

## Minutes of Meeting

<b>Project Name</b>	The Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development		
<b>Date</b>	July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	<b>Time</b>	From 11:00 am -13:00 pm
<b>Venue</b>	UNDP Premises	<b>Prepared by</b>	Yusuke Kurihara
<b>Subject</b>	Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)		

### Agenda Items

1. Opening Remarks
2. Briefing about the Aswan Forum project
3. Open discussion and feedback on the proposed project document
4. Closing Remarks

### Participants

Name	Organization
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
H.E. Soha Gendi	Director of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
UNDP	
Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn	Resident Representative a.i., UNDP
Mr. Yusuke Kurihara	Programme Analyst UNDP
CCCPA	
H.E. Ashraf Swelam	Director General of CCCPA
Ms. Iman Keira	Program Coordinator, CCCPA
Mr. Salah Ghanem	CCCPA
Diplomatic Missions – Donors	
H.E. Jan Thesleff	Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden
Ms. Corinne Henchoz	Head of International Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland
Ms. Anne Grobet	Embassy of Switzerland
Mr. David Watt	Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of Canada
Ms. Alicia Loucks	U.S. Embassy
Mr. Edward Barney	Head of Social Development, British Embassy

Mr. Samuel Kamara	Country Program Officer, African Development Bank
UN Agencies	
Mr. Laurent de Boeck	Representative, IOM
Mr. Karim Atassi	Representative, UNHCR
Ms. Sophie Giscard D'Estaing	Programme Analyst, UN Women
<b>Meeting Discussions</b>	
<i><u>First Agenda Item: Opening Remarks</u></i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn started with giving a brief about the background of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development project and objectives of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC), she mentioned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) assigned the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution Peacekeeping &amp; Peacebuilding (CCCPA) the responsibility of the Secretariat of the Aswan Forum and UNDP has a longstanding and successful partnership with the CCCPA.</li> <li>- A main objective of the LPAC is to review the proposed project document and give recommendations to approve, reject or revise it. Ms. Randa highlighted the project document is not a concept note but an official document including definition of the project management mechanism.</li> <li>- H.E. Soha Gendi expressed importance of the project which will coincide with Egypt handing over of the African Union Presidency. Noting that the Aswan Forum is going to start an extremely vital dialogue amongst African leaders discussing possible linkages between achieving SDGs, sustainable development, peace and security in Africa. The dialogue will not end there but it will certainly pave the way for a better future. It's an opportunity not to miss.</li> </ul>	
<i><u>Second Agenda Item: Presentation of the proposed project "the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development"</u></i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Ashraf Swelam gave a presentation about the project. The presentation explained the background, concept and governing mechanism of the project. He highlighted the importance of the Forum as 1) a high-level event that ensures political buy in, 2) multi-stakeholder platform bringing together peace &amp; security, humanitarian and development actors 3) an opportunity for engaging think tanks, private sector and civil society.</li> <li>- According to H.E. Ashraf Swelam, the Forum is an Egyptian initiative, that is Africa-owned and internationally supported, through partnerships with national governments, international organizations, and financial institutions. It is also open for partnership with the private sector. The CCCPA identified 6 sectors (infrastructure, energy, housing, telecommunication, banking and financial service) at the nexus of sustainable peace and development. The engagement of the private sector in the Aswan Forum is not limited to Egyptian companies but open to foreign companies investing Africa.</li> </ul>	

- Then, he explained the preparatory process of the Forum. The CCCPA will organize 4-6 workshops covering the main themes of the Forum: Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Forced Displacement, Women, Peace & Security, and Journeys out of extremism. All of the workshops will be jointly organized with international organizations, and coordinated with the African Union.

*Third Agenda Item: Open discussion and feedback on the proposed project document*

- Following to the presentation, Ms. Randa mentioned that it is a pleasure to be involved in this event which will be a constructive and catalytic platform with high-level participation. UNDP will take part in it not only at the country level but also at the global level. The UNDP administrator, Acting Associate Administrator/Regional Director of Arab States and the Regional Bureau of Africa will be involved.
- The **IOM** representative, Mr. Laurent de Boeck confirmed IOM's interest in the Forum. He advised that regarding the preparatory workshop of "Forced Migration", natural disasters and the climate change causes movement of population, and as for "Journeys out of extremism" workshop, integration of migrants caused by social tension and phobia is important as migrants can become vulnerable and the vulnerable may cause extremism. H. E. Ashraf responded to him that the concept notes of 6 preparatory workshops are being developed and the suggested points will be taken into consideration.
- **The Ambassador of Sweden**, H.E. Jan Thesleff, expressed his gratitude for being inviting to this process and said that the Embassy of Sweden submitted the project document it to the Capital for review. H.E. inquired about the process of the preparatory workshops.

H.E. Ashraf answered that as a secretariat of the Aswan Forum, the CCCPA is preparing the workshops and will send invitations as well as concept notes of the workshops to strategic partners. As of now, the tentative schedule of the workshops is:

- o Forced Displacement: August 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> in Cairo
- o Women, Peace and Security: September 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in Cairo
- o Conflict Prevention: September 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> co-organized by AU in Addis Ababa
- o Journey out of extremism: October 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>
- o Peacebuilding: End of October organized with UNPBSO
- o Peacekeeping: It will be organized as a side-event of Peace & Security Committee

For these preparatory steps, UNDP has also decided to field an international expert to support the workshops. Furthermore, H.E. Ashraf mentioned that the Aswan report will be developed through the preparatory workshops and distributed before the Aswan Forum and he expects African young researchers to contribute to it.

- The representative from **UNHCR**, Mr. Karim Atassi expressed his interest in the concept notes and agenda of the preparatory workshops and wished to have further discussions with IOM and CCCPA, especially for the workshop of "Forced Migration"
- **The Embassy of Switzerland**, Ms. Corinne Henchoz, showed her concern that though the Forum is designed as African-owned and Internationally-supported, the project document does not clearly

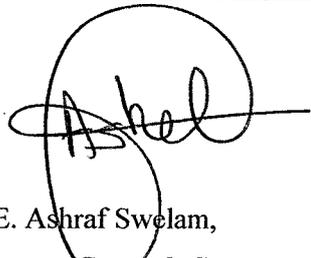
refer to African Union and representatives from any African countries are not invited to LPAC. Additionally, she also mentioned that due to the administrative regulation, the Embassy of Switzerland has green light to engage with the preparatory process. However, the financial support to the Forum itself shall be determined to the headquarters, and the embassy remains available for further discussion.

H.E. Ashraf explained that two coordination meetings with the African ambassadors were conducted by the Egyptian Foreign Minister himself, and that the AU is also fully informed about the Aswan Forum, including direct involvement in the organization of the preparatory workshops. He encouraged development partners to contribute with the full package of expected support, and to avoid earmarking, and to engage in the preparation of the forum and follow-up. He explained that the MoFA has designed the process along these lines. Ms. Randa stated that UNDP does not encourage earmarking for practical purpose.

- Regarding long-term vision and sustainability of the Aswan Forum, H.E. Ashraf mentioned the Aswan Forum is designed as an annual event with political commitment at the highest level. He said that the Forum may expand its geographic scope to include sustainable peace and development agenda both in Africa and the Arab region.
- Responding to inquiries from **UN Women**, Ms. Sophie Giscard D'Estaing, H.E. Ashraf stated that the Forum builds on ongoing conversations, processes and reforms taking place in the African Union and the United Nations, including the operationalization of relevant AU policies, such as AU policy for post-conflict reconstruction and development, advancing the comprehensive implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, in Egypt's capacity the current chairman of the AU, as well as its championship of issues of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.
- **The representative from the Embassy of Canada**, Mr. David Watt confirmed Canada's interest in supporting the Aswan Forum. He clarified that Canada will have an election on October and therefore the cabinet may change. Nevertheless, the embassy will seek for high-level representation in the Forum.
- **The Representative of the African Development Bank**, Mr. Samuel Kamara, thanked the MoFA and UNDP for inviting the Bank to the LPAC and confirmed that they are reviewing the document with interest.
- **The U.S. embassy** representative also said that Washington is reviewing the document and will decide on whether it will support the project.

*Forth Agenda Item: Closing Remarks*

- Ms. Randa, H.E Ashraf and H.E Soha thanked the partners for their participation in the LPAC meeting and for contributions and interest in supporting the project.
- Ms. Randa concluded that the project is hereby accepted given that no objections were noted, and requested to participating partners to send written comments about the document in order to finalize it and sign it.

Government	UNDP	Implementing Partner
 H.E. Ambassador Soha Gendi, <i>Director,            International Cooperation for            Development Department,            Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	 Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, <i>Resident Representative a.i.,            UNDP Egypt</i>	 H.E. Ashraf Swelam, <i>Director General, Cairo            International Center for Conflict            Resolution, Peacekeeping and            Peacebuilding (CCCCPA)</i>
Date:	Date:	Date:

