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Objective I | Activate, reinforce, and strengthen IFIs' citizen engagement policies and strategies to address the growing attack on civic space in the Arab region.

Many IFIs have adopted policies and strategies to increase citizens and stakeholders' engagement in the design, implementation and evaluation of their funded projects worldwide. These policies include disclosure of information, consultations and grievance mechanisms. However, citizens' lack of knowledge of these policies contribute to the ineffective implementation on the grounds. On the other hand, the implementation of some of these policies is the responsibility of the borrowers and the implementing governments' agencies. In countries where the regimes are systematically cracking down on civic space, the implementation of those policies is reduced to a mere checking the box exercise.

AWC intends to work on two fronts; disseminating information on IFIs funded projects and the different citizen engagement policies and strategies that should govern their implementation; and facilitating the communication of local groups with the officials in these institutions to address any complaint from those policies' implementation.

On the other hand, the coalition will advocate for IFIs to assess the citizens' engagement environment in each country, in terms of laws and practices, and modify the implementation notes of their policies accordingly.

Objective II | Limit IFIs' investments in conventional energy towards more investment in inclusive renewable energy in the region.

IFIs are increasingly investing in the energy sector in the region to meet the increasing local demand and the needs of the European energy market. The energy projects funded by these institutions include projects based on conventional resources like oil and natural gas, as well as renewable resources like solar and winds. In recent years, some countries have witnessed a rise in the use of coal in violation of international climate conventions. Although some of the IFIs active in the region are bound by policies that prevent them from

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investing in coal, they resort to do so indirectly through investing in intermediary financial institutions that invest in coal. Since those coal projects are not directly funded by the international institution itself, they don't comply by its policies, including the different safeguards, citizens' engagement, and disclosure of information.

On the other hand, investment in renewable energy, especially solar and wind, is also increasing. However, in the absence of real participation of citizens, such projects often have negative effects on the surrounding communities as well as on some other environmental resources such as water and land.

AWC will conduct studies and disseminate information on these projects, especially those funded through intermediary financial institutions. Through its members, AWC will also monitor and report on the implementation of some of those projects and use the findings for an advocacy campaign to ensure IFIs shift their investments from conventional energy to renewable that are inclusive with minimum, if no, negative impacts on local communities and other environmental resources.

Objective III | Address all the negative consequences of IMF policies by introducing alternative policies that respond to the needs of local communities.

Many Arab countries are experiencing difficult economic conditions as a result of the recent political changes and conflicts. As a result, many of the Arab regimes turned to the International Monetary Fund for financial support and had to comply with the terms of the IMF loans. These conditions include austerity measures like the reduction of the public sector, the cancellation of subsidies on energy and many goods and services, the increase in taxes, etc. While official progress reports indicate positive results for these loans, an improvement in the economic situation and an increase in gross national product; these reports ignore the economic and social impacts on citizens, especially on poor, middle-income and marginalized and vulnerable groups, and on the services they receive from the state. These impacts are likely to increase poverty rates in many countries in the region to unprecedented levels. They also contribute to the increase in illegal immigration from the region, and the increase in violence and terrorism.

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Objective IV | Ensure IFIs reconstruction policies and projects in the region’s fragile countries are inclusive and do not exacerbate sectarian or tribal conflicts.

Many countries in the region have gone through difficult periods requiring reconstruction in areas affected by these conditions. Civil wars and conflict with ISIS and other extremist groups have destroyed infrastructure in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen. Some development institutions have already begun to develop plans for the reconstruction of areas affected by these conflicts.

However, the absence of some groups from the table risk exacerbating sectarian conflicts in these areas, AWC will reach out to representatives of different groups in these areas and disseminate information about these construction plans in a simplified and easy to understand language. AWC will provide its services to ensure the effective participation of these groups by building their capacity and facilitating their engagement with decision makers in different involved IFIs.