

Review of SDG15 implementation

July 13th – 10AM-1:00 PM

Statement of UNESCWA: Key Issues on SDG15 in the Arab Region

The UN regional Commission of Western Asia put forward key messages emanating from ESCWA multi-stakeholders regional consultations:

Key messages submitted by Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director of Sustainable Development and Policies Division

- The Arab region is one of the most affected regions by desertification and land degradation, due to its geographical location and climate and the overexploitation of its natural resources.
- It is therefore critical to discontinue economic growth approaches and models that are based on the depletion of non-renewable natural resources, in order to reduce harmful impacts on the environment and guarantee the rights of future generations.
- There is a need to emphasize the key role of biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its impacts on: food and freshwater supply, on enhancing resilience to climate change and disasters, and on enhancing job creation opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other sectors.
- Enhancing Arab cooperation is required through the development of a common vision aimed at achieving synergies between the three Rio environmental conventions for reducing the impacts of desertification, climate change and biodiversity decline, to be associated with action plans and supported by operational projects.
- The need to recognize that ending occupation and restoring security and stability in the Arab region is a cornerstone for advancing environmental sustainability and sustainable development, especially in areas suffering from protracted armed conflicts.