



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

# Knowledge as a Driver of Sustainable Development in the Arab States

New York, September 2018

## Agenda

Time	Session
9-9.30	<b>Bilateral Meeting</b> between the <b>UNDP Administrator and H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the MBRF</b> . During this meeting, a small ceremony will be held to honor the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership between UNDP and MBRF.
9.30 – 10.00	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remarks by Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator</li><li>• Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations</li><li>• Remarks by H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the MBRF</li></ul>
10.00 – 11.30	<b>Session 1 - Knowledge Project and the Global Knowledge Index</b> <p>As the world changes at a faster pace than we can perceive, we are witnessing the increasingly important role played by knowledge in the development of modern-day societies. Investing in knowledge is a key priority for countries that aim to expand their development and economic potential and meet the ambitious goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. This session will look at ways to achieve a knowledge society that can empower future generations and how knowledge can inform sustainable development policies and plans. The discussions will be based on the findings of the GKI 2017 that point out priority areas for countries to bridge their sectoral knowledge gaps. The session will also explore the impact of the GKI on the educational sector, while emphasizing the importance of other global indices (e.g. the HDI).</p> <p>Proposed moderator: Jan Stuesson (Founder of RESTING - Advise from the Future)</p> <p>Proposed panelists: AKP team; MBRF representative; Selim Jahan (Director of the HDRO); Leif Edvinsson (Key pioneering contributor to theory and practice of Intellectual Capital); Shyamal Majumdar (Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC); John Dunn (President of Western Michigan University)</p> <p>Panel discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
11.30 – 12.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>

12.00 – 13.30	<p><b>Session 2 - Arab Development Portal and SDGs Tracking Tool</b></p> <p>The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals has stimulated a discussion on the role of national statistics offices and the production of official statistics raising new questions: Statistically, how can we develop a national statistical ecosystem that “leaves no one behind”? Can big data contribute to the production of official statistics? What is needed for the national ecosystems to embrace new data collaboratives? What is the potential and the limits of citizen-generated data? This session will explore the challenges of reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new partnerships that inclusive reporting/monitoring call for. It will showcase the ADP’s SDGs Tracking Tool - which is the first regional monitoring tool developed in the Arab region – to initiate a discussion on how open platforms can cause a positive rippling effect if developed using an interactive and responsive business model in mind through the lens of shared value.</p> <p>Proposed moderator: UN SDSN</p> <p>Proposed panelists: ADP Team; UNSD; Open Knowledge International; Islamic Development Bank</p> <p>Panel discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
13.30 – 13.45	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Mourad Wahba – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States</p>
13.45 – 15.00	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>