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**Under the patronage of**  
**HH Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**

**Regional launch of the 2014 Global Human Development Report**

**I- Background**

The 2014 Human Development Report, entitled “[Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience](#)”, provides a fresh perspective on vulnerability and proposes ways to strengthen resilience and stresses the fact that persistent vulnerability threatens human development, and unless it is systematically tackled by policies and social norms, progress will be neither equitable nor sustainable.

According to income-based measures of poverty, 1.2 billion people live with \$1.25 or less a day. However, the latest estimates of the UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index reveal that almost 1.5 billion people in 91 developing countries are living in poverty with overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards. And although poverty is declining overall, almost 800 million people are at risk of falling back into poverty if setbacks occur.

“By addressing vulnerabilities, all people may share in development progress, and human development will become increasingly equitable and sustainable,” stated UNDP Administrator Helen Clark during the launch of the report in Tokyo on 24 July 2014.

It is worth noting that the 2014 Human Development Report comes at a critical time, as attention turns to the creation of a new development agenda following the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Addressing human development from an integrated perspective for enhanced resilience has been consistently advocated for through the series of Arab Human Development Reports produced by UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Arab States since 2002. The last of the series issued in 2009, under the theme of Human Security- analyzed and shed the light the resistance and prevalence of the obstacles to human development in the region. The report proposed at the time the answers lie in the fragility of the region’s political, social, economic and environmental structures, in its lack of people-centred development

policies and in its vulnerability to outside intervention. It pressed to the readers that these characteristics undermine human security - the kind of material and moral foundation that secures lives, livelihoods and an acceptable quality of life for the majority. Human security is a prerequisite for human development, and its widespread absence in Arab countries has held back their progress. The report findings proved accurate with the devolving situation in the countries region that followed.

This endeavour requires a multi-pronged approach at the policy and operational level using a strategic and evidence-based approach that relies not only on reliable facts and information but also on an inclusive participatory approach that ensures that all populations groups are shaping the country's development strategy.

## **II- Objectives and expected outcomes**

With its legacy of flagship human development reports at the global, regional and national levels, UNDP is well positioned and equipped to support a regional policy dialogue event in Kuwait among the different national stakeholders around the 2014 Global Human Development Report. The event will be organized on 28-29 January under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and in partnership with the Arab Planning Institute (API), with the following objectives:

- Presenting and discussing the Global Human Report with focus on its key messages.
- Triggering evidence-based dialogue and synthesizing the priority human development issues on human development issues at the global, regional and national levels with focus on how this is affecting the Arab region.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. A common understanding of the 2014 GHDR content and its key messages
2. A focused understanding of the regional development challenges based on GHDR findings

### **Methodology**

The GHDR regional launch event will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and will be preceded by a symposium that will be held the day before on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January (5:00-7:00 pm). The symposium will be guided by prominent discussants and speakers addressing the key development challenges in the region including the focus on development for resilience in crisis countries.

III- Proposed agenda

**Wednesday 28 January**  
**Venue: UN House- Mishrif**

Time		
5:00-5:15	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mubashar Sheikh, UNRC/UNDP RR Kuwait</li> <li>• Badr Mallalah, API Director General</li> </ul>
5:00-7:00	<p><u>Symposium- Regional Human Development priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development challenges and resilience approach for development in crisis countries-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lebanon case study</li> <li>✓ Syria Case study</li> <li>✓ Jordan Case study</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Economic growth and diversification and employment-</li> <li>• Governance and Public Administration Reform</li> <li>• Kuwait Regional leadership with focus on humanitarian role and south-south for resilience building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ross Mountain, Deputy UN Special Coordinator/ Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP RR Lebanon</li> <li>• Yacoub El Helou, UNRC/UNDP RR Syria</li> <li>• Edward Kallon, UNRC/UNDP RR Jordan</li> <li>• Sami Ben Daamech, World Bank, Kuwait</li> <li>• Dr. Awni Al-Rushoud, API Advisor</li> <li>• Gustavo Gonzalez, UNDP Sub-regional Development Coordinator (Syria related-crisis)</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderation:</u> Dima Al-Khatib, DRR, UNDP Kuwait</p>
7:00-8:00	Open Discussion	

**Thursday 29 January**  
**Venue: Arab Planning Institute**

9:00-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of host country Senior officials</li> <li>• Statement of UNDP senior Official</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HE Mr. Yasser Hassan Abul, Minister of State for Housing Affairs</li> <li>• Mr. Mubashar Sheikh, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</li> <li>• Mr. Badr Mallalah, API Director General</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30 - Coffee break		
10:30-12:00	<p>Launch of the 2014 Global Human Development Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the 2014 GHDR report and its key messages with focus on the Arab region</li> <li>• Discussants panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hashim Al-Rifaai, Secretary General, GSSCPD, Kuwait</li> <li>- Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General, Arab League</li> <li>- Ms. Nesreen Barakat, ex- Minister of Social Development, Jordan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanni Mukhopadhyay, UNDP, Policy Specialist, Human Development Report Office</li> <li>• Representatives of Ministries of planning and regional entities</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderation:</u> Mr. Mubashar Sheikh, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</p>
12:00-1:00	Open Discussion	UNDP and API
1:00- 2:00	Lunch	

