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Agenda for the LAS-JAPAN-UNDP Roundtable
“COVID-19 in the Arab Region: Impact and Responses”
27 July 2020, Online

Time	Session
8:00–8:25 (NY Time)	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambassador Hossam Zaki, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States• Mr. Katsuhiko Takahashi, Assistant Minister and Director General, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, the Government of Japan• Mr. Mourad Wahba, Associate Administrator a.i., United Nations Development Programme <p>Keynote Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda
8:25–8:50 <i>Panel Discussion</i>	<p>Session 1 Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Arab Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the situation in the region analyzed and measured by LAS and international organizations? What are impact and challenges on health emergency and socio-economic fronts? What issues have been identified? What is the multi-dimensional nature of the issues? <p>Facilitator: Ms. Nada El Agizy, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department, LAS</p> <p><u>Comment #1 (5 minutes)</u> LAS’s analysis and perspective of socio-economic impact in the region: Mr. Tarek El Nabulsi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Development and Social Policies Department, LAS</p> <p><u>Comment #2 (5 minutes)</u> WHO’s analysis of public health impact: Dr. Ahmed Al Mandhari, Regional Director of WHO EMRO</p> <p><u>Comment #3 (5 minutes)</u> UNESCO’s analysis of knowledge, sciences and social implications, Dr. Ghaith Fariz, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States, Cluster Office for Egypt and Sudan, UNESCO Representative to Egypt</p> <p><u>Comment #4 (5 minutes)</u> UNICEF’s analysis of impact on education, Mr. Kambou Fofana, Regional Chief of Operations and Officer in Charge, UNICEF MENA Regional Office</p> <p><u>Comment #5 (5 minutes)</u> ILO’s analysis on impact on jobs and informal sector, Mr. Tariq Haq, Senior Employment Policy Specialist, Regional Office for Arab States, ILO</p>



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8:50–9:10	Q&A and Discussion
9:10–9:35 <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Session 2 Responses and Paths to Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the scopes of responses at global, regional and state levels? How have countries been responding? How best can we collaborate to address challenges? What are the expectations of countries in the region for international organizations? <p>Facilitator: Mr. Tarek El Nabulsi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Development and Social Policies Department, LAS</p> <p><u>Comment #1 (5 minutes)</u> Enhance LAS's efforts to implement the Arab ECOSOC Declaration on Covid-19, Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief of Natural Resources Sustainability and Partnerships Division, LAS</p> <p><u>Comment #2 (5 minutes)</u> Challenges and opportunities for recovery in the Arab States region, Dr. Maisaa Youssef, ASDR 2020 Lead Author, ESCWA</p> <p><u>Comment #3 (5 minutes)</u> DCO's view of the Arab States region's recovery, Ms. Laila Baker, Regional Director of Development Coordination Office for Arab States</p> <p><u>Comment #4 (5 minutes)</u> UN's Socio-Economic Response and UNDP's technical lead role (anticipation of findings from a new rapid comprehensive regional study conducted by UNDP), Mr. Vito Intini, Regional Lead Economist, UNDP</p> <p><u>Comment #5 (5 minutes)</u> JICA's views of supporting the Arab States region's recovery, Mr. Yoshifumi Omura, Chief Representative, JICA Egypt Office</p>
9:35–9:55	Q&A and Discussion
9:55–10:00	Closing Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Dina Kamel, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Economic Cooperation and Follow-up Department, LAS• Ms. Sarah Poole, Regional Director for Arab States a.i., UNDP• Mr. Kotaro Suzuki, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in the Arab Republic of Egypt

Master of Ceremony throughout the roundtable: **Ms. Rihab I. Hamid**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Economic Relations Department, LAS