

Discussion Framework

The webinar will cover two 50-minute sessions, each focusing on one topic. The topics to be covered in each session include:

▶ **Session 1: Social Policy Responses to the Pandemic**

What are the social policy responses to the pandemic in the MENA region? What lessons can be distilled from their experiences? What are the key factors that account for the variety of social policy responses to the pandemic in the MENA? How does the response to the pandemic affect the plight of social justice and social protection in the region? How might the pandemic restructure, reshape, or challenge social policies or welfare regimes in the MENA region? What gaps in service delivery have been exposed? What inequalities are being highlighted by the pandemic and policy responses? What are the implications of the pandemic on vulnerable populations? How does the pandemic impact job security or unemployment? What is the role of social protection in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19?

▶ **Session 2: Road ahead**

What will the welfare state and the social contract look like after the pandemic? What are the future social and political implications (e.g., inequality, poverty)? What are the prospects for improved social welfare? What steps should governments take today to ensure that lessons translate into better social policies?

▶ **Draft Agenda**

Welcome remarks: Anis Ben Brik (3 minutes)

Participant introductions (7 minutes)

Session 1: Responses and Challenges (50 min): Anis Ben Brik (Moderator)

Session 2: Future of Social Policy (55 minutes): Anis Ben Brik (Moderator)

Concluding discussion / next steps (5 minutes): Anis Ben Brik (Moderator)