



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

What Comes After COP27: Enterprising Arab steps to Promote Climate Action



December 2022

Introduction:

The Arab countries participated effectively in the Climate Summit COP 27, which was held in Egypt last November, as the accelerated Arab efforts to confront severe and extreme climate changes emerged. However, at the same time, the climate conference revealed some of the challenges that still face Arab countries in combating climate phenomena. In this context, and through its follow-up to the Arab countries' movements that were made last December in the climate action file, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights monitored serious steps and activities to tackle the climate file and discuss the current gaps and challenges, as well as the mechanisms to address them, in the context of serious preparation for the next COP28 Summit.

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights released the **12th** issue of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region, under the title " **What Comes After COP27: Enterprising Arab steps to Promote Climate Action**", in order to track the good practices as well as the challenges that Arab countries face in achieving SDG13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Observatory** focuses on the actions and measures undertaken by the Arab countries to address climate change and its repercussions, noting 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 and reviews its achievements and failures in the climate change issue in light of the SDG 13 targets, 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 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 them. 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 “Palestine”

First: An overview of the Tunisian government’s efforts to combat climate change

Despite living in the same geographical area, the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation forces are experiencing the burden of climate change differently, the Israeli occupation aggravates the suffering of the Palestinians. **The Israeli occupation prevents Palestinians from accessing resources and taking measures that support their adaptation to climate change**, such as making adjustments in human or natural systems in response to the effects of climate change.

Palestine consists of the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip on the borders of 1967. Since the Israeli occupation began building many illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, there becomes no complete control of the Palestinian government over its lands and natural resources. There is no doubt that

the Israeli occupation has a significant negative impact on the ability of the Palestinian government to implement its environmental policies.

A. The signing of the Palestinian government on international climate agreements:

Palestine signed the document of accession to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** during the Conference of the Parties in Paris, the agreement entered into force in 2016, then Palestine signed and ratified after that, on April 22, the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**, thus ending a period in which Palestine was an observer state in the agreement. The fact that Palestine is a party to the Framework Convention gives it great benefits, as this means that it can cooperate effectively to achieve the objectives of the Convention, but due to the restrictions imposed, this may sometimes be unattainable.

B. The National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2010:

The National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, which was prepared in 2010, identified the issue of water and food security as the most affected sectors in “Palestine”, with an emphasis on the direct impact of climate change on all other sectors. The Israeli occupation greatly reduces the adaptive capabilities of “Palestine” in many sectors, which exacerbates and increases vulnerability. These restrictions imposed on adaptive capabilities are most prevalent in Area C, which constitutes 61% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Israeli occupation also increases the speed of vulnerability of the various sectors there.

Accordingly, the Environmental Quality Authority in Palestine initiated the preparation and development of the **Environment Sector Strategy (2014-2016)**, whose vision is to achieve a safe and secure Palestinian environment that enables achieving the sustainability of natural resources under independent Palestinian authority and sovereignty. Based on what was mentioned in the strategy as a limited market in terms of energy production and without developed local commercial energy sources, the Palestinian Authority regions depend almost entirely on imported Israeli energy supplies, especially electricity and petroleum products.

Due to various political and logistical factors, most of these revenues, with the exception of solar water heating and other small and modern projects come from Israel. Almost all electricity in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, is supplied from power plants in Israel, which means that greenhouse gases are emitted within Israel and not within the territory of Palestine. However, the situation in Gaza is slightly different, as 30% of its electrical energy is supplied by the Gaza Power Plant. Despite the political situation in the region,

the demand for energy continued to grow very quickly, due to the continuous population growth in addition to the limited development in the economic development process.¹

Second: The reality of achieving SDG13 in Palestine:

Until December 2022, the Palestinian government faced many challenges in achieving the 3 main targets of SDG 13, concerned with climate action. This can be seen through the limited efforts made by the Palestinian government as follows:

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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The Bank of Palestine organized the first climate conference of its kind in Ramallah, under the title “Climate Change Risks and the Role of the Financial Sector in Reducing these Risks in Palestine”, in order to face the environmental challenges resulting from climate change and to take steady steps in green projects within the Bank’s policy towards sustainability to reduce their impact. During the conference, it was confirmed that the Bank's management had allocated sums of money to finance green projects, especially with regard to renewable energy, even before there were projects for sustainable financing to reduce the risks of climate change and the transition to a green economy and clean energy. The development of environmentally friendly green economy strategies is crucial to combating climate change. Therefore, the European Bank supports the public and private sectors in Palestine to shift to a green economy.²

Target 2	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
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The main indicators of local vulnerability to global climate change refer to the accelerating rise in sea level and changing regional precipitation patterns. Among other serious repercussions projected in Palestine/Israel is the **decrease in precipitation rates, accompanied by a significant increase in average temperatures**. This in turn will increase demand for water (an already overexploited resource) which supply will continue to dwindle beyond demand and could lead to water insecurity. Agriculture, which is an essential component of the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, will also suffer negatively.

It must be emphasized that the Occupied Palestinian Territory is subject to international law on occupation resulting from war. The occupying power is legally responsible for meeting the needs of the occupied population, and this responsibility

¹ أفاق البيئة والتنمية مجلة، تحديات كبيرة أمام السلطة الفلسطينية للتكيف مع التغيرات المناخية.. فهل تنجح في مسعاها؟، 12 ديسمبر 2018،

<https://bit.ly/3Zie3DR>

² وكالة وطن للأبناء، الأول من نوعه في فلسطين.. مؤتمر "مخاطر التغير المناخي" ينظمه بنك فلسطين لدعم الاقتصاد الأخضر، 8 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://cutt.ly/g2cnO95>

includes, according to the Hague Convention, the custodianship of natural resources. In addition, the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits arbitrary destruction and confiscation of property, damage, and removal of civilian objects indispensable to civilian life such as agricultural areas, drinking water installations and irrigation systems. From a legal perspective, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) describes the current crisis caused by the Israeli occupation with regard to Palestinian agricultural and water infrastructure as "flagrant breaches of international humanitarian law, requiring independent investigation by the international community."

Thus, the occupation leads to maladaptive policies and practices that weaken the resilience of Palestinians and their preparedness in the face of the threat of climate change. On the other hand, Israel has more ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, and thus is less vulnerable to damage. According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index, which summarizes countries' vulnerability to climate change and their readiness to improve their resilience, Israel ranks 19th among the countries least vulnerable to climate change, and 32nd among the countries most prepared to deal with climate change, As for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it is not included in the index countries in the first place, and the disparity in the ability to adapt between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is purely political³.

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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A virtual symposium, entitled "Climate Change Features in Palestine and the Adaptation and Confrontation Strategies," was held at the invitation of the Development Action Center/Ma'an, the "Heinrich Böell" Foundation, and the Palestinian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations Network. The symposium discussed the necessity of not attributing all extreme weather events to climate change, because the phenomena seen in agriculture are not directly related to climate change. There must be more focus on the media and research activity during participation in regional and international forums and conferences, by talking about the Israeli role in sabotaging and destroying climatic and environmental equilibrium. Israel poses the greatest threat to atmospheric pollution in Palestine, through massive gas emissions resulting from massive Israeli civil and military industries, in addition to the Israeli military activities in the West Bank, and the industries and power plants in the territories occupied in 1948, are nothing compared to the minor pollution caused by the weak and fragile Palestinian industries.

It was pointed out in the symposium that with the exacerbation of climate change, the Palestinians will suffer more and more from the scarcity of water that the occupation controls, and that the Arab countries located on the borders of deserts will become more

³ شبكة السياسات الفلسطينية، التغير المناخي والاحتلال وفلسطين المعرّضة للتأثر، 26 مارس 2022، <https://cutt.ly/92cxzKE>

desert. As for desert countries - from the perspective of geopolitics related to climate change - they will become practically unfit for human habitation, and it is expected that, during the coming decades, the risks of natural disasters, floods, water pollution, forced migration, epidemics, famine and increased border tensions will increase.⁴

Axis II: Achieving SDG 13 in the Arab region

This axis reviews the reality of the 13th goal in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that were made to enhance climate action during the past month, by classifying those efforts according to the targets followed by the observatory as follows.

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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First: North Africa:

A. Egypt:

Yasmine Fouad confirmed that Egypt faced a number of **challenges and difficulties when submitting a request** to host the COP27 Climate Conference, adding that the Egyptian state, through cooperation between the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs, was able to mobilize votes within the African Union and submit a file to host the conference on behalf of Africa, this occurred in conjunction with handing over the presidency of the Conference on Biological Diversity, which Egypt chaired for a period of 3 years from 2018 to October 2021, pointing out that this is a precedent in the history of international environmental action that does not happen much, which is that a country hosts the two largest international environmental agreements, in succession, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

This was during the presence of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, ministerial coordinator and envoy of the Climate Conference, the African Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, headed by Representative Sherif El-Gabaly, Chairman of the African Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Chamber of Chemical Industries in the Federation of Industries, to discuss the results of the climate conference and the gains achieved through Egypt hosting the conference on behalf of Africa, presenting the country's plan towards the file of

⁴ وكالة الأنباء والمعلومات الفلسطينية، ندوة حوارية "حول ملامح التغير المناخي في فلسطين واستراتيجية التكيف والمواجهة"، 25 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3CqQpv6>

climate change in Africa, and developing a local African perspective for climate action in the framework of hosting the climate conference⁵.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, held an extensive meeting with the employees of the Waste Management Regulatory Authority of the Ministry of Environment, **to discuss the challenges and current conditions and the development of workflow**, in the presence of Tariq Al-Arabi, head of the Waste Management Regulatory Authority, and a number of workers in the various sectors of the agency.

Fouad confirmed that the agency plays an important role in implementing the new waste management system, as the agency performs the tasks of planning, organizing and controlling the system, especially in light of the importance of the waste management challenge for Egypt at the national level, and highlighting it at the international level as one of the causes of climate change emissions during the Presidency of Egypt for the climate conference. The minister pointed out the importance of encouraging the private sector and partners in the waste management system to participate in the framework of activating the procedures of the waste management regulation law that was issued recently, and to encourage investment in waste management of all kinds through various incentives.⁶

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator, and COP27 envoy, confirmed that holding this conference and the achievements made represent a remarkable event in the history of international relations, and a shining testimony to Egypt's ability to organize one of the largest international conferences in the history of the United Nations, which succeeded under Egyptian leadership in launching a new phase of the climate justice path for all countries of the world, especially the African countries that honored Egypt to hold the conference on their behalf. This was during the statement delivered by Yasmine Fouad in the plenary session of the Senate, in the presence of Counselor Abdel Wahhab AbdelRazek, President of the Senate, to discuss a request submitted by Representative Noha Zaki and twenty members, regarding the results of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the economic gains achieved.

Fouad went to Montreal, Canada, to participate in the high-level segment of the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held from 7 to 19 December. She also participated in the

⁵ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تستعرض نتائج وتوصيات مؤتمر المناخ cop 27 وجهود الوزارة في مجال حقوق الإنسان، 6 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3hTNAfc>

⁶ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تلتقي بالعاملين بجهاز تنظيم إدارة المخلفات وتناقش معهم سبل تطوير آليات العمل، 9 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3Gmgv54>

10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

The Egyptian Minister of Environment participated in a number of high-level activities and events during the conference, including the Ministerial Dialogue to raise ambition on the framework of the post-2020 biodiversity roadmap, and the Union for Coral Reef Conservation Actions to highlight the importance of coral reefs within the framework negotiations after 2020, as well as the special session on the partnership to implement the initiative to promote nature-based solutions for climate transformation, ENACT, which was launched at the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Conference⁷.

During her participation in the conference, Fouad discussed **the challenges facing Egypt with regard to the goal related to biological diversity**, and stressed the importance of adopting an integrated approach to advancing issues of preserving and restoring biological diversity by ensuring synergy between the three Rio conventions on (biological diversity, climate change and desertification), pointing out that there is emphasis on this approach at the global international level during the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 27th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Conference Convention, both of which were held in Egypt, and it was reaffirmed at the regional level during the first Arab Environmental Forum (organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the League of Arab States, ESCWA and the United Nations Program Environment).

Fouad also stressed the importance of linking climate change and biodiversity, allocating a day during the COP 27 conference on biodiversity, and launching the biodiversity initiative- ENACT) enhancing nature-based solutions for climate transformation (linking mitigation, adaptation and restoration of ecosystems, noting that the Biodiversity Day, which was held during the activities of the COP 27 conference, focused on three main axes by examining the current status of biodiversity and its relationship to climate, examples of successful solutions that benefit nature, climate and people to spread hope, discussing the vision of expanding the scope of urgent action for climate and nature, and emphasizing the importance of protecting and restoring biodiversity that is highly affected by climate change, and making use of all possibilities to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals.

The minister's advisor emphasized that this highlighted the need for regional cooperation to advance environmental agendas, through the Arab and African context, including cooperation with ESCWA, noting that the Arab Environment Forum provided

⁷ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تتوجه إلى كندا للمشاركة في الشق رفيع المستوى لمؤتمر التنوع البيولوجي COP15، 13 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FYt0SD>

a regional and international platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences in various environmental fields, creating partnerships for cooperation and exchanging visions on various topics, establishing a regional dialogue between multiple stakeholders of international and regional policymakers and experts in the field of environment, biodiversity, climate, green economy, and others to discuss the current situation and future prospects for environmental action, and to agree on the main regional priorities⁸.

Fouad, Minister of the Environment, and Mirela Kombaro, Minister of Tourism and Environment of Albania, signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development; with the aim of strengthening friendly relations between the two countries and working in accordance with the national legislation of each country and the principles of international environmental law and in coordination with other executive ministries, in addition to working on the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and technology, within the meetings of the high-level part of the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Montreal during the period December 7 to 19, chaired by China, the current president the 15th session of the conference,. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, confirmed that the memorandum of understanding between the two parties included cooperation in the fields of biodiversity and reserves, ecotourism, coastal zone management, climate change, marine pollution and disaster management, environmental monitoring in the field of air and water.⁹

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, and Abdullah Nasser, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology of the Maldives, signed a memorandum of understanding for joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of environmental protection, and strengthening cooperation in the field of achieving sustainable development and preserving natural resources to preserve the rights of present and future generations.

This is on the sidelines of the participation of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, in the high-level segment of the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 in Canada, coinciding with the last hours before the announcement of the final statement of the conference.

The Egyptian Minister of Environment indicated that the memorandum of understanding aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries to reduce environmental pollution and protect nature, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, through the exchange of experiences, information, skills, and technology. Yasmine Fouad

⁸ وزارة البيئة، ووزارة البيئة تلقي الضوء على الدور الإقليمي الرائد لمصر في الدعوة إلى نهج متكامل تجاه النهوض بقضايا الحفاظ على التنوع البيولوجي

واستعادته من خلال التأكيد على الروابط بين التنوع البيولوجي وتغير المناخ والتصحر، 16 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3YPnnPk>

⁹ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة توقع مذكرة تفاهم مع نظيرتها الألبانية في عدد من المجالات البيئية المختلفة، 17 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3hRA7V4>

stressed that the cooperation will include a number of priority areas, including confronting the effects of climate change (mitigation - adaptation), and integrating biodiversity goals in development sectors such as energy, mining, production and infrastructure sectors, in addition to environmental monitoring in the sectors (air - water - soil)¹⁰.

B. Libya:

Ibrahim Al-Arabi Mounir, Environment Minister, accompanied by his advisors, received Isabelle Savard, Canadian Ambassador to Libya, at the Ministry's office. Where many environmental issues were discussed, especially those related to climate change and the challenges related to this file and their impact on many areas of life. The most important results of the COP 27 conference, which was held recently in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, were also reviewed, in addition to discussing the agenda of the 15th Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity in Montreal, which was attended by the State of Libya represented by the Minister of Environment; the Canadian Consul to Libya attended this meeting. At the end of this meeting, the two parties stressed the importance of cooperation, coordination, and support for all joint environmental initiatives and programs to preserve the environment and reduce pollution rates.¹¹

A reforestation campaign was held in the Scout Forest in Zintan under the supervision of the Libyan Organization for Environment and Climate and the Libyan Campaign for Reforestation, with the participation of the Zintan Scout Regiment, civil society organizations and the Ministry of Environment represented by the Department of Environmental Information and Awareness, where approximately 500 seedlings of various species were planted. It is worth noting that this campaign is for the 10th year in a row. Previous campaigns targeted several cities across Libya, the importance of vegetation cover and its importance to preserving the environment was introduced, and how to exploit all means to increase the area of vegetation cover in Libya¹².

C. Morocco:

The Moroccan government has begun to take measures to secure oases agriculture against the effects of climate change. According to the "Farmers Review Africa" website, the Moroccan Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation announced 61 agreements to support projects of the same number, aiming to accelerate the process of adapting oasis cultivation to the current effects of climate change. These 61 projects will be managed by up to 30

¹⁰ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة ووزير الدولة للبيئة بالماديف يوقعان مذكرة تفاهم للتعاون المشترك في مجال البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، 19 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WsFGIB>

¹¹ وزارة البيئة ليبيا، مناقشة العديد من القضايا البيئية وخاصة المتعلقة بالتغير المناخي وتأثيراته السلبية على الكثير من مجالات الحياة، 6 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GIZGqK>

¹² وزارة البيئة - ليبيا، تحت هذا الشعار تستمر حملات التشجير في عدة مدن ليبية ضمن التعاون بين مؤسسات الدولة ومنظمات المجتمع المدني، 24 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3hPuK95>

companies specialized in the field of agriculture, 18 institutions, 7 service agencies, 3 charitable institutions and two institutions concerned with the field of irrigation. The initiative has been set by the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, amounting to 2.2 million dollars, to implement, and to work on these projects with the aim of adapting to the effects of climate change. This is with the initiative in mind, empowering the role of women and youth in these projects.¹³

Morocco takes seriously the dire repercussions of climate change on the country, and the resulting natural risks. The cost incurred by the Kingdom is estimated at more than \$575 million (about 575 billion centimes) annually, according to a World Bank report. The report, entitled Enabling Moroccan Cities to Adapt and Thrive in the Face of Climate Change, notes that the Moroccan government has taken decisive action to strengthen disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change at the national and local levels¹⁴.

D. Algeria:

On the sidelines of her visit to Algeria to participate in the 4th edition of the Algerian-German Energy Day, the Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, Samia Moualfi, received Ms. Franziska Brantner, the Deputy Minister of the German State for Economics and Climate Protection at the Ministry's headquarters. The meeting focused on many important points, which is the presentation of the experience of international cooperation with the German side in the field of renewable energies, discussing mechanisms for developing and strengthening the partnership between the two countries, and talking about the adoption of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, in the framework of the fight against the dangers of climate change¹⁵.

E. Tunisia:

Officials of the National Coordinating Unit in climate change at the Tunisian Ministry of Environment discussed with officials of the United Nations Development Program (PNUD) ways to reduce emissions and adapt to climate challenges. It was during a high-level meeting of the “Stimulating the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions” Program Committee under the supervision of Minister of Environment Leila Chekhaoui El Mahdaoui, Assistant Permanent Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Egina Song, Director General of the National Agency for Energy Control Fathi El-Hanashi, and representatives of the Ministries of Finance,

¹³ العين الإخبارية، المغرب يواجه التغير المناخي بمبادرات خضراء.. زراعة الواحات أولوية، 20 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jz308T>

¹⁴ هسبريس، المغرب يضع مخططات طويلة الأمد لمواجهة الكوارث الطبيعية وتغير المناخ، 24 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3PUzN4w>

¹⁵ وزارة البيئة والطاقة المتجددة، السيدة الوزيرة تستقبل نائبة وزير-كاتبة دولة الاقتصاد وحماية المناخ الألمانية، 21 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3C2M7dc>

Industry and Energy, The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tunisians Abroad, the Banking and Financial Council, the Tunisian Federation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, and the German Agency for International Cooperation¹⁶.

Environment Minister Leila Chekhaoui El Mahdaoui received at the Ministry's headquarters, Her Excellency the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Tunisia, Ms. Helen Winterton, accompanied by representatives of the "Solar Water" company and in the presence of representatives of the Ministry's departments and institutions. The session was devoted to discussing ways of cooperation in reducing the effects of climate change, especially concerning the reduce of water resources and water scarcity. The dialogue was under the orientations of the nationally defined commitments in the field of mitigation, adaptation, and consolidation of the elements of sustainable development, especially those related to rationalizing water consumption, providing safe drinking water, and supporting the food security elements for current and future generations.

The Head of Government, Mrs. Naglaa Boudin Ramadan, presided over a ministerial council, in the presence of representatives of the World Bank, within the framework of coordination for the preparation of the World Bank's report on climate and development in Tunisia. They considered areas related to food security, water scarcity, energy and ecological transition, and economic, social, and environmental empowerment. The Prime Minister stressed the need for all stakeholders to participate in this report preparation, based on the national goals for carbon neutrality (SNBC) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), sectoral strategies and the outputs of the development plan for the period 2023-2025.¹⁷

The “Stimulating the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions” program is being implemented through a grant from the United Nations Program over four years (2021-2025). It aims to accelerate the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Climate Agreement by strengthening climate governance and supporting national and sectoral capacities to access financing mechanisms at the national and international levels. In addition to supporting monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (enhanced transparency mechanisms) and enhancing the participation of all actors to contribute effectively to the climate policies implementation, especially the private sector, local authorities, and civil society organizations.

During the meeting, they reviewed the implementing progress of the program components during 2022, and the proposed activities were approved in 2023. It includes, in particular, continuing to prepare a detailed action plan for implementing national

¹⁶ اليوم السابع، تونس والأمم المتحدة تبحثان الحد من الانبعاثات والتأقلم مع التغيرات المناخية، 21 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3ju74Y8>

¹⁷ وزارة البيئة-تونس، مجلس وزاري مضيق بإشراف رئيسة الحكومة، وبحضور ممثلين عن البنك الدولي، حُصِّص لإعداد تقرير البنك الدولي حول المناخ والتنمية في تونس، 16 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3hWR8x9>

contributions, preparing an investment program to implement priority projects at the national and sectoral levels, and establishing a dialogue with the private sector. To identify the most important mechanisms to enhance the private sector in priority project implementation in mitigation of emissions and adaptation to climate change.¹⁸

F. Mauritania:

The American Academy of Achievement awarded the "Distinguished Leadership" award to the Mauritanian President, Mohamed Ould Cheikh El-Ghazwani, in recognition of his efforts in building resilience to climate change. President Mohamed Ould Cheikh Al-Ghazwani received the award during a ceremony held by the American Academy in Washington. Congress members, White House advisers, the head of the CIA, heads, and personalities from Africa attended the ceremony. The honor comes on the sidelines of Ould Al-Ghazwani's participation in the American-African Summit, launched in Washington, in the presence of 49 African heads of state and government, at the invitation of US President Joe Biden¹⁹.

G. Sudan:

Despite some modest developmental achievements that Sudan has achieved in recent years, they lack continuity. The absence of policies, plans, and programs was reflected in the chances of development in successive budgets for more than 20 years, in addition to the rampant multi-headed corruption, the weakness of the state's mandate over public money, and the emergence of parallel economies that exhausted the national economy.

Sudan implements the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which stipulate the state's final exit from fuel, wheat, and medicine subsidies, and then liberalize the exchange rate. However, the production sectors weakened due to the absence of plans, political conflict, and impotence in the face of rampant corruption in all sectors. Sudan ranks 164th out of 180 countries, according to the "Transparency" index of corruption.

Second: The Arab Gulf States:

a. Saudi Arabia:

KSA launched the "Culture and the Green Future" initiative to enhance the role of culture, raise awareness of the centrality of culture in comprehensive and sustainable development, and draw up cultural policies. It also has comprehensive programs to use

¹⁸ وزارة البيئة-تونس، اجتماع رفيع المستوى للجنة قيادة برنامج "استحداث تنفيذ المساهمات المحددة وطنيا (CDN)", 21 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3FZK8HE>

¹⁹ سكاى نيوز عربية، تكريم أميركي للرئيس الموريتاني لجهوده في مجال المناخ، 14 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WlHflf>

resources efficiently, reduce climate change's effects, and enhance the ability to adapt and deal with its various challenges.

The initiative was launched by the Saudi Minister of Culture and Chairman of the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan, in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), on the sidelines of the 23rd session of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Arab World in Riyadh²⁰. They agreed to coordinate on energy policies using the circular carbon economy to manage emissions and achieve climate goals, urging developed countries to take their historical responsibilities seriously, fulfill their commitments and reduce emissions. They coordinate to help developing countries enhance their capabilities to face climate challenges through financial and technical support and capacity building²¹.

Four funds specialized in investing in companies that reduce carbon emissions put \$13.6 million in the Saudi market during the last period. The funds are affiliated with three international companies specializing in asset management: BlackRock, Canadian DGAM, and US State Street. That is the first international presence to be officially monitored in the Saudi market for funds specialized in investing in companies that have pledged to work to reduce carbon emissions. It is noteworthy that Western funds specialized in investing in shares of "companies that reduce carbon emissions" are rare. So, the transfer to a low-carbon future for Saudi Arabia is supported by Western funds²².

C. UAE:

The Emirates Council for Climate Action held its second meeting for 2022, chaired by Mariam Bint Al Muhairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. The meeting's agenda included discussing the council's work plan for 2022-2025, developments in national initiatives for climate action, including the development of the UAE's strategy to achieve climate neutrality in 2050, the national project for the measurement, reporting, and verification of emissions in its second phase, developments, and achievements of the national dialogue initiative on climate ambition and the announcement of the corporate alliance. UAE Climate Action, in addition to the road map for the national project for carbon sequestration, the outcomes of the Conference of the States Parties to the United

²⁰ مصراوي، السعودية تطلق مبادرة "الثقافة والمستقبل الأخضر" لتعزيز دور الثقافة في التنمية المستدامة، 7 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3lgkzF4>
²¹ القاهرة 24، البيان الختامي للقمّة السعودية الصينية: دعم جهود مكافحة المناخ واحترام السيادة الدولية، 9 ديسمبر 2022، <https://www.cairo24.com/1707630>

²² الاقتصادية، صناديق عالمية مرتبطة بالمناخ تستثمر 13.6 مليون دولار في السوق السعودية، 4 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VD4uN0>

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27 and preparations for the conference session that will be in the country COP28 in 2023²³.

As part of its strategic directions to enhance the participation of all sectors in achieving the UAE's goals to reduce carbon rates and strive towards achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organized, in the presence of Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Head of the Municipality and Planning Department in Ajman, the seventh national dialogue for climate ambition, under the slogan " Innovation in integrated waste management as an accelerator to achieve the goals of climate neutrality. The session was held in the presence of Abdul Rahman Muhammad Al Nuaimi, Director General of the Municipality and Planning Department in Ajman, HE Eng. Asia Al Mualla, Director General of the Fujairah Environment Authority, and 70 representatives of many concerned institutions in the government and private sectors.

The session aimed to enhance the participation of all entities and institutions from the government and private sectors operating and concerned with the waste sector in efforts to achieve the goals of the Emirates Strategic Initiative to achieve climate neutrality in 2050²⁴.

As part of its efforts to implement the UAE's strategic initiative to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment launched the road map for the National Carbon Sequestration Project, which aims to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030 at the state level. It was during the second meeting of the Emirates Council for Climate Action, held on Jubail island in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, in the presence of the council members. The launch announcement also included a field tour of the mangrove sites in Jubail Park. The project is part of the strategic directions of the UAE to enhance reliance on nature-based solutions in facing environmental challenges and to enhance efforts to capture carbon dioxide to mitigate the effects of climate change and adaptation capabilities²⁵

D. Bahrain:

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain pays attention to the environmental sector in the Kingdom through various initiatives and programs that contribute to the continuation of development paths during the reign of His

²³ البيان، "الإمارات للعمل المناخي" يناقش مستجدات المبادرات الوطنية وتطوير استراتيجية الدولة للوصول للحياد المناخي 2050، 14 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3VGzj34>

²⁴ وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي في الإمارات، الحوار الوطني حول الطموح المناخي يحفز تبني منظومة الإدارة المتكاملة للنفايات كداعم لتحقيق الحياد

المناخي، 8 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VF70ly>

²⁵ وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي في الإمارات، التغير المناخي والبيئة تطلق خارطة الطريق للمشروع الوطني لعزل الكربون، 17 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3WZCfco>

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. It also has the interest and support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, especially in realizing the visions and aspirations of the Kingdom in the afforestation plan. It moves at a growing pace in reaching the goals during a reception by Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, in the presence of Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of Municipal Affairs, and Dr. Khalid Ahmed, Undersecretary of Livestock, Acting Undersecretary of Agriculture and Marine Resources at the Ministry.²⁶

Within the framework of the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the national plan for afforestation, which aims to double the number of trees in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, sponsored the tree planting event No. (150 thousand). It is the last tree to be planted as part of the initiatives of the National Reforestation Plan for 2022. The organization of this event comes in celebration of the National Reforestation Plan's exceeding its stated goal for this year from 140,000 to 150,000 trees distributed across the various governorates of the Kingdom, i.e. an additional 10,000 trees, an increase in their percentage. 107%²⁷.

The country's embassy in Manama participated in the national afforestation campaign "Stay Green" launched by the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain to develop the agricultural sector climate. The embassy participated in the campaign by planting several seedlings of Ghaf trees in the National Pact, which were provided by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, which includes a quarter of a million mangrove seeds and 15,000 Ghaf seeds, in addition to 20 thousand mangrove seedlings. And in the presence of Mr. Mansour Al-Juwaid, Deputy Ambassador of the State to Bahrain, His Excellency Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, and Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, Secretary-General of the National Initiative²⁸.

E. Yemen:

With 3 out of 4 Yemenis dependent on agriculture and livestock for survival, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has warned that climate change and drought could push communities to breaking point. Farmers in Yemen have seen their livelihoods destroyed by severe drought, devastating floods, and grinding conflict, making it difficult for them to make ends meet, according to UN reports, that happen when the number of Houthi mine victims in agricultural areas has risen to more than 300

²⁶ الأيام، تنمية القطاع الزراعي في مواجهة تحديات المناخ، 14 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Gd0BZg>

²⁷ الأيام، زراعة 150 ألف شجرة بالمحافظات كافة العام الجاري.. الشيخ خالد بن عبدالله، 30 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3VG6lev>

²⁸ وكالة أنباء الإمارات، سفارة الدولة في البحرين تشارك في الحملة الوطنية للتشجير "دُمت خضراء"، 9 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GcYAFw>

civilians over the past months. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the floods in recent months affected the agricultural sector, destroyed crops, and transported explosive remnants of war to agricultural areas, with Yemen facing a devastating food security crisis²⁹.

F. Sultanate of Oman:

The Environment Agency organized a workshop on preparing the national report for the participation of the Sultanate of Oman in the meetings of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reach agreed opinions, positions, how to benefit from the decisions issued, and define the positions of the Sultanate of Oman. The seminar included presenting the results and outputs of the Conference of the Parties held in Sharm El-Sheikh, including statistics and information related to those axes, discussing challenges, upcoming action steps, and relevant proposed recommendations. The seminar focused on 3 main tracks: the negotiation track, the Sultanate's pavilion and exhibition, the youth category, and a track related to the progress of the negotiation work with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties in several areas, including financing, losses, damages, mitigation, adaptation, response measures, and human rights, in addition to the track of technology and science transfer, research, and capacity building, and agriculture³⁰.

Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a lecture at the Hungarian Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade IFAT, within the framework of his official visit to the Republic of Hungary, in which he touched on the relations between the two friendly countries and cooperation. He praised the agreements and memorandums of understanding signed between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Hungary in various fields and the existing investments between the two sides³¹.

He referred to the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in combating climate change and its aspiration to achieve zero neutrality in carbon emissions by 2050, its policies for economic diversification under Oman's vision 2040, and the possibilities that this provides for cooperation with Hungary in a way that achieves mutual interests.

The 21st Annual Conference, entitled "Sustainability of Resources in Light of Climate Change and Ways to Limit Their Impacts: An Administrative Vision" which concluded its work today, recommended calling on Arab governments to enhance resilience in the face of climate-related risks and natural disasters. The conference hosted by the Sultanate of Oman represented by the Ministry of Labor and in cooperation with

²⁹ الشرق الأوسط، الجفاف والفيضانات يدفعان اليمنيين إلى نقطة الانهيار، 13 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3jKzsp6>

³⁰ الرؤية، استعراض نتائج مشاركة عُمان في "مؤتمر الأطراف" للتغير المناخي، 19 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3QceZpd>

³¹ عمان، وزير الخارجية يوضح جهود سلطنة عُمان في مكافحة التغير المناخي وبلوغ الحياد الصفري، 16 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WGvP27>

the Arab Organization for Administrative Development - the League of Arab States - recommended strengthening the ability to adapt to risks, calling for the integration of climate change-related measures into policies, strategies, and planning at the national level.

The conference called for the adoption of plans to improve education, raise awareness, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate the effects and repercussions of climate change and provide benefits for adaptation to it. It also motivates governments and parties from developed countries to implement their pledges in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and abide by their declarations on joint mobilization from all sources to meet the needs of developing countries.

The conference came out with a call for specialized United Nations organizations to assist in strengthening mechanisms for improving capacities for effective planning and management related to climate change. It calls on governments to take appropriate measures to rehabilitate national production management systems under international trends seeking to impose more restrictions on resource uses, extraction, transportation, and storage. It also calls on governments to work on integrating resource sustainability strategies in light of climate change with the tracks of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development³².

Third: The Levant and Iraq:

A. Jordan:

Environment Minister Muawiyah Al-Radaida met with the German ambassador to the Kingdom, Bernhard Kampmann. During the meeting with the German ambassador, Minister Radaideh discussed ways to enhance cooperation on climate change. They reviewed the results of the COP27 Summit of the Parties on Climate Change, stressing the importance of advancing international efforts in climate finance. They also reviewed the initiative launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II at the conference on the climate refugee association and Germany's support for it³³.

In the presence of Princess Dana Firas, Minister of Environment Muawiyah Al-Radaydah held the sixth dialogue workshop with the private sector to enhance the enabling environment for investment in climate action held by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). It is part of the project to prepare the readiness of the authorized national authority and direct access

³² الشبيبة، مؤتمر «استدامة الموارد في ظل التغيرات المناخية: رؤية إدارية» يخرج بتوصيات.. تعرف عليها، 13 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3Z54cBb>

³³ وزارة البيئة الأردنية، وزير البيئة يلتقي السفير الألماني لدى المملكة، <https://bit.ly/3Vy1YYg>

bodies in Jordan for partnership in climate action to access the Green Climate Fund, implemented by the Ministry of Environment and the Global Institute for Green Growth to strengthen the enabling environment for private sector investment in climate action in the tourism sector and needs the private sector in this field. It aims to discuss the challenges faced by the private sector in climate action, in the tourism sector, and the needs of the sector, noting the importance of the role played by the Ministry of Environment, particularly in developing adaptation and mitigation measures for the effects of climate change at the national level³⁴.

The World Bank Group launched the Jordan Climate and Development Report, in partnership with the Government of Jordan, at a public event held at the Jordan Museum in Amman and attended by representatives from the public and private sectors, academia, research institutions, international partners, and the media. The Jordan Climate and Development Report provide an assessment of climate-resilient policies and investment paths based on evidence. These paths can unleash the potential economic potential of the Kingdom and work to improve the outcomes that the Jordanian people seek to achieve. It includes integrated solutions to the water-energy-food-security nexus, enhancing the decarbonization and resilience of cities and unlocking financing for climate-smart development and job creation³⁵.

B. Iraq:

Iraqi Environment Minister Nizar Amedi confirmed that he hopes to double cooperation and support the United States in facing the problems of climate change and drought. That was during the Minister of Environment's reception of the US Ambassador to Iraq, Elena Romanowski, in his office in Baghdad, and the meeting witnessed discussion frameworks for cooperation between the two countries.

Amedee stressed that the role of the United States is significant in supporting Iraq at all levels, especially the environmental aspect and the effects of climate change on it. The United States' desire to support the Iraqi government in all environmental issues and the impact of climate change was emphasized, as well as the exchange of experiences and interest in environmental projects and support for Iraq with international organizations, foremost of which is the upcoming climate conference to be held in Dubai to obtain the required support³⁶.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched Najaf the project "Enhancing the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Holders to Climate

³⁴ وزارة البيئة الأردن، وزير البيئة... يفتتح الورشة الحوارية السادسة مع القطاع الخاص لتعزيز البيئة التمكينية للاستثمار في العمل المناخي،

<https://bit.ly/3vyywXZu>

³⁵ البنك الدولي، تغير المناخ يمثل تحدياً وفرصة للتنمية والنمو في الأردن، 7 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3CdsrDy>

³⁶ شفق، العراق يأمل مضاعفة الدعم الأمريكي لمواجهة التغيرات المناخية والجفاف، 15 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GikKgN>

Changes in Southern Iraq", funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The project launch ceremony, which was chaired by FAO Representative Dr. Salah Hajj Hassan, was attended by the Governor of Najaf, senior officials from the governorates of Najaf, Maysan, Muthanna, and Dhi Qar, representatives of the Peasants Union, academics, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders. During the ceremony, the importance of improving agricultural practices from traditional techniques to new and more sustainable technologies was highlighted in line with government policy, to mitigate the impact of climate change and water scarcity on vulnerable families³⁷.

Fourth: East African countries:

a. Djibouti:

According to Djibouti's ambassador to Egypt, Djibouti established and opened a center for climate change studies, before the World Summit on Climate Change to document monitoring and prepare for participation and benefit from the World Summit, by coordinating efforts in the field of desertification and drought. The ambassador called for intensifying efforts and benefiting from the recommendations and results of the Sharm el-Sheikh climate summit. The Djiboutian ambassador added that the African continent is making great efforts to confront desertification and drought, stressing that it is not possible to turn a blind eye to what is happening in the IGAD region, especially in Djibouti and Somalia, in terms of desertification and drought as a result of the climate change that the world is going through due to the heat emissions resulting from the industrialized countries³⁸.

For four days, the work of the training course on “Climate Change and Related Issues”, which was organized by the IGAD Regional Center for Climate Prediction in cooperation with the Djiboutian Meteorological Authority, continued with the participation of 25 male and female journalists from Djibouti, Somalia, and Somaliland. The training course aimed to qualify journalists and build their professional capabilities in covering weather issues, climate change, and environmental pollution. It dealt with the scientific aspects of how to write environmental and scientific reports in a professional manner, which enhances opportunities to address climate change in the Horn of Africa. The course aims to enhance the capabilities of journalists in covering climate change issues, thus contributing to raising societal awareness of environmental issues in the countries of the Horn of Africa³⁹.

³⁷ الأمم المتحدة في العراق، منظمة الأغذية والزراعة (الفاو) تطلق المشروع الممول من سيدا " تعزيز قدرة أصحاب الحيازات الأكثر هشاشة للتغيرات المناخية في جنوب العراق"، 18 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WLQoKn>

³⁸ اليوم السابع، سفير جيبوتي بالخرطوم يثمن جهود مصر في قضايا تغير المناخ بأفريقيا، 2 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3InHpuj>

³⁹ جريدة القرن، اختتام دورة تدريبية اقليمية حول التغير المناخي، 18 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3X4kPva>

Target (2)	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
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First: North Africa:

a. Egypt:

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, announced the completion of the electronic linking work for the continuous self-monitoring system at the Kima Chemical Industries Company in Aswan Governorate, where a chimney was linked to the urea, and both total solid particles and ammonia were monitored, and the electronic linking work for the continuous self-monitoring system was completed for Medcom Aswan Cement Company in Aswan, where the chimney of cement mills (1 and 2) was connected, and total solid particles were monitored.

The Minister of Environment confirmed that these efforts come within the framework of the Arab Republic of Egypt's interest in monitoring and reducing emissions rates in the Egyptian air environment, as the Ministry of Environment has prepared a strategy aimed at improving air quality and bringing the results of monitoring air pollutants to safe levels in accordance with the established standards of law. Noting that the total number of industrial facilities that have been linked to Aswan Governorate has reached (4) facilities with (8) chimneys. The total number of industrial facilities linked to the national network for monitoring industrial emissions at the level of the Republic reached (92) facilities, representing 457 chimney⁴⁰.

C. Libya:

The work team from the Ministry of Environment (the Ozone Unit) made a field visit to Al-Najah sandwich panels factory in Wadi Al-Rabea area, south of the capital, Tripoli. On the sidelines of the visit, an expanded meeting was held with the factory management and engineers, where they discussed the experts' preparations to start installing and operating the supplied production units that operate with the alternative material used in the manufacture of insulating panels.

D. Morocco

Morocco seeks day by day to increase reliance on renewable energies to meet the clean energy needs of the various institutions and facilities of the Kingdom. Within the

⁴⁰ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تعلن الانتهاء من ربط مداخن شركتي كيما وميديكوم بأسوان بمنظومة الرصد الإلكترونية للانبعاثات الصناعية، 27 ديسمبر <https://bit.ly/3FVTiVU> ،2022

framework of this approach, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has adopted a special program for energy efficiency in mosques, as more than 6,000 mosques have been equipped with energy efficiency equipment in various regions of the Kingdom. This program aims to rationalize the use of energy in places of worship through the use of economical lamps and reliance on solar energy to heat water with the installation of electric panels that convert solar energy into electrical energy⁴¹.

Moroccan cities, which contribute more than 75% of the national Gross domestic product (GDP), are increasingly exposed to natural and climatic hazards. These risks include extreme climatic phenomena, such as floods, heat waves and droughts, and slow-onset events, such as sea level rise, which are expected to worsen in the coming decades due to the effects of climate change. It also includes geological hazards, such as earthquakes.

It is estimated that the effects of natural and climatic hazards together cost Morocco more than \$575 million annually. It also poses a great threat to the people of this country and their livelihoods, especially the neediest people in urban areas who are most exposed to such risks, including women and youth living below the poverty line, immigrants, as well as other minority groups who have difficulties in accessing services and support.

Under these circumstances, the Moroccan government has taken decisive action to strengthen disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change at the national and local levels. While we cannot stress enough the important role of the national government in providing a guiding framework and financial resources to face disasters and build resilience to climatic events, the government is aware that the impacts associated with natural hazards and climate change take their toll at the local level. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the horizontal and vertical links between sectors on the one hand and between national and local authorities on the other hand, and to provide cities with the necessary tools to strengthen their resilience⁴².

Second: The Arab Gulf States:

A. Yemen

In the year 2022, Yemen witnessed climatic changes that affected livelihoods, as 2022 was recorded as the third driest year during the past four decades, after 2014 (the driest) and the year 2000. The year 2022 also witnessed a decrease in precipitation, at a rate of 0.3 mm per year, and patterns extreme climate changes, rising temperatures, droughts, and floods. In the first half of 2022, most of the local farmers lost their first planting season. Two-thirds of households reported a decrease in cultivated area. The floods

⁴¹ سكاى نيوز عربية، المغرب.. "مساجد خضراء" لمواجهة التغير المناخي، 23 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vkvMwU>
⁴² البنك الدولي، تمكين المدن المغربية من التكيف والازدهار في مواجهة الكوارث، 20 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Gim2JE>

during the months of July-August constituted unexpected shocks, affecting more than 40,000 people in the country. Since July 2022, several governorates have witnessed heavy rains, which caused widespread floods, affecting tens of thousands of residents, most of whom were displaced.

According to local authorities, at least 29 people died as a result of the floods in the governorates of Abyan, Al-Mahwit, Dhamar, Raymah, Sana'a, and Shabwah. Residential homes, property, and infrastructure, including roads, water sources, and sewage systems, and public services were damaged. Reports indicated that more than 28,000 families (about 201,000 people) were affected by the floods across the country⁴³.

Third: Levant countries:

a. Lebanon:

Lebanon contributes to climate change in everything it does. Fuel subsidies were terminated in 2022 due to Lebanon's financial collapse and the conditions for loaning from the World Bank. The climate was not taken into consideration, although Lebanon consumes polluted energy to generate electricity, and there are no signs of replacing it with green energy. And if officials move, this will happen within a heated race between the ruling parties to deplete the country's natural resources, relentlessly or shamelessly.

Talking about climate change in Lebanon seems almost idealistic, when reality lacks the slightest measures. For example, when Lebanon declared the adoption of the "combating climate change" initiative during the climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022, the Ministry of Health recorded 3,160 cases of cholera and 18 deaths. While UNICEF stated that it had repeatedly warned (1) that "the water infrastructure in Lebanon is on the brink of the collapse," and the crisis has not been resolved, and millions of people are affected by the limited availability of clean and safe water⁴⁴.

B. Syrian Arab Republic:

Over the course of more than ten years of the devastating conflict in Syria, the Syrians have lived through various kinds of suffering, while in the north and east of Syria, its people have faced various additional sufferings, since water turned into a weapon of war, which was exposed in their faces in recent years, when the crisis began with a decrease in water levels. The waters of the Euphrates River supplied by Turkey, in addition to climate change, which has become a real threat facing the region in general, including northeastern Syria, and ended with the Syrian factions loyal to Turkey controlling the

⁴³ حلم أخضر، اليمن: 2022 الأكثر تأثراً بالتغيرات المناخية، 24 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3i7VGks>
⁴⁴ السفير العربي، لبنان: كيف تدير دولة فاشلة معركة تغير المناخ؟، 5 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3G2fbCU>
Nextep⁴⁴

Alouk station located in the city of Sere-Kaniye Ras al-Ain, which supplies the city of Hasakah and its countryside with drinking water. All this increased the political and military conflicts between the parties to the Syrian war, and the conflicting interests of the relevant regional and international powers, which are now controlling the joints of the lives of Syrians, with no looming solutions so far⁴⁵.

C. Iraq:

The effects of climate change are exacerbating in Iraq, amid calls to contain the situation, while the country's Oil Minister, Hayan Abdul-Ghani, revealed that Iraq is seeking to completely eliminate the flaring of associated natural gas, within 4 years. Iraq is still burning some of the extracted gas alongside crude oil, due to the lack of the facilities to process it into fuel for local consumption or exports⁴⁶.

Fourth: East Africa:

a. Somalia:

Vast swaths of the Somali countryside have been turned into a barren land. Drought caused by climate change is causing crop failure, livestock dying and children starving to death. Somalia is affected by a deep climate crisis that reflects a frightening picture of what may happen in other places as a result of the global warming. Nowhere is this phenomenon more evident than in Somalia, one of the countries in the world most affected by climate change, and suffering from the worst drought in more than 4 decades. Nearly half of Somalia's 17 million people need urgent assistance, as more than a million people have abandoned their homes in search of food and grazing. On the other hand, the rains were failed for 5 consecutive seasons, and the water shortage crisis are even worse, that in the early 1990s, when famine claimed about 260,000 people⁴⁷.

The grim reality confronting drought-stricken east Africa is a frightening portent of what could come elsewhere as the effects of climate change become increasingly pronounced, Somalia one of the most climate-affected countries in the world, facing its worst drought in more than four decades while struggling to control an internal rebellion.

Across the world's poorest continent, more than a fifth of its 1.3 billion people don't have enough to eat, with water shortages and extreme weather events⁴⁸.

"Climate change" dealt a strong blow to the terrorist "Al-Shabaab" movement in Somalia, which may be fatal to their activities in the country, after the movement

⁴⁵ المياه في شمال وشرق سوريا... الحرب بوسائل أخرى، <https://bit.ly/3Gwwj5e>
⁴⁶ سكاى نيوز عربية، تغير المناخ يربك العراق.. والبنك الدولي يدخل على الخط، 22 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3GFd3CK>
⁴⁷ الطاقة، تغير المناخ يضرب الصومال بأزمته الجفاف وسوء التغذية (تقرير)، 12 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3ZbPuZ8>
⁴⁸ الشرق، تقرير: الصومال الأكثر تضرراً بتغير المناخ في شرق أفريقيا، 11 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vDScsU>

controlled several regions of Somalia for years and spread panic among the population. Climate change turned into a curse that struck the "Al-Shabaab" movement with death, after drought prompted tribes that were subject to the terrorist organization affiliated with "Al-Qaeda" to rebel against it, and refused to pay taxes after the wells dried up, the land became desolate, and large numbers of livestock died, death by shooting became easier than death by starvation.

Drought usually played a role in favor of terrorist groups, and helped them recruit more followers angry at their governments, similar to what is happening in the Lake Chad region. The "Al-Shabaab" movement tried to exploit the drought and climate change to in her favour, by recruiting more children and followers, in exchange for food and a little money, which it collects from collecting taxes and royalties. But "The plan backfired," as the Somalis are fed up with the high taxes and royalties that the movement takes from them despite the famine striking the country, which the United Nations described as one of the worst famines over the past 70 years, facing the Horn of Africa⁴⁹.

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, considered that the drought crisis in Somalia is the worst of its kind, calling for urgent action, amid fears of an "unprecedented, tragic famine." This came at the beginning of a meeting of the League, which included its senior officials, to discuss the drought crisis afflicting the poor country, which has been groaning for years under the weight of civil war and bloody terrorist operations. Aboul Gheit said that the call of the League of Arab States stems from the deep concern of the Arab world and the international community about the plight of the brotherly Somali people in light of the drought crisis, which is the worst of its kind after the lack of rain for five consecutive seasons, affecting about 8 million people, equivalent to half of the population, most of them are children who suffer from acute malnutrition and the risk of death⁵⁰.

b. Comoros

In the aftermath of COP27, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction brought together ten disaster-prone African countries to accelerate climate action through better disaster risk and climate management. Among those countries that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions but are disproportionately exposed to extreme weather events caused by global warming, Comoros is among the eight least developed countries and some Small Island Developing States. This workshop attempted to create a

⁴⁹ الاتحاد، الصومال.. «التغير المناخي» نقمة تصيب «الشباب»، 13 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3X1CFir>
⁵⁰ سيوتنيك، أبو الغنيط يحذر من "مجاعة مأساوية غير مسبوقة" في الصومال ويدعو إلى تحرك عاجل، 6 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3WV0rfY>

common vision for climate-informed, data-based national plans and integrated strategies for climate and disaster risk management⁵¹.

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

a. Egypt:

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, emphasized the depth of cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Cairo University, in the projects and programs of the ministry, with what the university represents from a ancient history, and benefiting from the experiences of university professors and scientists, praising the role of the university during Egypt's preparations to host the climate summit, whether through studies carried out by research agencies or seminars for discussing the issue of climate change, as well as implementing a simulation model for the conference.

This came during Cairo University President Mohamed Othman El-khosht's honoring of Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, at the 17th Science Day celebration organized by the university, in appreciation of her efforts and prominent role in the success of the climate conference and its appearance in the honorable form of the Egyptian state and raising environmental awareness of the issue of climate change, as well as her distinguished contributions to the files different environmental⁵².

b. Libya:

Public awareness of the impact of climate change in Libya is still low and represents great challenges for the country, which is one of the driest countries in the world, and Libya's water requirements overreach its renewable supplies, as the Man-Made River project, which provides 60% of the fresh water used in Libya, depends on Non-renewable groundwater that cannot be recharged by rain.

Projected increases in temperature, rising sea levels and more frequent weather extremes increase the potential for depletion of water resources in Libya, where coastal communities are under threat, in addition to reduced agricultural productivity which will exacerbate food insecurity. More than a decade after the overthrow of Gaddafi, Libya's

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Africa unites on climate and disaster risk management, 15 Dec 2022, ⁵¹
<https://bit.ly/3XeZtLw>

وزارة البيئة، جامعة القاهرة تكرم وزيرة البيئة خلال الاحتفال بيوم العلم السابع عشر لجهودها وإسهاماتها المتميزة في العمل البيئي، 21 ديسمبر 2022،
<https://bit.ly/3vhcjtW>

transitional governments have paid little attention to the escalating climate-related challenges facing the country. Although Libya signed the Paris Agreement in 2016, it has not ratified the agreement and is the only country not to conduct a carbon inventory.

Libya's electricity system relies on burning fossil fuels, and as a result the country has the highest per person emissions of greenhouse gases in Africa, emitting two to four times more from Libya than any other country in North Africa⁵³.

c. Tunisia:

Within the framework of its continuous work to expand dialogue in the field of climate change with all actors, including non-governmental organizations and associations, the private sector, local authorities, and representatives of the media and communication, the National Coordinating Unit in the field of climate change, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), organized a workshop for National Forum of Climate Change Adaptation Actors in the field of adaptation to climate change, on December 3 and 4, 2022 in Hammamet.

The workshop aimed to develop a program of work for the Forum during the years 2023 and 2024 to further support dialogue in the field of preparing national and sectorial policies and support the capabilities of all parties in the field of designing and implementing programs and projects related to climate change, and to exploit available funding opportunities for this purpose.

It should be noted that the National Forum for Climate Change Actors was established during the year 2021, with support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, and includes 66 members who fall under four sub-forums (Non-Governmental Associations Sub-Forum, Private Sector Sub-Forum, Local Authority Sub-Forum, and the Media and Communication Sub-Forum).

During the workshop, the major elements of the Forum's action plan were formulated, and agreement was reached regarding further details of the program and its formulation in the form of a special project for the Forum, the possibility of financing which will be presented on the occasion of the International Partnership Symposium within the framework of the International Mechanism for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC Partnership), which will be held in Tunisia in 2023. The workshop elects the steering committee of the forum, which includes 8

⁵³ ليبيا الأحرار، تقرير إيطالي يكشف: الأمن الغذائي للبيبا مهدد بسبب التغير المناخي، 2 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3hRKdoT>

members, in addition to renewing confidence in Mrs. Nisreen Shehata to continue chairing the forum during the period 2023-2024⁵⁴.

The Ministry of the Environment (National Coordinating Unit in the Field of Climate Change), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (PNUD) and in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the National Association of Tunisian Municipalities, organized a national symposium entitled “Climate ambition at the local level: from nationally determined contributions to carbon neutrality by 2050” in the city of Kairouan. The symposium aims to introduce municipal plans and priorities to combat climate change, especially in areas related to energy and renewable energies, sustainable transport policies, urban planning, waste management, water conservation and urban green spaces.

The symposium included many interventions related to municipal programs and their priorities to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the environment, presented by the municipalities of Kairouan, Tunis, Sousse, Sfax, Kebili, Nabeul and Houmt Souk in Djerba. The symposium also included presenting the most important national programs and support mechanisms for municipalities in order to develop their priority climate programs and projects, especially at levels related to capacity support and financing⁵⁵.

d. Sudan:

During the past month, a workshop on climate change and its repercussions on the Sudanese economy was held, organized by the Risk Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The Director of Risks at the Ministry, Rabia Ibrahim Bakhit, confirmed that the workshop was successful, in which papers were presented by experts specialized in climate affairs.

The media called on shed light on the importance and seriousness of environmental phenomena and how to confront them through various means, calling on the state to pay attention to risk management in the center and states in order to confront its disastrous effects. The committee recommended that the state should adopt the recommendations and outputs of studies related to the study of the green economy and awareness of the risks resulting from emissions resulting from burning tires and plastics, in addition to integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change plans into national development plans and the need for a mechanism to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).) (The National Council for Civil Defense represents the

⁵⁴ وزارة البيئة-تونس، تنظيم ورشة عمل لفائدة المنتدى الوطني للأطراف الفاعلة في مجال التأقلم مع التغيرات المناخية، 5 ديسمبر 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3vgz3xd>

⁵⁵ وزارة البيئة-تونس، تنظيم ندوة وطنية تحت عنوان "الطموح المناخي على المستوى المحلي: من المساهمات المحددة وطنيا إلى الحياض الكربونية في أفق

2050"، 27 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vjUKMQ>

focal point for this framework and the use of the system of radical solutions for disaster risk reduction in the strategy approved by the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 332 of (2017-2031)⁵⁶.

Second: The Arab Gulf States:

A. United Arab Emirates (UAE):

launched the first session of the "Emirates Youth Climate Delegates Program", which aims to raise youth awareness of the UAE's role in climate issues, take their views and needs into international climate policy, discover the latest practices and creative, proactive and sustainable solutions to the repercussions of climate change, and support professional development, as well as Building skills, capabilities and knowledge and enhancing youth communication to participate in climate methodologies, while opening the door to dialogue and supporting innovation to build awareness about the importance of their role in activating the sustainable development goals in the UAE, and working to create a distinguished model for youth participation in the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP28⁵⁷.

Recommendations:

Within the framework of what was included during this observatory of good practices undertaken by the governments of Arab countries, especially with regard to the challenges related to facing the risks of climate change, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights can formulate recommendations as follows, hoping to complete the Arab development efforts in the field of climate action and face most of the challenges that obstruct its path.

First: In light of the climate-related risks faced by the Arab countries, Maat association recommends that the League of Arab States, in cooperation with Arab governments, **launch a regional Arab initiative to reduce climate-related risks**, and using the experiences of Arab governments that launched regional initiatives such as Saudi Arabia's launch of the Middle East Initiative.

Second: During December, it was noticed that the risks associated with climate change were exceeding, which impede the attempts of Arab governments, especially those that suffer from the scourge of wars and conflicts. In this context, Maat recommends that Arab governments **launch national strategies that enhance climate action in the context of political and security instability**.

⁵⁶ وكالة السودان للأنباء، ختام ورشة التغيرات المناخية وتداعياتها على الاقتصاد السوداني، 8 ديسمبر 2022، <https://suna-sd.net/read?id=756117>

⁵⁷ حكومة الإمارات، إطلاق الدورة الأولى من برنامج مندوبين شباب الإمارات للمناخ، 12 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3lijy5lk>

Third: In order to combat climate fluctuations and reduce climate risks, countries that have not yet started to launch afforestation initiatives **must quickly increase the capacity of plants and increase green areas in all cities**, which helps absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the effects of negative climate changes, in line with the Implement target 2 of Goal 13 related to strengthening resilience to climate-related risks.

Fourth: Youth play a prominent role in supporting climate action. In this context, Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries **shed light on the emerging youth initiatives with the aim of limiting the repercussions of climate change**, supporting and implementation with the youth initiators of these initiatives.

Fifth: Maat reiterates its recommendation to the League of Arab States **to launch a committee to address climate change**, which includes all members of the Arab League. This committee works to identify opportunities and challenges facing Arab countries in order to address climate change. This committee prepares annual reports on the efforts and challenges of Arab countries. With the support of civil society organizations working in this field.