UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UN-ESCWA

Briefing on Regional Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD/Rio+20)

Ms. Roula Majdalani
Sustainable Development and Productivity Division
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Outline

I. Background on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20)

II. Regional Preparations for Rio+20

III. Regional Cooperation

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Decision to convene UNCSD (Rio+20) was decided in Dec 2009 by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/236, in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Objectives:

- To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development;
- To assess progress and implementation gaps in summit outcomes on sustainable Development implementation;
- To address new and emerging challenges.

Themes:

I. Institutional framework for sustainable development;
II. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Brief History of UN Environmental Conferences

- UNCSD will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. UNCED, also known as the "Earth Summit" ;

RIO+20
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

- UNCED's main outcomes were:
  - Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
  - Agenda 21
  - and the Statement of Forest Principles.

- CCD (Convention to Combat Desertification)
- UNFCCC (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- CBD (Convention on Biodiversity)

Brief History of UN Environmental Conferences

- The 10th anniversary of Agenda 21 was marked in Johannesburg at the World Summit on sustainable Development (WSSD),(26 Aug-4 Sept 2002) with the adoption of two major documents:
  - Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)
  - Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development.

Partnerships for RIO+20 Regional Preparations

- In the context of its mandate to lead regional preparation for Rio+20, ESCWA has been closely cooperating with:
  - The League of Arab States (LAS) and
  - The United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA),
- that, together form the Joint Technical Secretariat of **JCEDAR** that advises the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (**CAMRE**).

Joint Technical Secretariat

Joint Technical Secretariat:
- LAS Secretariat (JCEDAR/CAMRE)
- ESCWA
- UNEP/ROWA

- **CAMRE**: Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment was established in 1987. It aims at enhancing Arab cooperation in all matters related to environment and sustainable development and coordinating Arab positions in environmental international fora.
- **JCEDAR**: Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region established 1993 by CAMRE as an appropriate mechanism in light of the expanded scope of work of the Council. It aims at achieving program alignment among the member organizations.

Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20

Regional Reporting

Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20

Regional Reporting

1) Joint Background Paper on Green Economy (LAS-ESCWA-UNEP) - submitted to CAMRE Session (December 2010)
2) Regional Report on the Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (ESCWA)
3) Regional Review of Institutions for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region (ESCWA)
4) Progress Report on the Implementation of Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development (LAS)

Regional Report on the Green Economy

Preparation of a Regional Report on a Green Economy within the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development in response to Rio+20 theme

- Reviews the most important concepts of green economy, existing regional challenges, and potential opportunities
- Suggests a general framework to develop an Arab green economy strategy with stakeholders
- Supports a green economy approach to sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Arab region

Regional Review of Institutions for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

Examine national and regional institutions for sustainable development since WSSD (2002)

- Updates the 2003 study of the institutional framework for sustainable development in the Arab Region
- Evaluates progress that has been made in implementing its recommendations
- Presents an updated set of recommendations that are directly related to the current regional and global context

Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20

Global and Regional Stakeholders Consultations

Preparations for UNCSD: Milestones

Upcoming Events	Dates	Expected Goals
1st Preparatory Committee (PrepCom I)	16-18 May 2010 New York	• Discussed the agreed substantive themes of Rio +20
JCEDAR 12th Session	**16-19 Oct 2010 Cairo**	• **Discussion of Regional Preparations for Rio+20**
CAMRE 22nd Session	**19-20 Dec 2010 Cairo**	• **Briefing on Green Economy** • **Preparations for Rio+20**
1st Inter-Sessional Meeting	10-11 Jan 2011 New York	• UN-DESA Synthesis Report
2nd Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II)	7-8 Mar 2011 New York	• Discussion of the substantive themes of the Conference
Arab Regional Preparatory Conference (PrepCom)	**16-17 Oct 2011 Cairo *(tbc)***	• **Discussion of regional reports** • **Arab Declaration** • **Regional Initiative – tbc**
JCEDAR 13th Session	**18-20 Oct 2011 Cairo**	• **Review of outputs of the Arab Regional PrepCom**

Preparations for UNCSD: Milestones

Events	Dates	Remarks
2nd Inter-Sessional Meeting	15-16 Dec 2011 New York	• Discussion of the outputs of the 1st Intersessional Meeting
CAMRE 23rd Session	**21-22 Dec 2010 Cairo**	• **Declaration – confirms political will** • **Arab ministerial initiative - *tbc***
3rd Inter-Sessional Meeting	5-7 Mar 2012 New York	• Discussion of the outputs of the 2nd Intersessional Meeting
PrepCom III	28-30 May 2012 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	• Final meeting • Draft negotiations text
UNCSD (Rio+20)	**4-6 Jun 2012 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**	• **Global Conference** • **Roadmap and a toolkit for transition for a green economy - *tbc***

Regional Preparations for Rio+20: Regional Expert Group & Specialized Meetings

Activity title	Venue and Date	Expected Goals
Regional Workshop on Trade and Environment: Developing the EGS Sector in the Arab Region for Transformation into GE	Beirut, 15-16 Dec 2010	Discuss the basic concepts of a GE and the contribution that EGS can give to the achievement of such an economy
3rd Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region: Paving the Path to GE in the Arab Region	Cairo, 26-27 Jan 2011	Showcase best practices, review progress and exchange views on the needs and priorities of the region to promote the shift to SCP and the transition to a GE
Side Event to 15th RCM Meeting: UN-LAS Consultation	Beirut, 2 June 2011	Discuss potential regional cooperation for Rio +20
1st Meeting of the Arab Working Group on Clean Fuel and Vehicles	Cairo, 7-8 June 2011	CAMRE and UNEP/ROWA led. Draw-up a regional strategy and roadmap for clean fuels and vehicles
Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20: Economic Policies Supporting the Transition to a GE in the Arab Region	Beirut, 20-21 July 2011	Discuss GE policies with policy makers in ministries of finance
Civil society consultation meeting on Rio+20	Beirut, Sep 2011	Consultation with Civil Society on Rio+20
Green Industry Seminar	Beirut, 28-30 Sept 2011	Consultation on issues affecting regional industry in a green economy
16th meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Arab States	Beirut, 17-18 Nov 2011	Proposals and Follow-up from 15th RCM Meeting Side Event

Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20

Arab Ministerial Level Action for Rio+20

Arab Ministerial Level Action on Rio+20

- **Declaration** - Preparation of an Arab Ministerial Declaration on Rio+20 to demonstrate renewed political commitment to sustainable development
- **Initiative** - Preparation of an Arab Ministerial Initiative that identifies the issues & priorities for a roadmap towards a green economy – *to be drafted and deliberated through consultative process*

Regional Cooperation

Regional Cooperation

- **Coordinating Regional Approach** – importance of supporting the preparation of a common Arab framework for action for promoting Arab integration.
- **Harmonizing Regional Positions** – importance of assisting Arab Governments to formulate common positions and perspectives on issues for examination at Rio+20.
- **RCM 16** – Possible focus issues and themes for discussion at next RCM meeting

Thank You!

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