

In implementation  
of Paris Climate Agreement..

Arab efforts to reduce global warming



# SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

August 2022



## Introduction:

Global warming is a serious threat facing the countries of the Arab region, and human activity is the primary reason behind the use of heat-trapping gasses and burning fossil fuels, which lead to a rise in sea levels and a change in the number of terrestrial and marine organisms. In line with **Paris Agreement**, which aims to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2°C while seeking to limit the increase to 1.5°C, Arab governments have adopted strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions, and launched several initiatives to plant millions of trees, which contributes to mitigating the effects of climate change and combating global warming.

In the context of its endeavors to protect human rights and promote sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and good manner, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights released the **8<sup>th</sup> issue** of the "The SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region", to track good practices as well as the challenges facing Arab countries in achieving the SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Observatory** focuses on the actions and measures taken by the Arab countries to address climate change and its repercussions, knowing that it focuses on the targets specific to SDG 13, including; i) Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; ii) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; iii) Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

The Observatory is divided into two axes; the first discusses the country focus of this issue, the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has achieved remarkable success in implementing the targets of SDG13, whereas the second axis monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced by the rest of the Arab countries in this regard.

## Monitoring Methodology:

The **SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region** adopts a methodology of direct monitoring of previous publications in the Arab, Western and African media about government efforts to promote climate action. The observatory focused on a number of secondary research sources, open sources such as the Internet, and reliable news sites deeply interested in Arab countries and development paths in general.

The observatory also relies on information and data published by the Arab environment ministries on their official websites, and what was reported by electronic newspapers and written media about the efforts of the governments of Arab countries in achieving the SDG 13 as well as the challenges they faced in order to highlight them.



## Targets of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

The targets and indicators of the SDG 13 observatory varied according to the scientific agenda, but given the monthly nature of the observatory, it selectively addresses these targets. Therefore, **the observatory highlights the key targets of SDG 13, which included;** First: Integrating measures related to climate change into policies, strategies and planning at the national level, second: enhancing resilience and resilience in the face of climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and enhancing resilience to those hazards, third: education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacities to mitigate Climate change, adaptation, mitigation and early warning.

It is noteworthy that the observatory included monitoring the extent of the success of the Arab countries in achieving these goals in particular, in order to focus on the indicators that can be measured in the short term, and then measure the extent of the success of the countries in achieving them. Given the observatory's one-month time scope, the measure of some indicators of achieving the objectives of SDG 13 requires a relatively long time span, one year or more.

### Legal frameworks of SDG 13: Climate Action

The SDG 13 Observatory depends on an international legal reference, which is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1993 (UNFCCC), and the extent of the commitment of Arab countries to this agreement in addition to the Arab strategies developed by the governments that come in light of this agreement, and finally, the national initiatives and programs carried out by the national organizations concerned with climate change issues.

### Axis I: The State Focus of this Issue “Kingdom of Bahrain”

#### First: Overview of the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to limit climate change

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a small island country; therefore it is highly vulnerable to the **threats of climate change**, especially with regard to sea level rise, which is one of the serious threats facing its development. Climate change hugely impacts the population and the country's economy. This threat also threatens the general health of the population through subjection to extreme temperatures. Climate change can affect biodiversity by affecting levels of fish stocks, coral reefs, mangroves, date farms and migratory birds. The Kingdom of Bahrain is located in the semi-tropical region within the desert belt, therefore the climate is dry and the summer is very hot, while the winter is mild, but the annual rainfall is low.

**Therefore, the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken several measures to address climate change and its effects. In 2007, the Joint National Climate Change**





**Committee** was tasked with overseeing all climate-related issues in Bahrain. Today, the Supreme Council for Environment chairs the meetings of the Joint National Climate Change Committee.

The Joint National Committee discusses and takes decisions on all activities, projects, and programs related to climate change in Bahrain, including mitigation and adaptation measures, monitoring and following up on the latest international developments related to climate change, forming national situations and developing proposals for international climate agreements, as well as ensuring balance and integration between Climate change commitments and the economic and social needs for sustainable development in Bahrain.

Significant progress has been made in supporting the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitments to **national reporting on climate change to the United Nations**. The reports submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain led to harmonization among national stakeholders across all sectors, targeted climate research was also stimulated through the report compilation.

A major outcome of the publication of these reports is the incorporation of sea-level rise considerations into national development policy, which has led to an increase in the allowable level of land reclamation infrastructure development activities. In addition, **ecosystem protection initiatives that help protect the climate** are being increased, such as planting mangroves on the coast of Bahrain, which can be used as a means of coastal resilience as well as providing an additional carbon sink. The Supreme Council for the Environment is currently working on the report of the third national communication for the Kingdom of Bahrain<sup>1</sup>.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also made remarkable achievements in implementing plans and projects related to climate change, as the government has ratified and issued Law No. (7) of 2022 on the environment, and the Kingdom of Bahrain has **integrated climate change goals into Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030** and the existing government work program, along with the establishment of several institutions, governmental bodies and committees to develop programs, policies and strategies, and intended to appoint a special envoy for climate affairs. In addition to what ratified from the Paris Agreement in December 2016, which integrated the threats of climate change into national policies for all sectors, as well as implementing renewable energy projects and adopting the best initiatives to achieve sustainable development goals, especially in the field of reducing carbon emissions<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة لمملكة البحرين، تأثير مملكة البحرين بتغير المناخ، <https://cutt.ly/eVYuEa9>

<sup>2</sup> أخبار الخليج، مملكة البحرين حققت إنجازات عديدة في تنفيذ خطط مواجهه تغير المناخ، 21 مارس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/WVYutiS>



## Second: Efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve the targets of the SDG 13 and promote climate action:

Bahrain has made efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources, as the climate is an essential part of the environment; Therefore, Bahrain has taken many measures aimed at reducing climate change, which will affect by nature the reduction of air pollution, reduce water pollution and soil pollution. In that section, we will focus on the government's efforts to achieve the targets of the 13<sup>th</sup> goal during August, as follows:

Target (1)	<b>Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</b>
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In the context of integrating climate change-related measures into national policies, strategies, and planning, the Minister of Oil and Environment, the Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, prepared a ceremony for documenting the national plan for organic chemical pollutants. During the opening, he stressed the Kingdom's keenness on human health and the safety of the environment from any chemical and organic substances that may pose a danger to humans and the environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain, within the framework of the Kingdom of Bahrain's signature of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants since 2005, and its ratification of 12 persistent organic pollutants, which are internationally agreed upon as organic chemicals, as they pose a serious global threat to human health and ecosystems<sup>3</sup>.

Target 2	<b>Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</b>
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In light of the Bahraini government's efforts **to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards**, Wael Bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, met with the Minister of Oil and Environment, the Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, and it was emphasized that work will continue to achieve national goals related to afforestation and mangrove cultivation, and that the Ministry continues to implement government directives in this regard and to redouble efforts to increase green spaces and mangroves, in order to reduce the effects of climate change and contribute to achieving Bahrain's goals to reach zero neutrality by 2060.

These efforts are consistent with the Kingdom's plans to adapt to the effects of climate change in the implementation of the climate commitments of the Kingdom of Bahrain

<sup>3</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة مملكة البحرين، المجلس الأعلى للبيئة يوثق الخطة الوطنية للملوثات الكيميائية، 23 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/NVEBbkd>



announced by Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, during the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) held in Glasgow, the United Kingdom in November 2022<sup>4</sup>.

Target (3)	Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
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In the context of improving education and raising awareness and human capabilities to mitigate climate change, the Applied Science University in Bahrain launched a competition called “**Climate Champions**” and was held under the patronage of Rana bint Isa, Secretary-General of the Higher Education Council. The competition aims to enhance the research capabilities of undergraduate students and harness their research to address research priorities related to environmental and climatic problems in the Kingdom of Bahrain, students won first place when they discussed the reuse of air conditioner water in homes, irrigation of crops, irrigation of gardens, and other such things, with the aim of collecting wastewater from air conditioning and achieving sustainable living conditions in Bahrain.<sup>5</sup>

## **Axis II: the reality of achieving the thirteenth goal in the Arab region**

This axis reviews the reality of the SDG 13 in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that have been made to promote climate action during the past month, by classifying those efforts according to the targets pursued by the observatory as follows.

Target (1)	<b>Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</b>
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**First: North Africa:**

### **1. Egypt:**

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, held a meeting with officials of the 6th of October Investors Association, the meeting dealt with the proposal of the 6th of October Investors Association to launch an initiative to plant 5 million trees in the new cities in western Giza, which include Sheikh Zayed, Sphinx, New October, October and Old October Gardens, in addition to the industrial areas as an outlet for those areas. Yasmine Fouad instructed for the formation of a committee from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Irrigation, the Urban Communities Authority and representatives of the Investors Association and civil society to conduct an on-the-ground inspection to determine the required needs, in addition to studying the quantity of trees required for planting, tree species

<sup>4</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة مملكة البحرين، جهود المملكة لزيادة المساحات الخضراء، 23 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/5VECO3G>  
<sup>5</sup> جامعة العلوم التطبيقية في البحرين، مسابقة أبطال المناخ، 3 أبريل 2022، <https://cutt.ly/NVY9xm8>



and the source of irrigation and setting a full vision for the entry into force of this initiative. The meeting also dealt with the problems and challenges facing the city from solid waste in the industrial zone, demolition and construction waste, and the possibility of using solar panels in industrial facilities.<sup>6</sup>

Yasmine Fouad announced the opening of registration for the reservation of suites and side events in the Green Zone for those wishing to participate in the conference from youth, NGOs, and corporate organizations from Egypt and the world, and that the reservation to participate in the Green Zone will be in accordance with controls and conditions that guarantee honorable representation and distinctive environmental experiences, which are a realistic model for the application. Yasmine Fouad explained that the Green Zone is dedicated to exhibitions and side events, held by the private sector, civil society, youth and various ministries to showcase success stories, projects, innovations, and products related to addressing the effects of climate change.<sup>7</sup>

Al Azhar Al Sharif and the Ministry of Environment announced the “Our Climate is Our Life” initiative. The Minister of Environment appreciates Al Azhar’s initiative in supporting the response to the effects of climate change, and that Al Azhar Al Sharif was at the forefront of institutions that showed support for Egypt’s hosting of the climate conference, Yasmine Fouad indicated that the title of the initiative shows the extent of the impact of the environment, especially climate change, on the daily lives of people.<sup>8</sup>

The Minister of Environment met with the Australian Ambassador in Cairo on a farewell visit to the end of his term in Egypt. The ambassador said that he will not be able to attend the climate conference, but there is a large delegation from Australia who will attend the activities of this conference. The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, confirmed that Egypt has completed its national climate change strategy for the year 2050, and the nationally determined contributions until 2030. She also highlighted that there are three levels of priorities emanating from the strategy and the nationally determined contributions: **the first level relates to the** relationship of food, water and energy (called Novi), **the second level** relates to transportation, and the third level relates to reducing emissions from the oil and gas sector<sup>9</sup>.

The Egyptian Minister of Environment met with Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders Group for Peace, Justice and Human Rights, and the meeting dealt with preparations for the Cop27 Climate Summit, especially with regard to increasing funding for adaptation to climate

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<sup>6</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تعقد اجتماع مع مسؤولي جمعية مستثمري السادس من أكتوبر لبحث عدد من القضايا البيئية، 2 أغسطس 2022،

<https://cutt.ly/WVIngGR>

<sup>7</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، ياسمين فؤاد تعلن عن فتح باب التسجيل لحجز الاجنحة والأحداث الجانبية بالمنطقة الخضراء، 10 أغسطس 2022،

<https://cutt.ly/vVIUUNx>

<sup>8</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، الأزهر الشريف ووزارة البيئة يعلنان مبادرة "مناخنا حياتنا"، 15 أغسطس 2022،

<https://cutt.ly/RVIPM9r>



changes, the agreement on losses resulting from these changes, and the priorities of African countries during this summit. The minister stressed that there should be a link between increasing funding and obtaining it in order to benefit from funding in the face of climate changes, especially since there are many countries that suffer from these changes these days, such as fires, high temperatures, floods, torrential rains, droughts, and others.

For her part, Mary Robinson stressed that it is time to act, and the importance of increasing adaptation funding for countries that suffer from climate change and achieving a lot through the agreement on losses due to these changes, in accordance with the decision of the previous Glasgow summit and that this must be achieved by 2025. In this regard, Robinson also called the Minister referred to a meeting to be held in New York City in the United States on September 19 to discuss these ideas with the Association of Women Leaders in Africa, which includes Egyptian women<sup>10</sup>.

The Egyptian Minister of Environment met with the Danish Minister of Climate to discuss ways of joint cooperation, and the two sides discussed how the COP27 climate summit can be successful, especially in facing all the climate changes that have been recently suffered from in many countries in the world. The Minister of Environment explained that the main target of the COP27 conference is implementation, and that Egypt announced its priorities for that session of the International Conference on Climate Change, with a focus on climate finance and adaptation to climate change. Denmark's climate minister agreed that the latest science shows that climate change is moving much faster than the world is experiencing today, and pushes ecosystems and societies to their maximum limits<sup>11</sup>.

## 2. Jordan

The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Environment, Mohammed Al-Khashashneh, chaired a coordination meeting of the team to discuss the preparation of the national plan for sustainable air conditioning and refrigeration. During the meeting, Al-Khashashneh stressed the importance of preparing the plan at the national level, and the support of the Ministry of Environment for all national efforts, with the participation of all relevant parties in the field of sustainable refrigeration and air conditioning. He pointed out that the refrigerant gases currently used are **global warming** gases that affect the climate, and that they will be partially disposed of within their timetables, in compliance with the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the ratification of the Montreal Protocol and its

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<sup>10</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، اجتمعت وزيرة البيئة مع ماري روبنسون في لقاء افتراضي عبر الفيديو كونفرانس، 25 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/SVINWjg>

<sup>11</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، اجتمعت وزيرة البيئة المصرية بوزير المناخ الدانماركي لبحث سبل التعاون المشترك، 26 أغسطس 2022،

<https://cutt.ly/VVIMApS>





amendments, the most recent of which is the Kigali Amendment and in line with their commitment to the Paris Agreement for the climate.<sup>12</sup>

The Minister of Environment met with the President of the Capital Governorate Council and members of the Environment and Health Committee in the Governorate Council. The Minister stressed the importance of building partnerships with all parties concerned with environmental and community work, particularly the provincial councils, because of their effective role in implementing projects that meet the needs of citizens, and that the environmental importance is an essential part of which.<sup>13</sup>

### 3. Libya

The United Nations Office published a paper entitled "Climate Change Threatens Economic Development and Sustainability in Libya" to warn of ignoring the climate danger that threatens the country. The research said that Libya is the driest country, as the demand for water in Libya is more significant than its renewable supplies. The expected increases in temperature, the sea level rise and increased extreme weather phenomena lead to drought. In addition to the water resources depletion, the inundation of coastal communities and the decrease in agricultural production increases food insecurity. The events in Libya made farmers (the first line of defense against climate change) leave their lands, which led to the loss of vegetation cover necessary to reduce carbon emissions leading to climate change, as 95 percent of Libyan lands are desert now<sup>14</sup>.

Libya has recently witnessed a wave of climate change, which became a threat to the country, which is already suffering from economic crises and foreshadowing a food crisis.

In this regard, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report stated that the Libya population exposed to the summer heat, power cuts, and ongoing damage to the water system threatens health and hygiene levels and increases the risk of epidemics and infectious diseases.

On the other hand, the report recorded climatic turbulence in some regions of the country exposed to sandstorms and floods, which poses a "great threat to economic development and sustainability in Libya." These climatic conditions led to the suffering of vulnerable groups in Libya and exacerbated their situation, which led many of them to flee.

The Red Cross warned that the conflict in Libya left the country vulnerable to severe food shortages caused by climate change. It stressed that parts of Libya are disproportionately

<sup>12</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزارة البيئة تناقش إطلاق الخطة الوطنية للتكيف والتبريد المستدام... 7 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/OVI6XkH>

<sup>13</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة... يلتقي رئيس وأعضاء مجلس محافظة العاصمة...، 31 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/kVzunEA>

<sup>14</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، التغيرات المناخية تهدد ليبيا... 17 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/CVvtltn>



affected by climate change factors. Libya is classified among the countries least prepared to face the risks of climate variability at the level of countries in the world<sup>15</sup>.

#### 4. Morocco

Morocco is interested in combating climate change and protecting the environment. It has become one of the regional leaders in the field of renewable energies because it has a large solar energy project in the city of Wizarat (south of the country). Morocco has adopted 60 measures, including projects related to renewable energies, in order for its commitment to implement all its international commitments in mitigating the effects of climate change measures depend mainly on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and programs. It is up to 60% of the total targeted greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Also, this international commitment to mitigate the effects of climate change, and within the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Negotiations (COP), has made it possible to raise the level of Moroccan ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to more than 45 percent by 2030, as part of its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement<sup>16</sup>.

#### 5. Mauritania

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development visited some Integrated Management of Ecosystems for Sustainable Human Development project sites in Mauritania. The visit enabled the Minister of Environment to get acquainted with the level of implementation of the programs and projects of the sector and to identify the afforestation areas financed within the existing cooperation between Mauritania, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Global Environment Fund. This visit was an opportunity to get acquainted with the situation of the decentralized interests of the Ministry and to exchange views with the administrative and local authorities, technical interests, and civil society on the various methodologies used that enhance the ecosystem and improve the living conditions of the population in the world of climate change<sup>17</sup>.

### Second: East Africa:

#### 1. Sudan

The Governor of West Kordofan State, Hassan Musa Issa, announced the state's commitment and implemented the project activities to build resilience to climate change. It is funded by the Green Climate Fund through the United Nations Program and implemented by the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources. She stressed that his mandate

<sup>15</sup> بوابة أفريقيا الإخبارية، التغييرات المناخية في ليبيا، 24 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/KVvplfl>

<sup>16</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، 60 إجراء لمكافحة التغيرات المناخية، 31 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/6Vvnjg6>

<sup>17</sup> وزارة البيئة الموريتانية، وزيرة البيئة تتفقد عدد من المواقع لمشروع التسيير، 16 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/oVvUKtm>



needs a project that serves the vulnerable segments of society, including women and children<sup>18</sup>.

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources met the designated governor of South Kordofan State. The meeting discussed the challenges and environmental problems that the state suffers from and how to address them, the first of which is the effects on human health and the environment as a result of traditional mining with mercury. During the meeting, the Secretary-General stressed the immediate cessation of the use of the banned substance mercury and the environmentally friendly alternatives used to preserve human health, soil, agriculture, animals, and groundwater. She called for the issuance of state law to protect the environment, preserve its components, and promised to expand the umbrella of environmental projects implemented in the state in the most vulnerable areas to improve the living standards of local communities and increase their resilience in the face of climate change<sup>19</sup>.

### **Third: The Arabian Gulf**

#### **1. Emirates**

The Minister of Climate Change and Environment launched a series of dialogue sessions, "The Resilience of the Circular Economy", to provide a meeting platform for all stakeholders and knowledge holders to exchange knowledge and experiences and explore opportunities to enhance circular economy practices in priority sectors. The circular economy is a vital part of the UAE's efforts to decarbonize various sectors, which contributes to accelerating the pace of work to reach climate neutrality by 2050<sup>20</sup>.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment also launched the "Climate Responsible Companies Pledge" to enhance the participation of private sector institutions in the country's efforts to reduce emissions and to keep pace with the goals of the Emirates Strategic Initiative to strive toward achieving climate neutrality by 2050<sup>21</sup>.

#### **2. Sultanate of Oman**

The Sultanate of Oman paid attention to the climate change phenomenon through the active participation of all relevant stakeholders to reduce the climate change phenomenon and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. It is currently working on updating the Department of Climate Affairs regulation to keep pace with local and global developments. It aims to follow

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<sup>18</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، مشروع المرونة يخدم الشرائح الضعيفة، 18 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/qVvXwVP>

<sup>19</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، أمين عام المجلس الأعلى للبيئة تلتقي والي جنوب كردفان، 9 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/mVEEKSD>

<sup>20</sup> وزارة التغير المناخي الإمارات العربية المتحدة، إطلاق سلسلة الجلسات الحوارية، 3 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/DVE2EGC>

<sup>21</sup> وزارة التغير المناخي والبيئة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، إطلاق تعهد الشركات المسؤولة مناخياً، 29 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/cVE3rEc>



up on the performance of companies and establishments in the field of climate affairs, whether mitigation or adaptation.

It is also currently drafting a climate change law with the relevant authorities to be a regulatory tool for setting general provisions related to climate affairs issues in the Sultanate of Oman with all its various development sectors. It prepared a national strategy for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The Sultanate of Oman has committed to controlling its projected emissions in 2030 by reducing projected emissions by 7%. Working on preparing a database to inventory greenhouse gas emissions from the main sectors; this facilitates the annual emission inventory process.

The Sultanate of Oman formed a technical delegation of climate change specialists to contribute to the proposal, the necessary policies implementation, and national action plans to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and protect the ozone layer in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The committee seeks to spread awareness about climate change and its effects in different sectors according to specialization, qualify national cadres, and build capacities in climate affairs and ozone layer protection. It also seeks to review work progress periodically, propose what is necessary to activate, strengthen coordination between all concerned parties, and address obstacles to implementation; if found<sup>22</sup>.

In August; The President of the Environment Agency of the Sultanate of Oman, Khaled Reda, received the accredited ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, where they discussed environmental issues of common concern and the details of the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference Cop27<sup>23</sup>.

### 3. Qatar

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, in cooperation with the Global Institute for Green Growth, organized a workshop on climate change and the way to the 27th session of the Cop27 Conference to exchange expertise and experiences in the field of climate change<sup>24</sup>.

During the past month, The Minister of Environment and Climate Change met with many Ministers of the Maldives concerned with the environment, climate change, arts, culture, and education. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries in the fields of environment, climate change, and sustainable development, as well

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<sup>22</sup> الطاقة، تواجه سلطنة عمان أزمة التغير المناخي بهذه الإجراءات، 29 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/PVRwju1>

<sup>23</sup> هيئة البيئة – سلطنة عمان، بحث القضايا البيئية ذات اهتمام مع السفير المصري، 25 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/OVE8BpV>

<sup>24</sup> وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي بدولة قطر، ورشة عمل حول التغير المناخي، 25 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/LVRr1mj>





as enhancing aspects of cooperation between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Maldives in the common interest<sup>25</sup>.

#### 4. Tunisia

In the context of strengthening international cooperation to ensure the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Climate Agreement, the National Coordinating Unit on Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment organized a meeting on Japanese mechanisms for exchanging greenhouse gas reductions. The mechanism finances several programs and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially in renewable energy, industry, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, and waste management.

They emphasized the importance of cooperation between Japan and Tunisia, it is an opportunity for Tunisia to redraw its national policies and procedures to address the repercussions of climate change and fulfill its international commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement to reduce its carbon intensity to 45% by 2030, gradually move towards low-emissions and resilient development with the effects of climate change<sup>26</sup>.

Target (2)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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#### First: North Africa:

##### 1. Egypt

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, stressed that Egypt's hosting of the 27th Conference of Parties on Climate Change contributed to the manifestation of the new republic. The conference will allow Egypt to implement more projects in the field of adaptation to climate change through the funding it will obtain. And Egypt has undertaken many projects to address climate change, although Egypt has not received sufficient funding to address climate change<sup>27</sup>.

Yasmine Fouad added several reasons for Egypt's hosting of the Climate Change Convention Conference. First, Egypt played a significant role in international negotiations at the level of the Climate Change Convention and at the level of the African Group when the President was Chairman of the African States and Governments Committee on Climate Change from 2015 to 2017. It was The first President of the Republic to lead the African continent. Yasmine Fouad revealed two initiatives, the African Initiative for Adaptation and

<sup>25</sup> وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي بدولة قطر، اجتماع وزير البيئة والتغير المناخي بعدد من وزراء مالديف، 15 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/zVRtCgz>

<sup>26</sup> وزارة البيئة – تونس، في إطار تعزيز التعاون الدولي حول المناخ، 3 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/sVRSbBl>

<sup>27</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، أكدت ياسمين فؤاد وزيرة البيئة على أن يعتبر استضافة مصر لمؤتمر الأطراف 27 للتغيرات المناخية سبباً لمصر لتنفيذ مشروعات أكثر في مجال التكيف مع التغيرات المناخية، 1 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/gVl9RNh>



the African Initiative for Renewable and New Energy; this is also one of the most important reasons for hosting.

Sharm El-Sheikh, which will host the conference, will be transformed from an environmentally friendly city into a green city through cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to change the energy system in hotels from traditional energy to solar energy. The government will change the solid waste collection system in Sharm El-Sheikh, transportation and recycling, and reliance on new and renewable energy, electric transportation, and transportation on natural gas will increase.

Yasmine Fouad expressed that the climate conference will be dedicated to a water day, and for the first time, a day will be devoted to water at the climate conference. Water Day discusses the impact of the climate change challenge on the water issue. A day will be devoted to energy and will talk about Egypt's experience, new and renewable energy, and how to support the African continent in the just and ambitious transition to Renewable energy use, and a day to reduce carbon, talk about emissions-intensive industries, and a day for biodiversity and nature<sup>28</sup>.

## 2. Jordan

The Minister of Environment and the Minister of Water and Irrigation inaugurated the activities of the fourth dialogue workshop with the private sector to enhance the environment for investment in climate action. There is great importance in holding this dialogue workshop, which aims to discuss the challenges facing the private sector in climate action. The Ministry of Environment plays an active role in developing adaptation measures and mitigating the effects of climate change at the national level. This periodicity is consistent with the reduction objective mentioned in the updated NDC document. That version was developed and modified to reach the goal of reducing the 31%. Note that Jordan's commitment will be 5% of this percentage, and the rest can be achieved with international support.

The Ministry of Agriculture is striving with partners and stakeholders to adapt and mitigate the effects of the climate change phenomenon on the agricultural sector. It seeks to reduce the water bill burden on farmers and individuals through smart agricultural projects that consider climate changes instead of traditional projects.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is fully aware of the seriousness of the climate change phenomenon on water resources; Jordan suffers from a severe shortage of these

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<sup>28</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، الرئيس عبد الفتاح السيسي رئيس الجمهورية حريص على حث الدول على تحديث خططها، 1 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/cV13P50>



sources due to this phenomenon, the lack of rainfall, and the increase in population due to forced migrations to the Kingdom<sup>29</sup>.

The Ministry expands the areas of environmental parks because of their positive impact on society from investment and social aspects. It performs service in the citizen's rapprochement with forests and the environment. It pointed to the need to accelerate cooperation with the Capital Governorate Council to build a partnership capable of developing and implementing sustainable environmental development programs<sup>30</sup>.

### 3. Libya

Climate change threatens Libya, and the Man-made River is the most affected. Libya has recently witnessed climatic changes, including an unprecedented rise in temperatures accompanied by winds and storms, with a scarcity of rain.

Libya is considered one of the countries in the world most affected by the effects of climate change and global warming, and there is a need for rapid planning to mitigate the impact of these changes and their consequences. Libya suffers from low rainfall. In the past, it received about two billion cubic meters of water annually, to decline by more than 75% after detecting only 400 million meters stored inside the dams.

There are natural and human factors that cause climate change in Libya. Thermal fluctuations in seawater, volcanic activity, increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, changing the general cycle of winds, the disappearance of vegetation cover in the country, and the decline in the area of forests; absorb pollutants that cause climate change. The Libyan coasts have also been affected by climatic changes due to harmful activities and lack of care.

There are also climatic changes in temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind, humidity, and the amount of rain, and these changes have damaged the arable soil. It suggested a set of measures to confront these changes. The first, provide a large vegetation cover in cities that are experiencing temperature changes with the direct planting system, with the development of care programs for them, and rely on renewable energy instead of the energy that harms the environment, with an orientation to the use of cars that operate With gas and electricity<sup>31</sup>.

### 4. Morocco

Oases in Morocco suffer from several crises, foremost of which are successive years of drought, water scarcity, desertification, and the encroachment of sand. Oases play a role in the social and ecological system in Morocco and stand as a green belt that prevents the

<sup>29</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة... يفتتح الورشة الحوارية الرابعة مع القطاع الخاص لتعزيز البيئة للاستثمار في العمل المناخي، 17 أغسطس 2022 <https://cutt.ly/vVztrkR>

<sup>30</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة... يلتقي رئيس وأعضاء مجلس محافظة العاصمة...، 31 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/kVzunEA>

<sup>31</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، التغيرات المناخية تهدد ليبيا... 17 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/CVvtlttn>



encroachment of the desert and protects the ecological environment. But the oases have been affected by climatic changes and human influences such as fires, population pressure, and neglect of the renewal of palm trees and fruit trees. The situation of the oases is also worsened by the increase in temperature, with less rainfall, increased desertification, and soil erosion in this fragile ecosystem<sup>32</sup>.

## 5. Mauritania

The project on adaptation to climate change and livelihoods was launched at the dry zone level in Traza, Inchiri and Adrar states. The project was established to develop the adaptation capacities of the population of the states concerned by strengthening local institutional capacities and identity through the introduction of an ecosystem-based adaptation approach. The project aims to strengthen the resilience and resilience of rural groups in these states to integrate the thinking of adaptation to climate change based on ecosystems and to upgrade the adaptation of means of subsistence to climate change. This project aims to enhance the tolerance of vulnerable families affected by climate change in three dry states, Taraza, Inchiri and Adrar<sup>33</sup>.

Mauritania celebrated the National Tree Week under the slogan "Let's work to achieve a green environment". This secondary event is an opportunity for the sector to raise awareness among citizens and partners about various activities related to the protection and restoration of natural systems and about afforestation in order for every citizen and every national group to play their part in the national effort to combat desertification and climate change. Forests perform a range of important environmental, economic and social functions, especially wood production, conserving biodiversity, improving soil fertility and carbon capture, as well as oxygen production, and finally, preserving the purity of water resources<sup>34</sup>.

### Third: Arab Gulf

#### 1. Saudi Arabia

Due to the rising incidence of climate change in some parts of the world, experts stressed that climate change disasters are pushing the world to accelerate investment in environmental protection technology, calling for the need to take advantage of the Saudi approach and support it, to translate the initiative that addresses the climate profile while introducing Saudi initiatives to enable the green economy with a \$186 billion package, thereby contributing to environmental conservation, disaster reduction and investment opportunities.

Fadl bin Saad, a member of the Saudi Shura Council, stressed that climate change has become a clear reality, as drought and desertification in Africa and Asia and the decline in the level

<sup>32</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، واحات المغرب.. كنز طبيعي يدفع ضريبة التغير المناخي، 16 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/SVvxPYI>

<sup>33</sup> وزارة البيئة الموريتانية، ورشة حول مشروع التأقلم مع التغيرات المناخية، 9 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/fVvO3Sf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://cutt.ly/6VvAbUl> وزارة البيئة الموريتانية، تخليد الأسبوع الوطني للشجرة تحت شعار "لنعمل على اخضرار إطار الحياة"، 1 أغسطس 2022،





of rivers and perhaps the drying of some of them in Europe, in addition to the rise in record temperatures in Europe, confirms that the world has entered the stage of deep climate change. He stressed that the current catastrophic reality has prompted the international community to pressure to protect the environment through international agreements, pump more investments into the green economy, reduce harmful emissions and reach the stage of zero carbon neutrality, noting that the major industrial countries are the primary responsible for the climatic events we are witnessing today.

The Kingdom aimed to reach zero neutrality through the circular economy approach to carbon, which is a historic step that will contribute to reducing approximately 278 million tons of emissions annually by 2030, which is equivalent to double the announced targets, in addition to the gradual shift towards clean energy in the production of electricity<sup>35</sup>.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia works within the international system to preserve the environment, address climate change, desertification and protect the planet, in accordance with the highest international standards and practices adopted, and provides all forms of support and empowerment to achieve these goals, in order to contribute to global development and improve the living standards of human beings and their residents as part of the sustainable development program and protect their natural resources. The Kingdom has met these climate changes with strategic plans to reduce its causes and reduce desertification, using renewable sources of energy, including wind and solar, to represent 50% of the energy used to produce electricity by 2030.

This is in addition to promoting a circular carbon economy, through which emissions can be managed with the aim of mitigating the effects of climate challenges, making energy systems cleaner and more sustainable, and enhancing the security and stability of energy markets, of which Saudi Arabia is one of the largest exporters. It also aims to reduce voluntary land degradation by 50 per cent by 2040 and to develop natural reserves; This increases its proportion to more than 30 per cent of its estimated land area of 600 thousand square kilometers, exceeding the current global target of protecting 17% from each State's territory.

The Kingdom is also working to improve the efficiency of waste management, establish an integrated waste recycling project, contribute to the launching of afforestation initiatives and work towards optimal investment of water resources through rationalization and the use of treated and renewable water. The Kingdom seeks to pioneer the improvement of quality of life, human health and the sustainability of environmental resources through environmental initiatives and projects that support and stimulate their sustainability. Among the most important are the provision of support funds for environmental research, natural reserves, the

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<sup>35</sup> المرسل، جهود المملكة لمكافحة التغير المناخي، 28 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/sVEJFeG>



enactment of environmental legislation to preserve and develop innate life, as well as preventive measures to protect the climate and reduce air, water and soil pollution.<sup>36</sup>

## 2. Oman

The states of Rustaq and Al-Awabi in the Sultanate of Oman have been affected by climate change. Environmental impacts have been monitored by environmental management specialists, most notably the uprooting of summer trees, siders and other types of trees, as well as the drift of soil and stones.<sup>37</sup>

To complement the implementation of the National Initiative for Planting 10 million Trees, the Environment Authority started the third phase of the farming campaign and planted one million and five hundred thousand seeds of Crimea trees on the wetland reserve in the state of Mahawat in Central Governorate.<sup>38</sup>

## 3. Tunisia

Climate change in Tunisia has exacerbated the water crisis to the point where it is cut off from some regions of the country and more than 300 thousand Tunisians suffer from a lack of access to the potable water system. This is due to the fact that Tunisia is characterized by a dry climate and lower rainfall in recent years, which has led to a scarcity of water that requires an adaptation plan and good use of existing water.<sup>39</sup>

## Fourth: Levant

### 1. Iraq

Iraqi Minister of Environment Jassim al-Falahi stressed that the drought threatens his country's security. The United Nations reports placed Iraq among the five countries most affected by climate changes, given the dramatic rise in temperatures and the unprecedented decrease in water revenues from upstream countries.

The environment minister said that the low rate of rainfall and other factors, Increased desertification, loss of much agricultural land, and increased rates of dust and sandstorms, noting that drought is one of the most important threats to national security. More than 33% of Iraq's population lives in rural areas. and that these populations depend on agriculture, animal husbandry and, in the event that their agricultural habitat is lost due to the lack of sufficient water, they will lose their main source of livelihood, The Iraqi Government was fully aware of the problem of drought, as the Ministry of the Environment had for years taken very bold steps. In cooperation with the States of the world and the region, to address the potential impacts of climate change. Those steps highlighted Iraq's accession to the Paris

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<sup>36</sup> صحيفة مال، التجربة السعودية البيئية في حماية كوكب الأرض، 31 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/VVEZvof>

<sup>37</sup> هيئة البيئة – سلطنة عمان، تفقد المختصون من إدارة البيئة الانواء المناخية، 4 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/9VE7H3a>

<sup>38</sup> هيئة البيئة – سلطنة عمان، تنفيذ المرحلة الثالثة من حملة استزراع وغرس الشجر، 4 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/ZVE5LSa>

<sup>39</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، عطش في تونس بسبب تغير المناخ، 13 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/dVRDjeY>



Convention and the enactment of the Act. The Iraqi Government also launched the Afforestation Initiative, with the participation of several specialized space selection committees, and another to determine the quality of materials and trees, which are suitable to cope with the effects of climate change.<sup>40</sup>

Iraq is experiencing an unprecedented drought. Iraq is ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change. It is ranked 39th among the most water-strained countries. In addition to the drought, Iraq suffers every year from sandstorms that paralyze some critical facilities and kill dozens. The Ministry of Environment also warned that more than 300 dust storms could occur annually by 2050.<sup>41</sup>

The marshes, a tourist area and nature reserve for many rare and endangered animals, are being drained in the current drought crisis in Iraq. The low water level and humidity have drained 46% of the marshland's water bodies, according to a survey by Dutch NGO Pax based on satellite imagery.<sup>42</sup>

#### 4. Syria

The level of the Euphrates fell sharply by about 7 meters, revealing archaeological tombs. In the experts' view, such archaeological discoveries, caused by the decline in river levels, are perhaps the only good place "for drought crises and the scarcity of water ravaging the world, as a result of climate change, but do not cover the gravity of the serious consequences of the degradation of rivers and the decline of rivers to reduce near-total drought."<sup>43</sup>

Target 3	Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
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### First: North Africa

#### 1. Egypt

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, ordered the launch of the National Dialogue on Climate Change in all governorates of the Republic. In this framework, the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) in Central Delta and El-Behira carried out a series of environmental awareness seminars entitled "Climate change and its negative impact on the environment and human beings".<sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> اليوم السابع، وزير البيئة العراقي الجفاف يهدد أمن البلاد، 15 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/LVRpH9T>

<sup>41</sup> أخبار الان، أثار تغير المناخ في العراق، 25 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/6VRaY1T>

<sup>42</sup> Vice، أهوار العراق تصارع الجفاف والموت، 24 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/kVRsOMn>

<sup>43</sup> سكاى نيوز عربية، اكتشاف مقابر أثرية في نهر الفرات بسبب التغير المناخي، 17 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/mVRHoSH>

<sup>44</sup> وزارة البيئة، حملات تفتيشية وندوات توعوية بفرعي جهاز شئون البيئة بوسط الدلتا والبحيرة، 2 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/aVIQqUA>



Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and Tariq Shawki, Minister of Education, organized Inaugural session aiming at providing training and raising the awareness about climate change-related concepts, from 8 to 11 August. Fouad emphasized the importance of integrating environmental topics, especially climate change, into educational curricula, noting that similar initiatives have been already launched three years ago to create a generation capable of coping with climate change.

Yasmine Fouad launched an awareness campaign targeting some 350 thousand teachers in order to integrate the concept of climate change into school subjects. The Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has also developed educational courses for teachers on environmental concepts (climate change, biodiversity, environmental sustainability)<sup>45</sup>

The Ministry of Environment organized a panel discussion on the launch of the national campaign to raise awareness of the issue of climate change under the theme "Return lands to nature", headed by Fouad, Minister of Environment, to raise awareness about climate changes and its impact on citizens; which includes rising sea levels, falling temperatures, desertification, food shortage, agricultural land degradation among others, in addition to presenting the projects undertaken by the State to counter climate change and citizen's role by following positive behaviors that reduce emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Minister of the Environment further explained that work is being done through other important paths within the framework of the National Climate Change Campaign.<sup>46</sup>

## Second: Levant

### 2. Jordan

The President of the Capital Governorate Council stressed the importance of the role played by the Ministry of the Environment in the field of awareness-raising programs for schoolchildren in many subjects, particularly with regard to waste management, recycling and utilization, and the rationalization of energy and water consumption.<sup>47</sup>

## Axis III

### The role of international mechanisms in climate action:

At the international level and within the framework of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights' interest in the global climate change file, Maat monitored some international

<sup>45</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، أطلقت وزارة البيئة الحقائق التثقيفية للمعلمين حول تغير المناخ، 18 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/1VILVVU>، 16 أغسطس 2022، "وزارة البيئة المصرية، الجلسة النقاشية حول إطلاق الحملة الوطنية للتوعية بقضية التغيرات المناخية تحت شعار "رجع الطبيعة لطبيعتها

<https://cutt.ly/QVIJJP1>

<sup>47</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة... يلتقي رئيس وأعضاء مجلس محافظة العاصمة 31 أغسطس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/kVzunEA>





movements in line with the SDG13 Observatory in the Arab region during August, which is also in line with the SDG 13 (Climate Action), as follows:

<b>Target 1</b>	<b>Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</b>
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According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), over the past few months, and once allowed to resume official country visits, Covid-19 has visited many African and Asian countries and has been able to touch the impact of climate change. OHCHR worked in many ways to contribute to monitoring, participation and advocacy for the protection and promotion of human rights<sup>48</sup>

In preparation for COP 27, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, several regional conferences were held, most recently African Climate Week 2022, from 29 August to 2 September in Gabon, which engaged stakeholders to advance climate action across countries, societies and economies.<sup>49</sup>

<b>Target 2</b>	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
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With regard to Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards, UNHCR has confirmed that Somalia's catastrophic drought has reached unprecedented levels, with 1 million people now registered as internally displaced. Somalia is experiencing a historic two-year drought, a situation that has not recurred in more than 40 years. A worsening rainy season for the fifth year is bound to displace larger numbers of other families, with famine looming. Vulnerable communities are hardest hit by the effects of the climate crisis, leaving many families unprotected, increasing levels of displacement while, together with their humanitarian partners, making every effort to respond, but their resources are insufficient. The international community must therefore intensify its efforts to save lives and support this humanitarian response. As part of its regional appeal for the Horn of Africa, UNHCR announced the need for Somalia's operations for US \$9.5 million to assist displaced communities affected by catastrophic drought.

## Suggestions and Recommendations

Within the framework of the good practices undertaken by the governments of the Arab States which are documented in this Observatory, particularly with regard to promoting SDG 13, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights can formulate recommendations as follows in the hope of complementing Arab development efforts in the field of climate action and addressing most of the challenges impeding its course.

<sup>48</sup> <https://cutt.ly/YVPuIX> مكتب المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان، مؤتمر صحفي للمفوضية السامية، 25 أغسطس 2022،

<sup>49</sup> <https://bit.ly/3CbpBPI>



**First:** In the face of global warming, Maat for Peace recommends all governments of Arab countries that have not yet launched afforestation initiatives, to increase green areas in all cities, to help absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the negative effects of climate changes, as well as benefit from Arab countries' successful experiences in afforestation initiatives.

**Second:** Maat for Peace recommends Arab governments to use renewable rather than non-renewable energies and work to create solar energies in addition to wind energies, to mitigate climate change by reducing CO2 emissions.

**Third:** As a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions are from transport, Maat for Peace recommends that Arab governments to integrate technology with transportation, convert transportation into electric transportation and use air scores.

**Fourth:** In accordance with Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, and Target 3 of SDG 13 on raising awareness to reduce climate change, Maat recommends Arab governments to change the curriculum of education and raise public awareness of climate change. It also recommends that Arab civil society organizations encourage and establish forums and workshops aimed at giving groups an opportunity to propose solutions to the climate change crisis and make those recommendations to decision-makers.

**Fifth:** Maat calls for the need for Syria to return to the Arab League and to coordinate joint Arab cooperation towards confronting climate change and mitigating its effects. Including benefiting from grants and joint projects undertaken under the umbrella of the university to promote climate action