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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Innovating for Sustainable Development**

***Youth Serving Organizations deliberate pathways to youthful development action***

**Tunis, 7 December 2018 –** Representatives of youth serving organizations from 12 Arab countries will convene in Tunis between 14 and 17 December 2018 at the Regional Forum of the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP). They will explore common means to unleash youth’s creativity and potential to generate sustainable impact in their communities, countries, and the region at large, in line with efforts to realize the promise of prosperity, peace and sustainability for all, enshrined in the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld).

Under the theme of “Innovating for Sustainable Impact,” the Forum will bring together youth and representatives of youth-serving organizations, policy makers and policy advocates, who are invested in the development of young people as leaders, thinkers, innovators and change makers. Youth participants have been selected from among 5,000 young people who have participated in YLP activities in their respective countries over the year.

The Forum will provide a collaborative space for participants to deepen their technical skills, increase their policy awareness, strengthen their creativity, and expand their network. It will include sessions that will familiarize participants with alternative finance and policy making processes, as well as session on the three pillars of YLP - social innovation, gender and the 2030 Agenda. What the participants learn in this regional forum will benefit more young people in their respective countries in the future.

Building on the expertise and network created over the past four years of YLP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Regional Bureau for Arab States is organizing this forum in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

**What :** Regional Forum of the Youth Leadership programme: Innovating for Sustainable Impact

**When :** Opening Day:Friday, 14 December 2018 – 09:00-10:00. Registration starts at 08:30 A.M.

**Where :** El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel, Tunis, Tunisia.

**Who :** The event brings together 130 representatives of youth, youth-serving organizations, policy makers and policy advocates working on the development of young people as leaders, thinkers, innovators and change makers. from across the Arab region.

The opening session will include interventions from:

**H.E. Sonia Ben Cheick** Minister of Youth & Sports, Tunisia

**Khaled Abdel-Shafi** Director, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States

Following the interventions, there will be time for brief questions and answers.

**Members of the media are welcome to all sessions of the Opening Session** of the Forum

The session will be conducted in Arabic with interpretation available into English and French.

***For more information, please contact:***

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***About the Youth Leadership Progamme (YLP)***

UNDP’s [Youth Leadership Programme](http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/youth-leadership-programme.html) in the Arab States aims to support and empower young change-makers, both women and men, to design and implement innovative, impactful and sustainable development solutions, whether these be: social enterprises, nonprofit organisations, NGOs, initiatives, or campaigns. YLP invests in young women and men across the region to unleash their potential to become social innovators, leaders and a powerful force for change in their communities, countries and the region at large. It supports innovative approaches to sustainable development challenges, specifically focusing on gender equality and women’s empowerment. UNDP Country Offices host YLP national activities and choose some participants who have innovative and creative solutions to participate in the regional YLP workshop. YLP regional workshops have been organized annually since 2015.

***About UNDP***

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crises, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer a global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.