



Regional Meeting for Civil Society on Sustainable Development

12th-13th of April 2025

Beirut, Lebanon

DAY 1

8:30-9:00	Welcome & Registration	
9:00-9:30	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ziad Abdel Samad, Arab NGO Network for Development. - Mustafa Barghouti, General Secretary of the Palestinian National Initiative (PNI). - Sylvana Lakkis, Chairperson of the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. - Kinda Hattar, MENA Regional Advisor at Transparency International.
9:30-11:00	Session I: Peace, Human Rights, and the Multilateral System The New Agenda for Peace sets 12 Key actions, that the session will be framed around looking through elaborating on the global crisis and preventive diplomacy reality, ongoing and increasing securitized and militarized approaches to peace and its reflections in and towards the region as well the realization of Agenda 2030 and economic and social rights.	Moderator: - Ziad Abdel Samad , Arab NGO Network for Development. Speakers: - Barbara Adams , Global Policy Forum. - Rabie Nasser , Syrian Center for Policy Research. - Kinda Mohamadieh , Third World Network.
11:00 - 11:30 Break		
11:30-13:30	Session II: Financing for Development The session will elaborate on the realities of the region in terms of debt, austerity, and tax justice through examining the impact of rising public debt and fiscal constraints on social spending and development, revisiting the role of IFIs in debt restructuring, ensuring that debt sustainability assessments align with SDG financing needs, climate risks, and long-term development goals.	Moderator: - Wael Gamal , Head of the economic and social rights unit at EIPR. Speakers: - Roberto Bissio , Social Watch. - Ahmad Awad , Phenix Center for Economics & Informatics Studies. - Mohammad Maaytah , Arab Trade Union Confederation.
13:30-14:30 Lunch Break		

14:30-16:30	Session III: Inclusive Sustainable Development: The session will focus on the inclusive recovery of the global south, elaborating on the need for universal access to social protection as a priority, efforts to ensure the inclusion of Women, Youth, the Elderly, and persons with disabilities in society, and measures to ensure inclusive partnership among development actors with accountability ensured.	Moderator: - Zahra Bazzi, Arab NGO Network for Development. Speakers: - Adib Nehmeh, Arab NGO Network for Development. - Yoke Ling, Third World Network.
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DAY 2

9:00-10:30	Session IV: Governance and Partnership The session will discuss governance and partnership focusing on the role of civil society to ensure fostering political participation, inclusion, citizen empowerment, and engagement, and to redesign relations with international partners and institutions. In addition, it will highlight the new dimensions of corruption in accordance with the geopolitical context, and its impact on the development process.	Moderator: - Manar Zaiter, Lawyer and Gender Expert. Speakers: - Julien Courson, Transparency International Association. - Joseph Schechla, HIC-MENA. - Gihan Abuzeid, Gender Expert.
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10:30 - 11:00 Break

11:00-12:30	Session V: Climate justice This session will explore developments in global and regional climate governance, with a particular focus on the climate action outlook in the region. The rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape—characterized by prolonged and expanding regional conflicts, the intensifying competition for rare earth minerals essential to renewable technologies, backtracking on climate commitments, and the continued expansion in oil and gas production—has raised significant concerns surrounding the prospects for reaching an agreement at COP30. Key challenges include securing the necessary finance and technology, ensuring just energy and economic transitions, and strengthening adaptation efforts. Against this backdrop, the session aims to provide a regional perspective on these shifting realities, proposing alternative models for civil society engagement in climate action and exploring pathways for regional cooperation and local adaptation efforts, particularly in areas such as food and water.	Moderator: - Hala Mourad, Dibeem Association for Environmental Development. Speakers: - Habib Maalouf, Climate writer and journalist, Professor at the Faculty of Media at the Lebanese University. - Fatna Afid, Member of the Executive Board of the Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice. - Roland Riachi, Associate Researcher at Faculté des Sciences - Université Paris Cité - Lead Researcher of the Arab Watch Report 2025 on the Right to Water.
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12:30-13:30	Session V: Recommendations validation and outcome adoption	
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