

## *Concept Note*

### ***The First LAS- Japan-UNDP Roundtable “Education and Human Development for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region”***

***5 September 2019  
LAS Headquarters, Cairo***

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#### **Background:**

The Arab-Japan Cooperation has witnessed significant developments over the past decade. In 2009, the Arab-Japan Economic Forum was established, creating an important platform for Arab and Japanese Economic Ministers and businessmen. The Forum convened four sessions to present date, most recent of which was the Forum which took place in Morocco in 2016.

In 2013 the Arab-Japan Political Dialogue at Ministerial Level was established as an outcome of a memorandum of cooperation signed by the Arab League Secretary General and the Foreign Minister of Japan to develop a common dialogue between Japan and Arab countries, and to explore opportunities for cooperation amidst the drastic changes that took place in the region, and also to expand the existing mechanisms of cooperation, to include new dimensions, paving the way for the Arab-Japan Cooperation in cultural and social areas. The first Arab-Japan Political Dialogue at Ministerial Level was held at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in 2017, where the Ministers discussed the latest developments related to issues of common interest, emphasizing the importance of “enhancing cooperation between Japan and the Arab states in the fields of culture, education and human resources development”.

In order to achieve Goal 17 of the SDGs, on enhancing the means of implementation and activating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, science and technology are considered as top priorities, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the need to strengthen regional and international cooperation in science and technology, innovation, and exchange of knowledge and best practices.

In the framework of strengthening international support to capacity-building in the Arab region to facilitate the implementation of national plans for achieving SDGs, The League of Arab States (LAS), the Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly hold the first LAS-Japan-UNDP Roundtable, which will take place on Thursday 5 September 2019 at the LAS HQ in Cairo.

**Objectives:**

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and creating human capital base to facilitate sustainable development is a crucial step to take for countries in the Arab region nowadays in their efforts to achieve not only SDG 4 on education but also all SDGs, Arab countries are determined to overcome political, social, and economic challenges that would hinder making progress on the education pathway as part of advancing Agenda 2030 in the region.

The Roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss current challenges facing the Arab region in the areas of education and human development which are fundamental factors for sustaining peace and stability, and achieving prosperity in the region. By engaging with prominent experts from the Arab region, Japan, and international organizations, the Roundtable also aims at showcasing successful regional experiences and lessons learned in order to spur meaningful discussions toward promoting SDGs in the Arab region.

This framework is part of a joint effort by the triangular partnership among LAS- Japan-UNDP to establish a policy dialogues platform around priority and common concerns in support of the Arab region.

**Partners and Participants:**

LAS, the Government of Japan and UNDP will co-host the Roundtable. Participants include LAS member states, policy makers, decision makers, and civil society representatives from Arab countries.

Permanent Representatives of the League of Arab States as well as a number of specialized Arab organizations such as the Union of Scientific Research Councils, the Union of Arab Universities, ALECSO, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Arab Organization for Administrative Development, and relevant international organizations will be participating in the roundtable. The event will also include academics and researchers, who will share knowledge and best practices related to education for sustainable development in the Arab region.