



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## **Building Urban Resilience:**

### **Strengthening Community Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities**

as part of the ANDD Paper Series  
Fourth Edition (2026)

#### Background

The **Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD)** Paper Series is an initiative launched on 14 July 2020 through the collaboration of 16 academic and research institutions, together with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Qatar University. The initiative aims to encourage structured dialogue over strategic and fundamental challenges and opportunities that the Arab region is encountered with, beyond those identifiable through sectoral and technical aspects.

The paper series aims 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. The series is published on the ANDD Paper Series website by Qatar University Press: <https://journals.qu.edu.qa/index.php/ANDD/>

The first paper series (2022–2023) included seven research papers and focused on “Building on the Similarities between Arab Countries to Foster Sustainable Development.” The second paper series (2023–2024) included twelve research papers on “Promoting Human Wellbeing and Strengthening Capabilities to Accelerate Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: Lessons Learned and Good Practices. The third paper series (2024–2025) includes nine research papers.

#### 4th Call for Papers

The call for papers for 2026 and 2027 will focus on “**Building Urban Resilience**”. The **2026 theme** emphasizes **strengthening community resilience through equity-driven and nature-based approaches to disaster risk reduction**, while the **2027 theme** shifts focus to **leveraging technology and smart solutions to enhance the resilience of infrastructure and essential services**. Together, they offer



complementary pathways that are people-centered and system-centered for advancing sustainable and resilient urban futures.

## 2026: Building Community Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities:

The theme “Building Community Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities” invites research and practice-oriented papers that explore how urban communities can strengthen their resilience to disasters. Submissions should focus on transformative, equitable, innovative, and coordinated actions that empower communities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to natural hazards. We encourage papers examining how green infrastructure, ecosystem-based approaches, and community-led initiatives can reduce risks, safeguard lives, and ensure continuity of basic services. Contributions highlighting scalable strategies, successful practices, and actionable models that integrate local knowledge, technology, and nature-based solutions to build safer, adaptive, and inclusive cities are particularly welcome.

Papers should empirically **identify policy solutions**, tools and recommendations that create enabling conditions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. Submissions should draw on primary or secondary data, empirical evidence and good practices. Papers should particularly recommend intervention strategies and evidence-based policies for addressing systemic and structural challenges in the region. The focus of the papers may cover any of the following areas within the science-policy interface as a strategy for advancing the SDGs:

- Outlining specific evidence-based policy solutions and providing recommendations for action.
- Proposing innovative approaches, policy tools and priority action areas.
- Identifying enabling conditions including advocacy and good practices, to support implementation.
- Exploring interventions, policy actions, and stakeholder engagement highlighting their impact and pathways for scaling up.

### **Eligibility: Submissions are invited from:**

- Graduate students (Master’s or PhD) currently enrolled at universities in the Arab region.
- Early-career researchers or postdoctoral fellows within four years of completing their **highest** academic degree.
- Junior professionals affiliated with the United Nations or international development and humanitarian organizations working in or on the Arab region.

## General Terms and Paper Structure

- Authors can submit their papers either individually or as a group.
- Authors can submit research that was presented in other past events given its relevance to the theme of this year’s paper series but only if it was not formally published.
- Authors shall send their submissions in Word Doc format (including the text, high-resolution illustrations, and tables).
- The initial proposal should be between 800–1000 words, and the full paper should be around 5000-8000 words in total (with a 10% plus or minus margin), **excluding references**.
- Papers must be based on empirical research, drawing on:



- Primary data (e.g., surveys, interviews, direct observations, field studies, experiments, archival research). Where applicable, institutional ethical approval (e.g., IRB clearance or equivalent) is required before data collection, particularly when involving human participants.
- Secondary data from trusted sources must be cited (e.g., peer-reviewed journals, official UN or government reports, recognized international organizations, reputable research institutions).
- Authors should clearly describe:
  - The data sources used.
  - The methods of data collection and analysis.
  - Any limitations or constraints affecting the data.
- The paper structure should be clearly defined and numbered using Word's automatic numbering system.
- The writing of citations and reference list should be standardized according to the seventh edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) style, which can be viewed on the link: <https://apastyle.apa.org>
- The author should set a bibliography of sources and references at the end of the research paper, in the same style of citing footnotes, but arranged in alphabetical order by the author's family name.
- All illustrations, tables, and figures should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper.
- Tables, charts, and illustration titles should be placed above and written in bold, while descriptive captions should be placed below and include the source citation.
- Tables should be editable.
- Illustrations and figures should be provided in high resolution from the source.
- The font to be used is:
  - Times New Roman, size 12, paragraph spacing of 1.5, for English papers.
  - Sakkal Majalla, size 14, single space, for Arabic papers.

## Paper Structure

The structure of a policy paper can vary depending on the purpose, audience, and content of the paper, but the following is a general structure that can be adapted to suit different needs:

1. **Title Page:** Paper title (in English and Arabic), author(s) full name(s) and affiliation(s), contact email(s), date of submission.
2. **Abstract** (in English and Arabic): A concise summary (max 250 words) that clearly outlines the research problem, objectives, significance, methodology, key findings, and policy relevance.
3. **Keywords** (in English and Arabic): Provide 4–6 keywords that reflect the core themes and concepts of the paper.
4. **Introduction:** Contextualize the research problem within the Arab region, describe its significance, and articulate the research objectives and questions.
5. **Research Hypotheses and Study Framework:** Clearly state the research hypotheses and outline the research plan.



6. **Literature Review** (*optional but encouraged*): Briefly discuss relevant prior research or policy literature to position your contribution and highlight knowledge gaps.
7. **Methodology**: Describe and justify the research design. Specify data sources, collection methods, tools for analysis, ethical considerations, and any limitations. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches are welcome.
8. **Findings / Analysis**: Present the core findings of your research, with analysis of key patterns, relationships, or evidence. Use tables, charts and figures where appropriate.
9. **Discussion**: Interpret the findings in the context of regional policies and challenges, discussing implications for SDG implementation or wellbeing.
10. **Policy Recommendations**: Provide actionable, evidence-based recommendations. Highlight feasibility, potential impact, possible challenges and scalability.
11. **Conclusion**: Recap the research objectives, main findings, and the urgency or relevance of proposed policy actions.
12. **References**: Follow APA 7th edition style for all citations and reference lists.
13. **Appendices** (if needed): Supplementary data, extended tables, survey questionnaires, or technical notes that support the main text.

## Submission Process

Authors' contributions will undergo the following professional review process:

- Submission of an initial proposal (between 800-1000 word) including the following:
  - o A clear problem statement.
  - o A new research proposal or a summary of a completed study including data sets and preliminary analysis.
- Initial proposals review and selection of the top 15 ranked proposals.
- Authors of accepted proposals will be invited to submit a first draft of their paper.
- Author(s) of the submitted papers will be invited to a writing workshop (either online or in-person) with experts in the field, to guide them in developing a second draft based on feedback from editors and peers.
- All accepted papers will pass through a second peer-review process leading to a sub-selection of the papers.
- Authors of the final papers may be invited to present their proposals and experience at selected UN-ESCWA events or conferences (e.g.: Arab Forum for Sustainable Development) and ANDD annual event.
- All accepted and finalized papers will be published on the dedicated ANDD Paper Series website, published by Qatar University Press, and accessible via the following link: <https://journals.qu.edu.qa/index.php/ANDD>
- If you wish to participate, please submit an initial proposal (**800-1000 words**) in **Arabic or English** to the following email addresses: [info@anddnetwork.org](mailto:info@anddnetwork.org) & [dds@un.org](mailto:dds@un.org), **by 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 (along a shot CV, max 2 pages)**



## Paper Evaluation Criteria

- **Relevance:** The paper should address the theme of the call for papers and be relevant to the Arab region's context.
- **Originality:** The paper should present original ideas and insights.
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** To maintain the highest standards of academic integrity, original thought, and accountability, ANDD paper series requires that all submitted manuscripts be the original work of the authors. The use of Generative AI or AI-assisted technologies (such as LLMs, automated writing tools, or text generators) in the drafting, writing, or paraphrasing of the manuscript text is strictly prohibited.
- **Clarity:** The paper should be well-structured and clearly written, with a logical flow of ideas and coherence.
- **Methodology:** The paper should employ sound research methods.
- **Significance:** The paper should have practical and theoretical implications for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, and contribute to advancing knowledge and practices in the field of human well-being and capabilities.
- **Innovation:** The paper should propose new and innovative approaches, solutions, or strategies that can improve human well-being and strengthen capabilities in the Arab region.
- **Impact:** The paper should have a potential impact on the Arab region's development and provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners.
- **Conclusions:** The paper should present clear and concise conclusions that summarize the main findings, contributions, and recommendations.

## About ANDD <http://anddnetwork.org>

The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD) aims at creating synergy and strengthening the cooperation and dialogue between the United Nations (UN) and Academia. It acts as a think tank in the region to influence the UN's work and the global dialogue on policy options to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ANDD was established as a partnership between universities and educational institutions regionally and worldwide with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) supported by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) and Qatar University (QU).

The network supports knowledge exchange between the UN and the Academia in the Arab region. It focuses on dialogue and facilitates collaboration between two schools of thought (the academic and non-academic), being an example to move away from competing against each other and start to cooperate and share knowledge.



## 2027 topic: Building Urban Resilience Smart Solutions for Resilient Infrastructure and Basic Services

The theme “Smart Solutions for Resilient Infrastructure and Basic Services” invites research and practice-oriented papers that examine how cities can leverage technology, innovation, and smart solutions to strengthen urban resilience. Submissions are expected to focus on: anticipating, preparing for, and responding to shocks through digital tools, data-driven approaches, and green infrastructure; ensuring the continuity and reliability of essential services, including water management, mobility, and waste management; and applying smart solutions to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure. Papers that showcase innovative practices, technology-enabled and green interventions, and scalable implementation models to drive sustainable and resilient urban transformation are particularly encouraged.

