



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)  
National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS)  
**Consultation Meeting on the Strategic Policy Alternatives (SPAF) Update**  
**21 – 22 October 2020**

### Background

Building on the Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework (SPAF) document published in 2017 and taking into consideration the developments of the conflict in Syria which have changed the power dynamics and brought about deep transformations in the Syrian society and economy in addition to the mounting losses and challenges for post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme, established by ESCWA, has commenced a substantive process to update the SPAF document to grasp the emerging scenarios for the end of the conflict and the relevant policy choices.

### Agenda

**15:00 – 18:00 (Beirut Time) Day One: Wednesday 21 October 2020**

**14:45 – 15:00 Connecting to Meeting**

**15:00 – 15:10 Welcoming remarks**

Ahmad Shikh Ebid, Economist

The National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme

**15:10 – 15:20 Introduction: SPAF Update Objectives and Focus Areas**

*Why is the Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework significant? What was the focus of the first SPAF report? What will be the main focus of the updated SPAF and how will it differ from the first version?*

Omar Dahi, NAFS Expert

**15:20 – 16:40 Session 1: Social issues**

**15:20 – 15:50 Presentations on the following thematic areas:**

1. Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Syria
2. The Role of Civil Society in Post-Conflict Syria
3. Decent Work to Counter Conflict Foundations in Syria

**15:50 – 16:40 Discussion and recommendations**

**16:40– 18:00    Session 2: Economic issues**

**16:40 – 17:10    Presentations on the following thematic areas:**

1. An Analysis of Syria’s Health System
2. Policy Options for Dealing with Micro SMEs Informality in Post-Conflict Syria
3. The Syrian Industry in a Post-Conflict Phase

**17:10 – 18:00    Discussion and recommendations**

**15:00 – 18:00 (Beirut Time)                      Day Two: Thursday 22 October 2020**

**15:00 – 16:00    Session 3: Prospects for reconstruction**

**15:00 – 15:30    Presentations on the following thematic areas:**

1. The Impact of Unilateral Coercive Economic Measures on the Syrian Economy and the Prospects for Recovery and Reconstruction
2. Financing Options for Post-Conflict Economic Recovery and Reconstruction

**15:30 – 16:20    Discussion and recommendations**

**16:20 – 16:20    Session 4: Economic Growth**

**16:20 – 16:50    Presentations on the following thematic topics:**

1. Economic Growth for Sustainable Development in Syria
2. The Determinants of Economic Growth and the Role of Political Instability
3. Conflict and Economic Recovery: The role of Fiscal-Monetary Policy in Syria

**16:50 – 17:40    Discussion and recommendations**

**17:40 – 18:00    Wrap up, concluding remarks, and the way forward**