

**EMR SDGs Learning Platform**  
**First Regional Partnership Meeting**  
**28-29 January 2020**  
**Concept Note**

**BACKGROUND**

Partnership is an essential part of the processes underlying the 2030 sustainable development agenda, the current catalyst of all global development efforts. The EMR SDGs Learning Platform is a pioneer regional network that focuses on health-related sustainable development goals (SDGs). The platform is a collaboration between the Alliance for Health Policy and System Research, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), and the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo (AUC/SRC). Working as an offline network as well as an online virtual space, the platform aims at facilitating the implementation of the SDGs agenda related to health through knowledge dissemination, sharing experience and lessons learnt across the region.

Three champion institutions have accepted to join as partners in developing the EMR SDGs Learning Platform: Egypt's Ministry of Planning, monitoring and Administrative Reform, Jordan's High Health Council, and Morocco's National Observatory for Human Development. As pioneer partners, representatives from the three institutions will convene for a two-day meeting in Cairo in order to discuss the strategic direction of the platform, review its virtual site and lay the ground for the activities to be held throughout 2030. The meeting will also include individual experts from the three partnering countries as well as from the region at large.

**MEETING OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the meeting is to set the ground for the extensive developmental work of the platform, to be carried out during 2020. The vision is to build an effective partnership that could be further extended to cover a wide regional network of all stakeholders. To this end, the first partnership meeting will contribute through building bridges and providing an efficient space for:

1. Introducing the virtual platform and reviewing its content.
2. Discussing how the champion institutions, individual experts, and other stakeholders from the three countries and the region at large can actively contribute to the platform as well as effectively benefit from it.
3. Presenting preliminary versions of selected knowledge pieces to be later completed and disseminated as tangible outputs of the platform.

## **MEETING FORMAT**

The meeting will discuss a set of presentations, divided into three types:

1. Presentations from the EMR SDGs learning platform implementing team. These will mainly focus on the structure and content of the virtual platform.
2. Presentations from partner institutions. These will cover the status of the health-related SDGs implementation in their respective counties, highlighting opportunities and challenges.
3. Presentations from individual experts. These will be preliminary versions of analytical pieces or policy briefs relevant to the health-related SDGs in the region at large, in a specific country, or in a group of countries. The preliminary presentations could range from a brief disposition of initial thoughts to a presentation of nearly complete research. The meeting will provide a suitable platform to review these select pieces and to guide future research direction.

Each presentation will be followed by extended discussion by the meeting attendees.

## **ATTENDEES**

- Representatives from each champion institution.
- Contributing independent researchers.
- Other advisors and regional experts.
- Members of the EMR SDGs Learning Platform implementation team.

## **MEETING LOGISTICS**

Date: Tuesday 28 & Wednesday 29 January 2020

Venue: The Social Research Center, American University in Cairo, New Cairo District, Cairo, Egypt