



Women's Major Group
Updates from the UNESCWA Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2017
By Samia Ounnoughene

Updates:

- The main goal was to solve the issues related to work and employment and increase job opportunities especially for vulnerable groups.
- The discussants emphasized on the lack of equal opportunity and gender parity which have to be a cross cutting theme in all the Arab governments efforts and PRSPs.
- The positive matter was that several Arab countries already established national "public" commissions related specifically to SDGs aiming at institutionalizing the national civic rights for all and leave no one behind.
- The participants stressed on the importance of providing realistic VNRs; however, there was no mention for the role of CSOs in this tool. They added that the VNRs are considered a vital mechanism to support the sustainable development plan in the Arab countries, which adopts a "participatory" approach.

Recommendations on the regional level:

1. The importance of commercial co-operation among Arab states.
2. The significances of adopting an openness approach with the outer world to increase job opportunities in the region.
3. The necessity to establish a "statistical" bank including all segregated data.
4. The necessity to enhance peace and security for unstable countries in the region as important criteria for the development process implementation.
5. Enhance partnerships - N.B: No mentioning of the CSOs or women-led NGOs however Samia mentioned that as an intervention.
6. Respect of human rights.
7. Support the Palestinian people in their struggle.