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## **Promoting Social Cohesion in the Arab Region**

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### **PSCAR Second Media Focus Group**

### ***“Role of Journalists and Media Networks in Promoting Social Cohesion in the Arab Region”<sup>1</sup>***

Le Bristol Hotel, Beirut

24 April 2017

## **AGENDA**

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the working language of this meeting is English and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

9:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	Registration and Welcome Coffee
10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	<p><b>Opening Session – Introduction, Scope &amp; Objectives</b></p> <p><i>Farah Choucair, Project Manager and Technical Specialist, Regional Programme, UNDP</i></p>
10:30A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	<p><b>Session One – Presenting the training manual</b></p> <p><i>Sara El-Khalili, Thomson Reuters Foundation</i></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> In this session, Sara El-Khalil will present the training manual. She will go through the various sections that have been identified in the outline agreed upon with UNDP.</p>
11:30 A.M. – 13:00 P.M.	<p><b>Session Two – Feedback from participants</b></p> <p><i>Objective: In this session, participants are encouraged to provide feedback on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-methodology, structure and tone</li> <li>- analysis of media landscape in the Arab region</li> <li>- selection of case studies</li> <li>- proposed training exercises</li> </ul> <p><i>The participants are also expected to highlight gaps and shortcomings and offer suggestions on how to improve the manual, which is treated by UNDP as a living document that can be validated and re-validated.</i></p>
13:00-14:00 P.M.	Lunch
14:00-15:30 P.M.	<p><b>Session Three – Controversial issues in polarized, conflict and conflict-affected countries</b></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> In this session, participants will discuss issues that are deemed socially, politically and culturally controversial in selected Arab countries. Building on their own experience and by highlighting specific case studies, they will talk about the role of journalists and media networks in either enhancing social cohesion or contributing to instigating and perpetuating intergroup tension or conflict.</p>
15:30- 17:00 P.M.	<p><b>Session Four – Needs of journalists and media networks</b></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> In this session, participants will discuss the working environment of journalists and media networks in the Arab region. This includes institutional landscape of media outlets, relevant legislation, role of syndicates and education curriculum.</p> <p>Given that the region has witnessed the rise of media monitoring bodies or platforms, this section will also address the role and needs of such platforms.</p>
17:00-17:30 P.M.	<b>Concluding Session</b>