmed) will feature high-level and ministerial dialogues on regional priorities and on the impact of protracted conflict and recent escalations. It will address the regional dimension of the UN80 Initiative, which seeks to foster a United Nations system that is more responsive to crises and country needs, and more effective in delivering on the SDGs. The event will also consider the outcomes of the [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development \(FfD4\)](#) (Sevilla, Spain, 30 June–3 July 2025) and [the Second World Summit for Social Development \(WSSD2\)](#) (Doha, Qatar, 4–6 November 2025).

AFSD 2026 documents

- [Annual SDG Review 2026: Artificial intelligence policies for social inclusion in the Arab region.](#)
- Arab Gender Gap Report 2025 – Key findings (ESCWA and UN-Women).
- [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region in 2026.](#)
- Background notes on the SDGs under review at the 2026 HLPF.
- More information is available on the AFSD 2026 website: <https://afsd-2026.unescwa.org/>.

Outcomes

AFSD 2026 results in a set of key messages reflecting discussions at the Forum and relevant preparatory meetings.² These key messages will be presented by the Chair of AFSD 2026 at the 2026 HLPF. Together with the report of AFSD 2026, they will constitute the Arab region's main input to the 2026 HLPF and will be submitted to ECOSOC.

Participants and registration

Participants comprise high-level representatives of Governments, including ministers and senior officials responsible for planning, implementing and reporting on the 2030 Agenda, or in charge of the SDGs under review.

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations, civil society networks and organizations, Arab countries' parliaments, academic institutions, the private sector, United Nations resident coordinators and directors of United Nations agencies working in the region will also participate in this annual multi-stakeholder event.

Participants can register through the following link:
<https://indico.un.org/event/1021638/registrations/24248/>.

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2. The Civil Society Organizations Preparatory Meeting, the Consultative Meeting on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda, the Preparatory Meeting on Food Systems Transformation in the Arab Region, and the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.