



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme Phase II
Stakeholders' Meeting to discuss the Policy Gap Analysis Report
2-3 October 2019
Beirut, Lebanon
MZ - Hall

Information Note

I- Background

In 2012, as part of its mandate to promote human development in the Arab region, ESCWA launched the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme. NAFS aims to engage Syrian experts and stakeholders in developing policy alternatives for Syria in preparation for a post-agreement phase. To formulate relevant and sustainable policies, NAFS planned to understand the situation in the country before the conflict, monitor the status quo and analyze the possible directions the country could take in the future. Policies proposed aim to address all aspects of Syria's recovery, from reconstruction of physical damages to mitigation of the social and economic impacts of the protracted conflict. They are designed to reflect interlinked challenges and opportunities across sectors and are sequenced according to what key priorities will be during the peace building and state building phases. They are based on three pillars 1- Reconstruction and economic recovery, 2- Governance, institution building, and democratization, 3- Reconciliation and social cohesion, in addition to five cross cutting themes (1- Gender, 2- Civil society, 3- Human rights, 4- Environment, and 5- Sustainability,) as well as three enabling vehicles (1- Macro-economy, 2- Infrastructure, and 3- Governance). NAFS regularly studies the impact of the conflict looking at macro-economic developments, as well as sector-by-sector damages, needs and coping mechanisms.

In 2017, NAFS launched the Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework (SPAF), a living document that is regularly updated to reflect the broadest spectrum of views and ensure that scenarios and policies are adjusted to respond to the evolving situation inside the country. SPAF is structured into nine nexus that capture the inter-linkages and interdependencies between sectors and clusters going toward a 2030 vision for Syria.

II- Objectives of the meeting

In this context, NAFS is organizing a Stakeholders' Meeting on the Policy Gap Analysis Report during 2-3 October 2019.

The objectives of the meeting are to present the findings of the Policy Gap Analysis report which is a comprehensive assessment of policy gaps at the national level in priority themes/sectors that serve peacebuilding¹ in the country using the long-term vision for Syria 2030 as a benchmark. The PGA highlights challenges for the peacebuilding phase in Syria post-agreement, by examining the impact of the conflict on each nexus while also considering its impact across the four nexus of Peacebuilding:

Nexus 1: Voluntary Return and Reintegration and Local Response

Nexus 2: Building a Legal Framework and Institutional Rehabilitation

Nexus 3: Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

Nexus 4: Rehabilitation of Physical and Social Infrastructure

The PGA will be used to develop policy options for the peacebuilding phase in Syria post-agreement and which will be presented in the updated Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework. Therefore, the meeting will also ask the participants to discuss the main considerations for the peacebuilding phase and how NAFS can start to develop policy choices while the conflict is ongoing.

The participants will include experts who wrote the PGA's background papers along with Syrian and international representatives from academia, think tanks, research institutions, civil society organizations and practitioners in the domain of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

III- Registration

The meeting will take place during 2-3 October 2019 at the UN House, Riad El Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon. Arabic and English are the working languages of the meeting and interpretation services will be available.

IV-Correspondence

Please address inquiries and requests for additional information to:

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¹ In 2007, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee has described peacebuilding as: "A range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. Peacebuilding strategies must be coherent and tailored to the specific needs of the country concerned, based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives".



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AGENDA

Day One: 2 October 2019

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Welcoming Remarks

Ms. Riwa Nasreddine, Programme Manager, NAFS

Tour de Table

09:30-11:00 Session 1: Socio-Economic Trends in Syria Seven Years After the Conflict

Moderator: Mr. Salim Araji, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Policy and Poverty Section, Economic Development and Integration Division, ESCWA

Social Implications of the Syrian conflict

Ms. Manuela Nehme, Consultant, Economic Policy and Poverty Section, ESCWA

Macroeconomic trends in Syria in recent years and Prospects for the future

Mr. Ahmad Sheikh Ebid, Macroeconomic Expert

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Session 2: Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Countries

Moderator: Mr. Youness Abouyoub, Chief of Governance and State building Section, Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division, ESCWA

Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Countries: Lessons learned from other countries

Mr. Kristian Berg Harpviken, Research Professor, PRIO

13:00-14:00 Break

14:00-16:00 Session 3: Considerations for the Peacebuilding Phase in Syria Post-Conflict

Moderator: Mr. Karam Karam, Regional Advisor, Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division, ESCWA

Return and Reconciliation – What are the issues at stake?

Ms. Rouba Mhaissen, Founder and Director, SAWA for Development and Aid

Political Governance and Peacebuilding – Where do we start from?

Mr. Assaad Al Achi, Executive Director, Baytna Syria

Discussion

Wrap Up

Day Two: 3 October 2019

09:00-10:30 Session 4: Findings of the Policy Gap Analysis Report

Presentation of the Policy Gap Analysis Report

Ms. Riwa Nasreddine, Programme Manager, NAFS

Discussant: ***Mr. Khaled Bitar, Scientific Researcher at University of Rostock-Germany / Doctoral candidate in Political Science***

Discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13:00 Session 5: Work Group Discussions on the PGA Report

Workgroup 1: Voluntary Return and Reintegration and Local Response

Workgroup 2: Building a Legal Framework and Institutional Rehabilitation

Workgroup 3: Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

Workgroup 4: Rehabilitation of Physical and Social Infrastructure

13:00-14:00 Break

14:00-16:00 Session 6: Recommendations and The Way Forward

Presentation by each work group

Discussion on the Recommendations and the way forward

Wrap up