CALL FOR PAPERS

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

as part of the ANDD research paper series
(Third Edition, 2024)

Background

The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD) paper series is an initiative that aims to encourage structured dialogue over "wicked" problems in the Arab region and provoke a conversation over structural challenges and opportunities that the region is encountered with beyond those identifiable through sectoral and technical aspects.

ANDD uses the paper series to foster the discussion 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 Arab region, it provides a forum for the young generation to discuss critical ideas and innovative proposals for regional problems. It also aims to create the enabling environment that assists the Arab youth in turning their proposals into concrete implementable solutions and actions.

In the year 2022, ANDD launched its first Call of papers under this initiative on the subject: "Building on the similarities between the Arab Countries for fostering sustainable development". Authors of the final selected papers were invited to a workshop at Qatar University in September 2022, where they engaged in an interactive review process with university professors and UN professionals.

The Third Call for Papers (2024)

The ANDD Paper Series for 2023-2025 will tackle the subject of improving human wellbeing and strengthening capabilities, which are at the heart of the transformation envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For this year, contributors are invited to cover one of the following topics related to improving human wellbeing and strengthening capabilities:
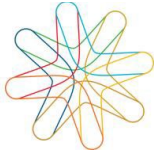
- **Healthcare system, nutrition and food security.**
- **Sustainable resource management.**

Papers should try to identify policy solutions, tools and recommendations to create enabling conditions, based on evidence and good practices, for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. Papers should particularly aim at recommending intervention strategies and evidence-based policies for addressing systemic and structural challenges in the region. The focus of the papers can be in any of the following within science-policy interface as a strategy in SDGs:

- Outlining a specific evidence-based policy or set of policies and providing recommendations for action.
- Innovative solutions, ways, policy tools and action areas.
- Enabling conditions including advocacy that can be created with best practices.
- Interventions, policy action and stakeholder engagement: how they can help and how to scale up.

General Terms and Paper Structure

- Graduate students (Masters holders and PhD candidates/holders) and early-career UN staff can participate with their research paper ideas.
- 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 500–700 words, and the full paper should be around 4,000 words in total (with a 10% plus or minus margin), **excluding references**.
- 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.
- The numbering of all illustrations, tables and figures should be consecutive.

- Descriptive captions should be written under each figure, while illustration or table description should be written above in Bold.
- Tables should be editable.
- Illustrations and figures should be provided in high resolution from the source.
- The font to be used is:
    o Times New Roman, size 12, paragraph spacing of 1.5, for English papers.
    o 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:

- **Abstract (in English and Arabic):** Should not exceed 250 words. The abstract briefly discusses the research problem, objectives, and importance of study. It then briefly explain the research methods, tools and methodologies, and most important analysis and statistics. It also gives a glimpse on the most important conclusions, recommendations or scientific value.

- **Introduction:** This section provides background information on the policy issue and explains why it is important. It should include a clear statement of the problem, the context in which the problem exists, and an explanation of why action is needed.

- **Analysis:** This section provides a detailed analysis of the policy issue, including the causes of the problem, the current state of affairs, and potential consequences of inaction. It may also include a discussion of relevant laws, regulations, and policies.

- **Policy Recommendations:** This section outlines the specific policies that should be implemented to address the problem. Each recommendation should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of how it will work, what resources are required, and how it will be implemented.

- **Conclusion:** This section summarizes the key points of the paper and restates the recommendations. It should also include a call to action, urging the reader to take the recommended steps.

- **References:** This section includes a list of sources used in the paper, such as reports, articles, and books. It should be formatted according to the APA style.

Submission Process

Authors' contributions will undergo the following professional review process:

- Submission of an initial proposal (between 500-700 word) including the following:
  o Problem statement.
  o A new proposal or a summary of a complete work with data sets and analysis.

- Initial proposals review and selection of the top 15 ranked proposals.

- In case the initial proposal is accepted, authors 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 to be published with Qatar University Press in an ANDD paper series publication.

- 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.

If you wish to participate, please submit an initial proposal **(500-700 words) in Arabic or English, by 30 September 2024**, to the following email addresses:
info@anddnetwork.org & dds@un.org

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.

- **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.
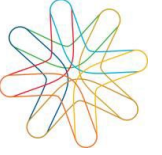
Upcoming Paper Series (2025)

Within the subject of "improving human wellbeing and strengthening capabilities", the following themes will be tackled in the upcoming years:

2025 Paper series Focus:
- Healthcare systems and related regulations.
- Peace & security.
- People capacities in access to information, knowledge and behaviors.

About ANDD

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.