

**The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD)
Paper Series**

Second Edition (2023-2024)



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Promoting Human Wellbeing and Strengthening Capabilities to Accelerate Sustainable
Development in the Arab Region: Lessons Learnt & Good Practices



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دار نشر جامعة قطر: نحن دار نشر جامعية غير ربحية، تأسست عام 2018، تعمل على تعزيز ونشر الكتب والبحوث المحكّمة في العديد من مجالات المعرفة. تسعى الدار إلى أن تصبح رائدة في نشر الكتب والمجلات العلمية، وتهدف إلى دعم رؤية جامعة قطر نحو التميّز في البحث والتعليم في دولة قطر وخارجها.

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About the Series

Introduction

The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD) Paper Series is an initiative that aims to encourage structured dialogue over structural challenges and opportunities that the Arab region is encountered with, beyond those identifiable through sectoral and technical aspects.

ANDD uses the paper series to foster discussions on essential issues seldom tackled in the development conversations at the regional, national, and local levels. Addressing young Arab scholars and early-career UN staff working on development issues in the region, it provides a forum for the young generation to discuss critical ideas and innovative proposals for regional problems.

History

On 14 July 2020, participants from 16 academic and research entities, along with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Qatar University, met and launched the Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD), which seeks to address the urgent need for more cooperation and dialogue between academia and the United Nations.

Relying on academic research and expertise to advise on new UN programs and policies is an initiative to drive the region towards proactive policy making, in line with national development plans. To this end, ANDD provides a platform for knowledge and expertise sharing between academicians and UN staff to better tackle “challenging problems” and support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

The Research Paper Series launched its first call for papers on the subject: “Building on the similarities between the Arab Countries for fostering sustainable development” in 2022, while its second call in 2023 was on “Promoting Human Wellbeing and Strengthening Capabilities to Accelerate Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Lessons Learnt & Good Practices.”

Each year, authors of the shortlisted papers are invited to a paper development workshop (PDW) at one of the Member Universities where they engage in an interactive review process with university professors, researchers and UN professionals. Accordingly, the first edition’s PDW was hosted by Qatar University (QU) in September 2022, while the second edition’s PDW was hosted by the College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in May 2024.

The topics and themes of the Paper Series vary each year. For the fourth Call (2025–2026), the focus will be on «Improving Human Wellbeing and Strengthening Capabilities». In the upcoming years, the Paper Series will address the following themes: Healthcare systems and related regulations; Peace and security; Building people’s capacities in access to information, knowledge, and behavior.

Managing Entity

The Research Paper Series is coordinated by the Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD), which currently consists of 35 institutional members. The Network's activities are overseen by a steering committee composed of representatives from the founding institutions, with a rotating chairperson every year. For the 2023–2024 term, Al-Quds University served as the chair, while for 2024–2025, Hamad Bin Khalifa University served as the chair. The UN-ESCWA provides secretariat support to the network.

Vision

Congruent with the vision of the Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD), the Research Paper Series initiative aims to contribute to bridging the knowledge gap between academia and the work of the United Nations, and to shaping a future where the Arab region thrives through collaborative problem-solving on developmental issues.

Mission

By providing a dynamic platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing among young Arab scholars and early-career UN staff, the ANDD Paper Series makes it a mission to address structural challenges and opportunities in the Arab region beyond conventional development paradigms, and to encourage the exploration of innovative ideas and solutions for a transformative sustainable development.

Objectives

The ANDD Research Paper Series initiative aims to:

1. Empower Young Minds: by providing a platform for the young generation and empowering them to voice critical ideas, innovative proposals, and actionable solutions for regional problems, nurturing their potential as change-makers.
2. Address Critical Issues: by focusing on essential yet overlooked issues in the Arab region's development discourse, focusing on wicked problems that transcend traditional sectoral or technical boundaries.
3. Promote Dialogue, Collaboration and Networking: by fostering robust and structured conversations among young Arab scholars and early-career UN staff, and encouraging diverse perspectives and knowledge sharing on complex regional challenges.
4. Turn Ideas into Action: through an enabling environment that facilitates the transition of theoretical proposals into feasible solutions that support regional development.
5. Contribute to Sustainable Development: by encouraging and supporting the creation and implementation of sustainable solutions that contribute positively to the social, economic, and environmental development of the Arab region.

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Foreword

During a women's business event attended by esteemed experts from foreign affairs, academia, and industry, I proposed the establishment of a network to bridge the gap between United Nations entities, society, and academia, aimed at fostering a sustainable future for our region (Gulf). With the invaluable support of ESCWA, Qatar University and the participating universities, the Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD) was launched in 2020.

Since its inception, ANDD has actively engaged with the region's research community, rotating its chair among various countries, including Qatar, Morocco, Palestine, and Oman. Our diverse activities have attracted thousands of students from across the region and beyond, participating in seminars and conferences focused on overcoming the region's critical and existential challenges for prosperity and sustainability. As the founder of ANDD, I am proud to present the second edition of the ANDD Paper Series, titled "Promoting Human Wellbeing and Strengthening Capabilities to Accelerate Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Lessons Learnt & Good Practices."

This edition reflects our ongoing commitment to addressing the critical challenges facing our region while adapting to and taking advantage of the technological advancements, economic shifts and evolving labor market demands. The papers included in this collection explore essential themes such as enhancing the human capital and wellbeing through better quality of education and meeting the new labor market needs by solving the youth labor market challenges while accentuating the transformative role of higher education institutions. Contributions from distinguished authors across the Arab region provide valuable insights into building human capital and fostering sustainable practices.

This edition underscores the importance of enhancing human capabilities as a driving force for sustainable development. In a highly volatile, uncertain and rapidly changing global landscape, the ability to adapt to the new economic advancements and innovate for a sustainable future is essential.

ANDD continues to grow and evolve, playing a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among scholars and practitioners in the Arab region and beyond.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all contributors for their dedication to this important mission. Their commitment to advancing knowledge and promoting sustainable practices is invaluable.

As you engage with the insights presented in this collection, I hope you find valuable lessons and best practices that will inform future initiatives. Together, we can foster a future where human wellbeing is prioritized, capabilities are strengthened, and sustainable development becomes a reality for the region.

Prof. Mariam Al-Ali Al-Maadeed

Founder of Academic Network for Development Dialogue, Qatar University

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