CALL FOR PAPERS

BUILDING ON THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES FOR FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD)

as part of the discussion paper series
"Opening the lid"

The paper series "Opening the lid" is an initiative that aims to encourage structured dialogue over wicked problems[1] in the Arab region. The series is meant to provoke a conversation over structural challenges and opportunities that the region is encountered with beyond those identifiable through sectoral and technical aspects. The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (ANDD) will use this series to foster the discussion on essential issues seldom driving 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 wicked 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 first paper series of this initiative, ANDD seeks to bring together students, young researchers, and early-career UN staff, under the guidance of ANDD experts, to discuss the subject of building on the similarities between Arab countries to foster sustainable development in the region. Acknowledging that "similarities" is a broad term, the aim is to capture all insights on the issue noting that similarities could be looked at from various perspectives including, to name few, historical, geographical, cultural, economic, political, legal, language, health and wellbeing aspects and/or others. This theme aims to capture the thoughts of the young generation on what they see as similar across the Arab region and how these similarities could be geared towards advancing sustainable development in the region. The series will respond to critical questions that include but are not limited to:

- What similarities do you see between countries in the Arab region in general?

- What are the things that unite these countries rather than separate them in general?

- How can building on identified similarity(ies) contribute to solving wicked regional problems?

- What are the means required to build on the similarities between Arab countries to foster regional sustainable development?

- What investment(s) should policy and decision makers make to bring Arab countries closer to each other in the area of sustainable development?

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[1] A problem is described as wicked when it is difficult to solve because of complex interdependencies and incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognize. It refers to an idea or problem that cannot be fixed, where there is no single solution to the problem.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submitted papers should present innovative and practical solutions to the assigned wicked problem. They will undergo a professional review process. Twenty top ranked papers will be shortlisted.

- The authors of the short-listed papers will be invited to an online writing workshop with experts in the field to guide them for preparing their first draft of the paper.

- A second round of review of the updated version of the papers will be undertaken leading to a sub-selection of the papers to be published in an ANDD paper series publication.

- The authors of the final papers will be invited to participate in a series of discussions of their papers on university campuses of selected ANDD members (these events will follow an open to the public participation modality). Authors of the papers will have the forum to discuss the ideas they produced and their proposed solutions.

- The authors will present their papers outside their universities rather than on their home campuses. On their home campus, they will be part of the audience to encourage discussion of other papers presented.

- After this process the top four papers and authors will be selected and 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 a **one page abstract or concept paper (500-700 words) in Arabic or English,** by 31 December 2021, to the email address: ANDD@qu.edu.qa

GENERAL TERMS AND PAPER STRUCTURE

1- University students (graduate and undergraduate) and early-career UN staff can participate with their research paper ideas.

2- Authors can submit their papers either individually or as a group.

3- 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.

4- Papers can propose theoretical concepts or practical/concrete solutions and may include interdisciplinary ideas.

5- Upon the review process of the abstracts, and in case the paper abstract is accepted, the author(s) of the submitted papers will be informed about the result for inclusion in the writing workshop.

6- A first full draft of the paper should be completed by **15 March 2022,** to be evaluated again by the review committee.

7- Authors shall send their submissions in word and pdf formats following the template specified.

8- Works cited must be added as a reference list at the end of the paper using the APA style guide.

9- The abstract should be between 500–700 words, and the full paper should not exceed 3,500 words in total.

10- The font to be used is:
 - Times New Roman, size 12, double space, for English papers.
 - Sakkal Majalla, size 14, single space, for Arabic papers.

PAPER EVALUATION CRITERIA

1- The ability to identify a 'wicked problem', to 'capture' thoughts, 'discuss' or create 'solutions', or all of this!

2- Topics should be relevant to this year's theme, to the Arab region and the SDGs.

3- Proposed solutions will be evaluated based on their novelty and feasibility.

Do not hesitate to contact us for general inquiries!

About ANDD

The Academic Network for Development Dialogue (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 will support knowledge exchange between the UN and the Academia in the Arab region. It will focus on dialogue, facilitate 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. ANDD seeks to ensure a proper gender and ethnic balance in all its related activities.

For more information about ANDD please visit: http://www.qu.edu.qa/research/research-activities/ANDD