

Review of SDG12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP)

12 July 2018 – 3-6 PM

Statement provided by Ms. Radia sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section on behalf of UNESCWA

Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns requires a cross-cutting and integrated approach to the 2030 Agenda. Arab States, supported by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and regional partners, positioned themselves for advancing SCP through three preparatory meetings focused on energy, water and environment-related issues, that informed regional dialogue and consensus building at the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.

Key messages:

- Emphasize on the priorities laid out in the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its road map focused on energy, water, waste alongside efforts focused on supporting sustainable alongside combating desertification and land degradation, biodiversity and climate change.
- It is important to highlight the benefits of regional initiatives and the exchange of lessons learned among Arab States, while also highlighting the importance of engaging the private sector, civil society organizations and financial institutions in achieving SCP targets.
- The use and adaptation of innovative technologies to the local context, new job creation for reducing inequality, as well as the need for behavioral change.
- Improved resource management, particularly by maximizing energy efficiency and reducing overwhelming reliance on fossil fuels.
- International finance is needed for renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access projects for sustainable energy transitions in the region.
- Nevertheless, while resource efficiency is important, progress must be pursued through concerted efforts to reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity, especially among vulnerable groups, and by ensuring that the provision of water and sanitation for all is not politicised and is protected during social unrest and violent conflict as access to water and sanitation is a human right.

Ultimately, the region highlighted that nexus approaches can help achieve progress towards the SDGs, and this is no more apparent than when pursuing SDG11 on sustainable consumption and production.