



1st Arab Leadership Dialogue on
Science Advice to Governments
Dead Sea, Jordan | December 13-14, 2016

Post Event Report



Summary

Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan (RSS) and President of the Board of Governors of UN ESCWA Technology Center (UN-ETC), the RSS and UN-ETC in partnership with the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) and U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF Global), with the support of Nature Middle East, Princess Sumaya University for Technology and the New Zealand Embassy in Ankara, held the 1st Arab Leadership Dialogue on Science Advice to Governments at the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea, Jordan, on December 13-14, 2016.

The meeting which was attended by 47 participants from a number of national, regional and international organizations, focused on means of enhancing the role of science advice in decision making and other issues at the interface of science and policy. Over the two-day period, the meeting addressed a number of topics, that included the science advice landscape in the Arab region, principles of science advice, sustainable development goals and science, the role of science academies, science advice: practice and infrastructure, and science diplomacy. The participants also examined 6 case studies that were designed to gain in-depth insights into the policy dilemmas in different contexts.

The meeting served as a significant step towards a larger dialogue for examining key issues of science advice in the Arab region. It offered an opportunity to exchange views on models and mechanisms of science advice that exist in Arab countries and the challenges it face. It also provided a platform to establish contacts among Arab participants and a group of international experts in the realm of science advice.

The participants emphasized the need to formalize the role of science advice in the Arab countries by developing a clear roadmap with an interactive science advisory ecosystem that entails institutional mechanisms such as national academies and chief science advisors to governments, with the support of the legislative umbrella to ensure good governance. Moreover, the meeting concluded with a set of recommendations for further consideration.

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I. Recommendations and Next Steps:

The dialogue resulted in a number of recommendations:

1. Establish STI parliamentary committees in Arab countries, a few exist at present.
2. Institutionalize in Arab countries position of the “Chief Science Advisor to government.”
3. Launch national academies of science and strengthen the role of existing equivalent bodies.
4. Formalize the science advisory role through legislation/regulation.
5. Align national strategies with the sustainable development goals.
6. Gear scientific research towards more understanding of risk and risk management, as well as, share best practices and learned lessons among Arab countries.
7. Develop a roadmap for science advice in the Arab countries.
8. Develop a science advisory ecosystem.

In terms of next steps, the following are proposed steps:

1. Develop a proposal to create INGSA Middle East chapter.
2. Translate the draft set of “Principles and Guidelines of Science Advice to Governments” to Arabic. This will be followed by national consultations.
3. Develop a discussion paper on the advantageous use of a more complete science advisory system with both a National Science Academy and a Chief Science Adviser needed.
4. A follow up meeting where the focus is more on what is needed to bring evidence-based, science-informed advice to governments in the Arab world.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. To further extend the dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Arab region;
2. To enlarge and strengthen the capacity and network of those interested in the improvement of science advice for policy;
3. To assist institutional development and regional cooperation;
4. To seek regional input into the draft set of Ethics and Principles of Science Advice to Governments.

The event was also an opportunity to seek participants’ input to a draft set of *Principles and Guidelines of Science Advice to Governments*, which being developed by INGSA through a collaborative process and regional consultations. The principles are being developed in response to the World Science Forum (WSF) Declaration of 2015, with a view to presenting these recommendations at the World Science Forum in Jordan in 2017.

III. Agenda & Discussion Content

The two-day meeting (see Appendix A-1) covered both formal presentations and factual case studies. The aim was to provide a broad overview of the different types and mechanisms of science advice (e.g. science academies). Moreover, the participants examined principles of science advice and key issues at the science-policy interface. The presentations also placed an emphasis on important issues such as the sustainable development goals and the role of indigenous and local knowledge.

The 6 case studies were developed by the INGSA team & the Science Diplomacy Program at RSS in consultation with the ESCWA Technology Center. The cases were designed to gain insights into the policy dilemmas that illustrate critical questions, obstacles and opportunities for science advice in different contexts and conditions.

The participants took keen interest in the discussions and understanding of the dynamics, implications, challenges and good practices of science advice. In addition, some of the key questions that arose from the dialogue included:

1. How can science advice function in the Arab countries with different political and democracy systems?
2. What are the minimum requirements to establish a successful science advisory ecosystem in the Arab world?

Moreover, some of the participants highlighted challenges facing science advice in the region:

1. In many instances, science advice in the Arab world is only sought at times of crisis.
2. Lack of communication among science advisory bodies, policy makers and governments (i.e. ecosystem).
3. National security is generally overlooked when science advice is given.
4. Lack of data and access to information.

I. Participants

There were 47 participants (Appendix A-2). 19 participants from 8 Arab countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Palestine. The remaining 27 participants were facilitators and observers from regional and international organizations: League of Arab States (LAS), Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), UN-ESCWA Technology Center, UNESCO. Moreover, out of the 47 attendees, 16 were female and 31 were male.

The leadership dialogue was formally inaugurated by HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan. Professor Fouad Mrad, Executive Director, UN-ESCWA Technology Center. Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA and Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand. Mr Mike Dignam, CEO and President, CRDF Global. The opening session was chaired by Mr Nart Dohjoka, Program Manager of the Science Diplomacy Program at the RSS.

Meeting Programme

Day One: Tuesday 13th December 2016

08:00 – 08:30	Coffee and Registration
08:30 – 09:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Fouad Mrad, Executive Director, UN-ESCWA Technology Center (5') • Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand (5') • Mr Mike Dignam, CEO and President, CRDF Global (5') • HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President, the Royal Scientific Society (15')
09:00 – 09:15	Mr Nart Dohjoka , Program Manager, Science Diplomacy Program, RSS <i>Introductions</i>
09:15 – 09:45	Dr Moneef Zoubi , Director General, Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) <i>Overview: Arab Region's Science Advice Landscape</i>
09:45 – 10:45	Prof Sir Peter Gluckman , Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand <i>Principles of Science Advice</i>
10:45 – 10:55	Group photo session
10:55 – 11:15	MORNING BREAK
11:15 – 11:35	Dr Flavia Schlegel , Assistant DG, Natural Sciences UNESCO <i>Sustainable Development Goals and Science</i>
11:35 – 12:05	Dr Fouad Mrad , Executive Director, UN-ESCWA Technology Center <i>Deploying National STI towards Jordan's National Priorities in Sustainable Development Goals</i>
12:05 – 12:25	Ms Abier Amarin , Director, CRDF Global – MENA Office <i>A Recap of the Recommendations from the 2015 Science Diplomacy Forum</i>
12:25 – 12:45	Dr Julie Maxton , Executive Director of the Royal Society London <i>The Role of Academies</i>

- 12:45 – 13:05 **Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid**, Science Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia
Indigenous and Local Knowledge
- 13:05 – 14:05 **LUNCH at Obelisk Restaurant**
- 14:10 – 14:50 **Professor Sir Peter Gluckman**, Chair of INGSAs / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand
Case Study 1: *“Roundup ready”? Regulating glyphosate amidst health, economic, and public concerns about GM.*
- 14:50 – 15:30 **Dr Wadid Erian**, Senior Advisor, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk
Case Study 2: *Flood Risk Management in Lebanon (El-Qaa area)*
- 15:30 – 16:00 **AFTERNOON BREAK**
- 16:00 – 16:40 **Professor James Wilsdon**, Co-Chair of INGSAs
Case Study 3: *Fukushima – the triple disaster and its triple lessons: What can be learned about regulation, planning, and communication in an unfolding emergency?*
- 16:40 – 17:20 **Dr Sameh Soror**, Member of Steering Committee, INGSAs-Africa
Case Study 4: *Water Across borders: Negotiating Politics, Environmentalism and the Economy in the Case of Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Dam*
- 17:20 – 17:30 Wrap-up
- 20:00 Dinner hosted by **HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan**, President of the Royal Scientific Society at Kempinski Ishtar Hotel, Dead Sea.

Venue:
*Codes restaurant
Kempinski Ishtar Hotel, Dead Sea.*

Day Two: Wednesday 14th December 2016

- 08:30 – 09:00 Coffee
- 09:00 – 09:10 Welcome back
Recap of day one and looking ahead to day two
- 09:10 – 09:40 **Dr Muhammad Saidam**, Chief Science Officer, the Royal Scientific Society
Case Study 5: RSS as Science Adviser to the Jordanian Government
- 09:40 – 10:20 **Dr Khaled Toukan**, Chairman, Jordan Atomic Energy Commission
Case Study 6: Nuclear Energy in the Middle East: A Quandary for Technology Policy Making
- 10:20 – 10:50 **MORNING BREAK**
- 10:50 – 11:30 **Dr William Colglazier**, Co-Chair of the 10 Member Group of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Science Advice: Practice and Infrastructure
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Ms Cathy Campbell**, CEO Emeritus, CRDF Global
Science Diplomacy & Regional Cooperation
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Dr Vaughan Turekian**, Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary, U.S. Department of State
Reflections on Science Diplomacy
- 12:35 – 13:45 **LUNCH at Obelisk Restaurant**
- 13:50 – 15:50 *Regional consultation on the Principles and Guidelines for Science Advice to Governments*
Chaired by **Professor James Wilsdon**, Co-Chair of INGSA
- 15:50 – 16:20 **AFTERNOON BREAK**
- 16:20 – 17:20 Closing session: *Summary, Lessons and Principles What Next?*
- **Professor Sir Peter Gluckman**, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand
 - **Professor James Wilsdon**, Co-Chair of INGSA
 - **HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan**, President, the Royal Scientific Society
 - **Mr Mike Dignam**, CEO and President, CRDF Global

17:20

Meeting ends

20:00

Dinner hosted by **Ambassador Jonathan Curr**, New Zealand Embassy –
Ankara

Venue:

Steak House Restaurant

Marriot Hotel, Dead Sea

APPENDIX A-2

List of Participants

1. HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan
President
The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
2. Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid
Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia
3. Ms Abier Amarin
Director of MENA Office
CRDF Global, Jordan
4. Ms Farrah Al Mufleh
Business Development and Communications Manager, MENA Office
CRDF Global, Jordan
5. Ms Pakinam Amer
Deputy Chief Editor
Nature Middle East
6. Mr Gergely Böhm
Head of the Department of International Relations
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
7. Mr Ryan Bowles
First Secretary
U.S. Embassy, Jordan
8. Ms Cathy Campbell
CEO Emeritus
CRDF Global, USA
9. Dr William Colglazier
Co-Chair
The 10 Member Group of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism, USA
10. Mr Jonathan Curr
Ambassador

1. Mr Conor de Lion
Adviser to President on External Relations
The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
2. Mr Mike Dignam
CEO
CRDF Global, USA
3. Mr Nart Dohjoka
Science Diplomacy Program Manager
The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
4. Ms Dana El Emam
Journalist
Jordan Times, Jordan
5. Dr Abbas Elawad
Secretary General
National Council for Strategic Planning, Sudan
6. Dr Wadid Eiran
Senior Advisor, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk
League of Arab States
7. Ms Costanza Farina
Head of Office and Representative
UNESCO, Jordan
8. Dr Ghaith Fariz
Director
UNESCO Regional Office for Science in the Arab States, Egypt
9. Ms Katalin Fodor
Department of International Relations
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
10. Dr Ernesto Fernandez-Polcuch
Chief of Section, Division of Science Policy & Capacity Building
UNESCO, France

1. Dr Kamiel Gabriel
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada
2. Professor Sir Peter Gluckman
Chair of INGS
Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand
3. Dr Erica Harper
Executive Director
WANA Institute, Jordan
4. Professor Mohamed Hassan
Executive Director
The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy
5. Dr Saif Al Hiddabi
Assistant Secretary General for Research & Programs
Research Council of Oman
6. Ms Brenna Hill
Director, Marketing and Client Relations
CRDF Global, USA
7. Professor Fouad Mrad
Executive Director
UN-ESCWA Technology Centre
8. Dr Julie Maxton
Executive Director
Royal Society of London, UK
9. Al-Sharif Nasser bin Nasser
Director
Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS), Jordan
10. Professor Mashhour Refai
President
Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan

1. Eng Adnan Samara
President
Higher Council for Innovation & Excellence, Palestine
2. Mohammad Said
Director General, Regional and Local Development Directorate
Ministry of Planning, Iraq
3. Dr Mohammad Saidam
Chief Science Officer
The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
4. Dr Flavia Schlegel
Assistant Director General for Nature Sciences
UNESCO, France
5. Ms Suha Shouqar
Science Policy Analysis & Research Director
The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
6. Dr Sameh Sorour
Member of Steering Committee
INGSA-Africa
7. Mr Phill Starling
Director, Science Engagement
CRDF Global, USA
8. Dr Ibrahim Teka
Director of General Administration of Science & Technology
Libyan Authority for Research and Science and Technology, Ministry of Planning, Libya
9. Professor Khaled Toukan
Chairman
Jordan Atomic Energy Commission
10. Ms Ashly Truxon
Communications Manager
CRDF Global, USA

41. Dr Vaughan Turekian
Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State, USA
42. Dr Tom Wang
Chief International Officer
American Association for the Advancement of Science, USA
43. Professor James Wilsdon
Co-Chair INGSA
Director, Impact, Policy and Engagement and Chair of Research Policy, Sheffield University, UK
44. Dr Faiza Yamani
Executive Director of Environment and Life Sciences Research Center
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait
45. Mrs Hala Zawati
CEO
Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF), Jordan
46. Dr Moneef Zoubi
Director General
Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Jordan
47. Mr Nael AlMulki
National officer
UN-ESCWA Technology Centre