UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UN-ESCWA

Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region & Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative for Rio+20:

Background for Informing Regional Preparations

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2 June 2011

Outline

I. Regional Preparations for WSSD

II. Regional Outcomes and Follow-up to WSSD

III. Regional Preparations for Rio+20

IV. Regional Initiative: Issues for consideration

Regional Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Regional Reporting

- **Progress Assessment Report for the Arab Region (2001)** – LAS, ESCWA. UNEP/ROWA joint report on progress in implementing Agenda 21
- **Sustainable Development Planning in the ESCWA Region (2001)**
- **Governance for Sustainable Development in ESCWA Member States:** Institutions & instruments for moving beyond an environmental management culture (2002)
- **ESCWA Thematic Briefing Notes**

Regional Preparatory Meetings

- **Series of meetings in 2001-2002 with associated declarations**
  - Beirut, Jeddah , Abu Dhabi, Oman, Amman, Dubai
- **Arab Regional PrepCom held during JCEDAR Session (Cairo, 2001)**
- **CAMRE Session (Damascus, May 2002)**

Ministerial Declarations

- **Arab Ministerial Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Cairo, 24 October 2001)** – issued by Arab Ministers responsible for development affairs, planning, and environment
- **Joint AMCEN/CAMRE Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development (Cairo, 23 January 2002)**

Regional Ministerial Initiative

- **The Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region (2002)**

Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region

LAS Ministerial Initiative: Released at WSSD (Aug/Sept 2002)

Purpose: Initiative considered a framework for the implementation of programs and activities in Arab countries, Arab regional and international organizations, and Arab regional and international financial institutions.

Partnerships: Initiative to be implemented through building partnerships with the other regions, groups and international organizations and institutions.

Obstacles to SD highlighted: Absence of peace & security, foreign occupation of some Arab lands, poverty, illiteracy, population growth, debt burden, aridity, water scarcity, limited agricultural land, moderate capabilities of the academic & research centers, relatively recent experience of civil society development.

Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region: Priority Areas for Action

- Peace and Security
- Institutional Framework – including policies & legislation
- Poverty Alleviation
- Population and Health
- Education, Awareness, Scientific Research & Tech Transfer
  - Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI).; GCC Environmental Prizes
- Resources Management (natural resources)
  - Water resources: IWRM, protection, desalination, non-conventional
  - Agricultural research and arid lands: UNCCD
  - Coastal zones & Protection of Marine Environment
  - Mountains and forests
  - Biodiversity
  - Urban air quality, urban planning, and use, sustainable transport
  - Chemicals & hazardous waste
  - Cleaner production, energy efficiency and aforestation for carbon sinks
  - MEAs, elimination of energy subsidies for nuclear energy & coal; stop petro taxes
  - Managing disasters, including inspection & early warning systems
- Production and Consumption
- Globalization, Trade and Investment – including WTO accession, T&E

Regional Outcomes and Follow-up to WSSD

Global

- **Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development**
- **WSSD Plan of Implementation (JPoI) – September 2002**

Regional

- **Regular reporting to JCEDAR & CAMRE on the implementation of The Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region**
- **Preparation of programs based on initiative**
  - **Regional Program for Trade and Environment Capacity Building in the Arab Region (adopted October 2002)**
  - **Regional IWRM Training Program**
- **Preparation of strategies based on Initiative**
  - **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - JPoI and Regional Initiative (Adopted globally in Dubai, Feb 2006)**
  - **Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Strategy in the Arab Region (initiated in 2008)**
  - **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (initiated 2009)**

UNCSD Preparations

Regional Reporting

- CAMRE Report on the Green Economy (LAS-ESCWA-UNEP)
- Progress Report on the Implementation of Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development (LAS)
- Regional Review of Institutions for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region (ESCWA)
- Regional Report on the Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (ESCWA)

Regional Preparatory Meetings

- Series of meetings with stakeholder groups from 2010-2011
- Arab PrepCom – October 2011

Ministerial Declaration

- That would affirm political commitment to Sustainable Development (approved at CAMRE Session: December 2011)

Regional Initiative

- Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative – to be confirmed

Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative

JCEDAR 12th Session in October 2010
CAMRE Session in December 2010

- Requested that the regional reports be discussed at the Arab Regional PrepCom & by recommendation of JCEDAR submitted for endorsement by CAMRE by end 2011.
- Articulation of Political Commitment (Declaration) based on:
  - The Arab Sustainable Development Initiative
  - Arab Declaration to the World Summit for Sustainable Development
  - Regional preparatory process for Rio+20
- Green economy report could be used to inform regional preparations for Rio+20 and facilitate the preparation of an Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative through consultative processes.

Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative

JCEDAR 12th Session in October 2010
CAMRE Session in December 2010

CAMRE Resolution # (341-RS.22-20/12/2010) calls for the:
"Preparation of a Report on "Green Economy in the Arab Region", as a desired path to achieve sustainable development. The report should reflect the expected challenges that would result from the implementation of green economy in the region. Thereafter draft an Arab Ministerial Initiative for Green Economy."*(LAS translation)*

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تقرير حول الاقتصاد الأخضر في المنطقة العربية كتوجه مؤمل لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة مع عكس التحديات المترتبة عليه وذلك بغرض صياغة مبادرة وزارية عربية للاقتصاد الأخضر.

Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative

Sample Issues to Consider for Inclusion in Regional Initiative:

- Developing regional economic models and modalities for assessing the cost of transition to a green economy, and its potential in promoting economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication in the region.
- Documenting existing Arab green initiatives, best practices and success stories that we can build on in the region.
- Identifying and examining appropriate, regionally-specific indicators to measure the green economy in the Arab region.
- Promoting green job opportunities in the Arab region and serving training needs and skills development in support of innovation, research and development, and the transfer of green technologies

Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative

- Highlighting the transformation and empowerment of civil society in the region since preparations for WSSD, and its role as an empowering force for change.
- Exploring water and energy linkages within a green economy framework
- Intensifying capacity building programs for public and private sectors while stressing the role of UN organizations and non-governmental organizations in this area
- Promoting international cooperation to correct the existing imbalance of opportunities between developed and developing countries, especially in the areas of:
  - Technology transfer
  - Financing: green financing, micro-financing
  - Trade
  - Investment

Thank You!

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