



SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region: January 2023

Partnerships to promote international Arab climate action



January 2023

Background:

During January 2023, many Arab countries held dozens of partnerships for climate action, bringing together the achievement of Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 17 on partnerships to achieve the goals. These partnerships varied between Arab-Arab partnerships, Arab-international companies and partnerships between Arab governments and other relevant international organizations interested in climate change.

Within the framework of its endeavors to protect human rights and promote sustainable societies in a way that preserve human life, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights releases its 13th issue of the **SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region** entitled "**Partnerships to Promote International Arab 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 “Sudan”

First: An overview of Sudan's situation in light of climate change

a. An overview of the impact of climate change in Sudan:

Sudan is one of the most vulnerable developing countries to climate change. At the same time, it is facing a complex challenge: suffering from weak economic development and escalating environmental problems. Sudan needs to repair and restore the existing ones to accommodate the new projects with which it faces the climate crisis. Despite some modest developmental achievements in recent years, it lacks continuity. The absence of policies, plans and programs was clearly reflected in the chances of development in successive budgets for more than 20 years, in addition to the widespread multi-type of corruption, the weakness of the state's command over public money, and the emergence of parallel economies that exhausted the national economy.

This situation has left behind a significant regression in development and the deterioration of the small amount that exists, which led to large migrations from the

countryside towards the urban areas, putting enormous pressure on services and infrastructure in cities, which are basically very limited. Environmental problems are mounting: deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion, and desertification. All of this resulted in a decline in agricultural production, which in turn ended in a decline in domestic food production, as well as recent government policies that have doubled taxes to fill budget deficits. The emergence of community mining in search of gold made some rural communities convert agricultural lands into working areas for the benefit of mills, affecting the soil in the long term, despite agriculture and grazing are major economic resources for the majority of the population.

The data indicates that Sudan has lost huge areas of land that were agricultural and pastoral due to desertification and the erosion of land productivity in rainy areas. Rainy lands are the main source of food security, as production declined from about 600-700 kg per acre in the 1960s to 100-120 kg/acre at present.

Desertification has a direct impact on the environment and local economies, including loss of crops and livestock production, reduced animal grazing capacity, reduced groundwater reserves, and loss of wildlife. The effects of desertification appear clearly in the states of North Kordofan and North Darfur, where sand is constantly moving to productive soil, and the encroachment of sand dunes on the Nile. Desertification is one of the most important chronic environmental issues in Sudan.

The percentage of forest cover in Sudan decreased after the secession of the south, from 29.4% to 11.6%, Sudan is rated on the list of countries with the highest deforestation in the world.

b. National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016:

Sudan prepared its plan in 2016, which focused on the sectors of agriculture, water, health, and the coast, to reduce vulnerability through adaptation programs, increase flexibility, and integrate climate change into policies and laws.

In the field of water, the plan recommended taking major adaptation measures and studies to improve water management in the most vulnerable areas. There is a need to dig more surface and underground wells in areas not affected by pollution, more efficient irrigation systems must be provided, and excavation and dam rehabilitation should improve access to water.

About the rangeland sector, the adaptation plan recommended that measures should include building awareness in local communities regarding sustainable management of natural resources, enforcing current legislation, introducing reform legislation to further protect natural resources, launching special programs targeting pastoralists to improve livestock breeds and productivity, improving

agricultural extension programs, and strengthening institutional capacity to create and implement land policies that promote efficient agriculture. This necessarily entails a review of property rights laws and the development of new mechanisms for resolving land disputes. In local communities, land plays a central role in conflicts and fighting.

About 70 percent of Sudanese depend in their economy on natural resources represented by agriculture and grazing. In this regard, the state's plans to confront climate change focus on the implementation of adaptation projects in these sectors, especially Sudan is one of the African countries most vulnerable to drought. Drylands are home to nearly two-thirds of the population, and more than 60% of Sudanese live in the countryside. Sudan is also one of the countries with a high rate of population growth (2.5% annually), which indicates an acute demand for basic services, especially health, education, and water services, according to the "Three-year Program for Stability and Economic Development 2021 – 2023"

The "National Adaptation Plan 2016" also indicated that the White Nile State is one of the most vulnerable regions and therefore the most affected by climate change, two-thirds of its population depends on agriculture and livestock, and it has nearly 8 million head of cattle. This state needs several actions to face the potential drought crisis due to climate change. In the field of agriculture, the plan recommended introducing improved drought-resistant seeds, promoting vegetable production, and introducing dairy processing skills. Recommendations in the water included introducing water harvesting techniques, building small dams in some valleys to improve water supply in vulnerable areas, and rehabilitating grasslands.

This extremely vulnerable situation has created a specificity for the White Nile State in terms of adaptation projects, as a special project in the region has been implemented since 2017 and will be completed in 2023. The project aims to rehabilitate 6,600 hectares of grasslands with climate-resilient species, and it is expected that 6,800 families will benefit from the project, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the project also aims to train 1,600 women in gardening to diversify their sources of income; in the field of water, it aims to construct 200 excavators - rainwater harvesting wells - and build or restore 10 water tanks, which will enable 3,200 people to have better access to water; in the field of forests, it aims to plant 1,500 hectares with climate-resistant trees.

c. Implementation of environmental projects closely related to climate change:

Since the 1990s, Sudan began implementing environmental projects, some of which are related to climate change. According to data from the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Sudan implemented 34 projects between 1996 and 2022, including the protocol for protecting the ozone layer, the National

Adaption Plan to climate change (NAP), and the Adaptation of Rural Livelihoods to Climate Change.

Several projects are currently being implemented aimed at building capacity for relevant institutions, or aiming at improving resources in agriculture, forestry, gum arabic, pastures, and water. As for "mitigation projects", they are small compared to "adaptation projects", because the volume of emissions from Sudan and all developing countries is negligible compared to the major industrialized countries.

For example, 17 projects targeting emission reductions are underway, some in operation and some in implementation. These projects have gradually started since 2010 with solar energy installations, especially in agricultural projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and it supports the adoption of solar photovoltaic technology to pump irrigation water in agriculture, especially in the northern state, and aims to help Sudanese farmers reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, and reduce their production cost (by reducing diesel costs), more sustainable water use, and more income. This is in addition to other projects aimed at strengthening wind energy, operating solar water pumps, and a number of mitigation projects.

The "Building Resilience to Climate Change in the Agricultural and Pastoral Sector" project is one of the largest adaptation projects currently being implemented, funded by the Green Climate Fund for \$25.6 million, \$540,000 from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and \$15 million to be committed by the Government of Sudan.

The project covers 138 villages in nine states: East, West, and Central Darfur, West and South Kordofan, Kassala, Red Sea, Northern State and Khartoum. The duration of the project is five years (2020-2024). It aims to improve the resilience of food production systems in food insecure communities, about 200,000 families, farmers, and herders benefit from the project, and there is a 35 % allocation for women; it also aims to improve access to water sources for humans and animals¹.

Second: Sudan's efforts to achieve the targets of SDGs 13 and to promote climate action:

Sudan has made efforts to guarantee its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources, and climate is an essential part of the environment. Therefore, Sudan has taken many measures aimed at reducing climate change, which will naturally affect the reduction of air pollution, water pollution, and soil pollution. In that section, the Government's efforts to achieve the goals of target 13 during the month of January, as follows:

¹ <https://bit.ly/3IRFGED> السفير العربي، السودان المثقل بضعف التنمية... كيف يواجه أزمة المناخ؟، 12 ديسمبر 2022،

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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The Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), Mona Ali Mohamed Ahmed called on government institutions and sectors to work diligently, accelerate the pace of confronting climate changes, and integrate adaptation strategies into national programs and plans as a basis for sound planning and development. She pointed to the generalization and integration of adaptation to climate change in national policies and plans for the agricultural and water sectors in Sudan, due to the need for flexibility in the plan to keep pace with the changes that occur in these sectors and affect livelihoods and migration phenomena².

Target 2	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
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Sudan is not far from the problems of climate change and its impact on children, as Sudan is considered one of the high-risk countries according to the climate risk index for children. Also, climate change and environmental pollution have a very great impact on children and lead to problems, including dwarfism of children as a result of food shortages caused by drought and low crop production. Climate change and environmental pollution have become a reality in all states of Sudan, which in turn has affected in children with health problems and instability of education. All peripheral schools in Sudan have been affected in recent years by major climate change, such as torrential rains and floods, which caused diseases, epidemics, and the demolition of schools, thus making them homeless³.

Target 3	Improving education, awareness- raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
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The Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources, with the United Nations Agriculture and Food Organization (FAO), within the framework of the project to strengthen the planning and implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the agriculture and water sectors in Sudan carried out a workshop entitled Assessment of the medium- and long-term impacts of climate change on water resources and needs in Sudan from 16 to 18 January at the Paradise Hotel in Khartoum, in which the technical committees for water and agriculture in

² المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، الإسراع من وتيرة مواجهة التغيرات المناخية وإدماج استراتيجيات التكيف في البرامج والخطط الوطنية كأساس للتخطيط السليم <https://bit.ly/3laYbLW> والتنمية، 18 يناير 2023،

³ <https://bit.ly/3YTGalG>، سونا، تغير المناخ والتلوث البيئي وتأثيرهما على سلامة الأطفال، 21 يناير 2023،

all states of Sudan and specialists from relevant government ministries, universities and agricultural research participated, aiming to shed light on the current situation of water resources and the impact of climate change on them, and to present and review reports related to predictions and projections of climate change, and optimal use of water needs of major crops in the rain-fed and irrigated sectors⁴.

The Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources (SCENR) in the state of Gedaref, in cooperation with the SCENR in the City Star Resort Hall in Gedaref, organized the awareness workshop on raising awareness of the three Rio conventions (desertification, biodiversity, and climate change), as part of a project to strengthen targeted national capabilities to improve the decision-making and disseminating global environmental commitments, workshop targeted the local environmental councils and the relevant authorities in the state⁵.

The General Administration of Agriculture at the Ministry of Production and Economic Resources in Gezira State, in cooperation with the Sudanese Meteorological Society, branch of Gezira State, organized a symposium entitled Climate Change and its Impact on the Rainy Sector, Problems and Solutions, and in the presence of Engineer Arafa Muhammad Ali, Professor Hussein Suleiman, the sponsor of the association, and a large number of specialists in the agricultural field, Arafa pointed out the importance of the seminars to address the problems facing agriculture in the country and accommodate the requirements of the next phase aimed at bringing about an agricultural renaissance in the state. During the symposium, several of working papers were discussed on the distribution of arable land in the state, terrain, soil, climate, rain, the causes of degradation of vegetation cover, and low soil fertility in the Gezira state⁶.

⁴ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، رشة عمل بعنوان تقييم اثار تغير المناخ على موارد المياه فى المدى المتوسط والطويل والاحتياجات المائية للمحاصيل الرئيسية فى السودان، 23 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3lDeiU0>

⁵ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، ورشة العمل التوعوية الخاصة بالتوعية باتفاقيات ريو الثلاث (التصحر والتنوع الأحيائي والتغير المناخي)، 19 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3lRBwgc>

⁶ وكالة الأنباء السودانية، ندوة حول التغيرات المناخية بالجزيرة، <https://bit.ly/3lT3PdY>

Axis II: Achieving SDG 13 in the Arab region

This axis reviews the reality of the thirteenth target in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts to promote climate action during the 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, Minister of Environment, chaired the meeting of the Procedures Committee for the Implementation of the Project for the Conversion of Solid Waste for Electrical Energy in Giza, as part of a series of meetings aimed at agreeing on the procedures for implementing the project for a speedy start. Dr. Yasmine Fouad confirmed that the project comes within the framework of the state's endeavor to localize green industries, and implement an integrated program to convert waste into electric energy, including the project for converting waste into electric energy in Abu Rawash, which falls under the golden license projects with investments of up to \$120 million, and contributes to Reducing the amount of waste that is finally disposed of by producing electrical energy suitable for self-use at the station and for connecting to the web, as it is expected to produce 30 MW/h⁷.

Yasmine Fouad, witnessed the signing of a cooperation protocol between the Environmental Affairs Agency and the New Valley University, to contribute to the financing of an environmental project aimed at using solar energy as environmentally friendly renewable energy and an alternative to the use of fossil fuels (diesel). In all existing University City buildings, for 2 million pounds. This protocol was signed by Dr. Ali Abu Sunna, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Affairs Authority, and Dr. Abdelaziz Tantawi, President of the New Valley University⁸.

Within the framework of implementing the state's plan to confront the problems of pollution of all kinds and reduce the effects of climate change and joint coordination between the Ministries of Aviation and the Environment, Yasmine Fouad, and Lieutenant General Mohamed Abbas, Minister of Civil Aviation, signed a protocol for cooperation between the two ministries to support environmental work, at the Cultural and Educational Center, Cairo House, in the presence of President Ali Abu Sunna, executive Director of the Environmental Affairs Agency and the leaders of the two concerned ministries. At the beginning of the meeting, the

⁷ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تبحث آخر مستجدات تنفيذ أول مشروع لتحويل المخلفات لطاقات كهربائية بالجيزة، 9 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3XqKrSF>

⁸ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشهد توقيع بروتوكول تعاون مع جامعة الوادي الجديد لتنفيذ المشروعات البيئية المبتكرة في مجال الطاقة الجديدة، 10 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3RV9dcD>

Minister of Environment held a meeting with the Minister of Civil Aviation, and thanked him for the efforts of the Ministry of Civil Aviation at the 27th Climate Conference, which added progress to the successes of the conference to reach the highest level regarding the role of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, pointing to the importance of joint work between the two ministries to support environmental work and add more One of the areas of cooperation between the two ministries within the framework of the signed cooperation protocol⁹.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and Major General Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai, met to discuss the latest developments in the implementation of the new waste management system in Sharm El-Sheikh, where the minister praised the efforts of all workers in the governorate, led by Major General Khaled Fouda, in preparing the climate and overcoming obstacles to hosting the 27th Climate Conference and working to make it a success to present a positive image of Egypt. During the meeting, the Minister of Environment reviewed the current position for implementing the contract of the Bee'ah and Green Planet companies' alliance concerned with implementing the waste management system in Sharm El-Sheikh, which occurs in two phases: the preparatory phase and included the provision of equipment and contribution to the implementation of the waste management system of the 27th Climate Conference, which witnessed great success and praise, and the operational phase of the system, which starts at the end of March, during which the agreed-upon service will be provided in full¹⁰.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, went to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to participate in the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Summit 2023 (ADSW), which was held from January 14 to 19, where the Minister of Environment held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of her participation in ADSW. The Egyptian Minister of the Environment indicated the importance of this summit, which focuses on how to expand the role of innovative and qualitative technologies and discuss food and energy security issues, as well as how to form supportive structures that contribute to stimulating climate action, in addition to discussing ways to provide continuous energy supplies in parallel with efforts to achieve climate neutrality. The Egyptian Minister of Environment will participate in the high-level event during the summit, which is "The Road to COP28: Ambition, Inclusiveness and Equality", which will be held at the World Energy Forum of the Atlantic Council 2023 to discuss how to manage the issue of climate change in many societies around the world, because it has already become a reality that must be managed, not a remote threat¹¹.

⁹ <https://bit.ly/3IkFOFy> وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة والطيران المدني يوقعان بروتوكولا للتعاون لدعم العمل البيئي، 11 يناير 2023،

¹⁰ <https://bit.ly/3ZBQJ5> وزيرة البيئة ومحافظ جنوب سيناء يبحثان آخر مستجدات منظومة إدارة المخلفات بشرم الشيخ لتحقيق استدامتها، 11 يناير 2023،

¹¹ <https://bit.ly/3XojizS> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تتوجه إلى دولة الإمارات العربية الشقيقة للمشاركة في قمة أسبوع أبوظبي للاستدامة ٢٠٢٣، 14 يناير 2023،

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy of the 27th Climate Conference, opened the second day of the World Energy Forum at the ADSW Summit, where she focused in her speech on the outcomes of the 27th Climate Conference held in Egypt last November, which proved the effectiveness of multilateral action and came out with decisions in various tracks of negotiation whether mitigation, adaptation, financing, establishing a fund for losses and damages, following up on what has been achieved in mitigation, adaptation, and exiting from fossil fuels, and continuing to raise ambition in plans that help the just transition of energy.¹²

Ali Abo Sena, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, participated on behalf of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, in the activities of the Oman Conference on Environmental Sustainability, which was held in Muscat from January 16-19, 2023, which was inaugurated by Dhi Yazan bin Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of the Sultanate of Oman and in the presence of many public figures and leaders interested in environmental issues from the Arab world. In his speech delivered on behalf of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, Abo Sena indicated that the Conference of the Parties (COP-27) was a national collective performance worthy of challenges, including organizing the conference in a record time, and at an exemplary organizational and logistical level, which provided the negotiators with a favorable climate for communication and reaching results that exceeded expectations by all standards, as Egypt prepared logistically to receive this unprecedented number throughout the conference activities, which led to ease in registering attendance and participation as a positive point that counts for the Egyptian organization¹³.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with Mr. Sergei Terentiev, Ambassador of Belarus in Cairo, to discuss ways of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of environment, and cooperation at the global level, especially in the climate change file. Yasmine Fouad emphasized Egypt's success by hosting the 27th Climate Conference in advancing the global climate agenda at a critical time the world is going through, noting that Egypt is currently preparing a partnership agreement with the UAE to move forward towards the next Climate Conference 28, as part of Egypt's mission will be to follow up on the decisions issued on the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan for Climate Conference 27, especially the decisions related to the Loss and Damage Fund and its governance, as well as the Global Goal on Adaptation and the new Collective Funding Goal, and the best ways to advance mitigation.¹⁴

¹² <https://bit.ly/3xoMk7X> بالإمارات، 15 يناير 2023، COP28 وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في أولى جلسات التحضير لمؤتمر المناخ القادم

¹³ <https://bit.ly/3xjdf4Y> وزارة البيئة، الرئيس التنفيذي لجهاز شئون البيئة يشارك في فعاليات مؤتمر عمان للاستدامة البيئية ٢٠٢٣، 17 يناير 2023،

¹⁴ <https://bit.ly/3YtC2zn> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع سفير بيلاروسيا تعزيز التعاون الثنائي في مجال الاستثمار البيئي والمناخ محليا وعالميا، 20 يناير 2023،

Within the framework of the directives of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, to quickly activate roles and responsibilities to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags, Tarek El-Araby, CEO of the Waste Management Regulatory Agency (WMRA), and Ahmed Rizk, Deputy Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Egypt, opened the consultative session to regulate the use of single-use plastic bags in accordance with Waste Law No. 202 of 2020 and its executive regulations, which were organized by the Ministry of Environment and UNIDO, in the presence of a number of commercial companies (retail chains).

The Minister of the Environment indicated the importance of these sessions in creating a climate supportive of the trend towards reducing the use of single-use plastic bags, supporting the measures taken by the Ministry of Environment in this regard, and activating the national strategy to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags, including the issuance of the new standard for plastic bags.¹⁵

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, witnessed the signing ceremony of the project document to support circular economy practices in the single-use plastic value chain in Egypt between the Environmental Affairs Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as a grant in the amount of 3.2 million dollars, in the presence of Mr. Oka Hiroshi, the Japanese Ambassador in Cairo, Dr. Ali Abo Sena, Head of the Environmental Affairs Agency, Dr. Tarek Al-Araby, Head of the Waste Management Regulatory Agency, and Mr. Ahmed Rizk, Deputy Resident Representative and Supervisor of the UNIDO Office in Egypt. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, thanked the government of Japan for the continuous support for environmental work in Egypt, and for producing a project document to support circular economy practices in the single-use plastic value chain in Egypt, both with experts and technology¹⁶.

During the meeting of Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, with members of the Energy, Environment and Manpower Committee in the Senate headed by Representative Abdel Khalek Ayad and Representative Noha Zaki, and in the presence of Ambassador Mohamed Nasr, Director of the Department of Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eng. Sherif Abdel Rahim, Head of the Central Department for Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment, and a number of members of the Committee and the leaders of the Ministry of Environment, to review the results of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy of the

وزارة البيئة، تنفيذ جلسة تشاورية مع سلاسل المحال الكبرى لبحث أنسب آليات الحد من استخدام الأكياس البلاستيكية أحادية الاستخدام، 20 يناير 2023، ¹⁵

<https://bit.ly/40VLoFG>

وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشهد توقيع وثيقة مشروع دعم ممارسات الاقتصاد الدوار في سلسلة قيمة البلاستيك أحادية الاستخدام في مصر كمحنة من الحكومة اليابانية بمبلغ 3.2 مليون دولار، 22 يناير 2023، ¹⁶

Climate Conference 27 confirmed that the holding of this conference and the achievements made during are a shining testimony and evidence of Egypt's ability to organize one of the largest international conferences in the UN history, which succeeded thanks to support of the political leadership under exceptional global economic and political conditions that witnessed crises such as energy and food, which adds more luster for the Egyptian success that the world witnessed¹⁷.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Climate Conference Envoy, held a meeting with Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Climate Pioneer for the 27th Climate Conference, to follow up the outputs and latest developments in the results of the Climate Conference, which was hosted by Sharm El-Sheikh, leading to the 28th Climate Conference in the UAE, at the Environmental Cultural and Educational Center (Cairo House) in Fustat.

The Minister of the Environment stated that Egypt, at the national level, has updated the National Contributions Plan 2030, and is also working to restore momentum once again to the issue of climate change at the national level, referring to the meeting of the National Council for Climate Change headed by His Excellency the Prime Minister at the end of this month, which is the strategic entity to take any decisions related to the issue of climate change, in order to review what is related to the Climate Conference 27, the decisions and results issued, and the mechanism for completing them at the national level and at the level of the carbon market, noting that the state has begun work on projects to reduce and create a mechanism for selling carbon credits¹⁸.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy to the Climate Conference, and Lieutenant General Mohamed Abbas, Minister of Civil Aviation, inaugurated a new solar energy station at Cairo International Airport to support the transition to new and renewable energy in the aviation sector and to address the effects of climate change, as the station was implemented in the multi-floor garage at Cairo Airport. This comes within the framework of coordination between the Ministries of Environment and Civil Aviation to support environmental work, in implementation of the Egyptian state's plan to reduce pollution rates and limit the effects of climate change, in a way that enhances the trend towards green economic development, and coincides with the Civil Aviation Day, which falls on January 26, and the National Environment Day, on January 27 of each year¹⁹.

The Ministry of Environment celebrates the National Environment Day 2023 on the Ministry's social media platforms under the slogan "The Road Beyond COP27"

¹⁷ بلجنة الطاقة والبيئة بمجلس الشيوخ، 23 يناير 2023، cop27 تستعرض نتائج مؤتمر المناخ COP27 ووزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة والمنسق الوزاري ومبعوث مؤتمر المناخ <https://bit.ly/3YrWUXy>

¹⁸ بالإمارات، 23 يناير COP28 وصولاً لمؤتمر COP27 وتبحث آخر مستجدات نتائج مؤتمر المناخ COP27 ووزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تلنقى رائد المناخ لمؤتمر المناخ <https://bit.ly/3Imv35D> 2023

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/3E61Lp7> وزارة البيئة، وزيراً البيئة والطيران يفتتحان محطة جديدة للطاقة الشمسية بمطار القاهرة، 26 يناير 2023،

by displaying a set of messages and notices to raise awareness of the issue of climate change and efforts to confront at the global and national levels, and raise awareness of the importance of preserving the environment and as an extension of the 27th Climate Conference. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy of the Climate Conference, explained that the axes of the road beyond COP27 include clean energy, sustainable transportation, nature-based solutions, and integrated waste management, including reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags, stressing that the Ministry of Environment is taking serious steps towards the use of clean energy in the transportation sector, as a major part of the Ministry's policy; To contribute to reducing air pollution in major cities by supporting the applications of electric vehicle technology in public transportation in Egypt²⁰.

Ali Abo Sena, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, participated on behalf of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, in the celebration organized by the Arab Bureau for Youth and the Environment headed by Dr. Emad Eldin Adly, on the occasion of National Environment Day 2023, in the presence of a number of environmental action partners, the celebration discussed the outcomes of the 27th Climate Conference, the National Climate Change Strategy 2050, and focused on the issues of food and water security²¹.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, confirmed that the launch of this facility is an inspiring story and the result of 6 years of work, since the beginning of work on designing climate finance in Egypt, to move forward in encouraging the private sector to participate in financing climate projects. This came during a speech by Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, at the event of launching the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF EGYPT II), which is being implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Union, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the title "From Pledges to Implementation - Enhancing Green Finance" in Egypt²².

b. Mauritania

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mrs. Lalia Kamra, received Mr. Romeo Bertolini, Assistant Director of the Nationally Determined Contribution, heading a delegation from his sector, in her office in Nouakchott. The meeting dealt with the procedures to keep pace with the Nationally Determined Contribution of the partnership in the field of developing the national action plan for

²⁰ <https://bit.ly/3Ysvn8l>، 27 يناير 2023، Cop27، وزارة البيئة، البيئة تحتفل بيوم البيئة الوطني لعام ٢٠٢٣ تحت شعار "الطريق لما بعد"

²¹ <https://bit.ly/3ludnvl>، الرئيس التنفيذي لجهاز شئون البيئة يشارك في احتفالية المكتب العربي للشباب والبيئة بيوم البيئة الوطني ٢٠٢٣، 30 يناير 2023،

²² بدعم من صندوق المناخ الأخضر، 31 يناير 2023، GEFF، وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في إطلاق مرفق تمويل الاقتصاد الأخضر في مصر <https://bit.ly/3RWlmxQ>

this contribution, which was updated in 2021. The meeting was in the presence of the Assistant Director for Climate and Green Economy, Mr. Sou Muhammadu.²³

Second: Arab Gulf States:

A. UAE:

The UAE developed a clear-cut future plan to face the challenges of climate change, which includes a set of strategies and initiatives that ensure a balance between the desired economic and social development over the coming decades, and protecting the environment and enhancing its sustainability. The declaration of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State, 2023 as the year of sustainability in the UAE, crowned the country's efforts and endeavors in this file, and also expressed the commitment of the state to strengthening collective action to address common climate challenges, by introducing initiatives and programs with a global humanitarian impact.²⁴

The UAE has appointed the head of one of the world's largest oil companies to lead the COP28 global climate talks in Dubai later this year. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber is the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, he is also the Minister of Commerce and the Climate Envoy for the UAE, which is hosting the 28th session of the Climate Conference. Activists say that Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber should step down from his oil role when he heads the conference, as there is a clear conflict of interest.²⁵

In a joint statement on climate action, the UAE and South Korea affirmed that climate change is one of the most important challenges facing the world, as a result of its negative repercussions on the economic, environmental, social and security aspects. The joint statement stressed that the collective commitment to confronting climate change should not be affected by the geopolitical challenges the world is going through, in addition to the energy and food crisis and the repercussions of the global pandemic, this was during the visit of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to the UAE. The two sides agreed on the need to strengthen action to confront the repercussions of climate change at the national level for each country, and at the global collective level, realizing in this regard the urgent need to work on implementing the goal of the "Paris Agreement" represented in avoiding the rise in the planet's temperature exceeding the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius²⁶.

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, headed the UAE delegation to the 13th session of the IRENA General Assembly, which was held in Abu Dhabi under the slogan "Energy Transitions

²³ وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، استقبلت معالي وزيرة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة السيدة لاليا كمر اليوم الاثنين في مكتبها بنواكشوط السيد روميرو بيرتوليني المدير <https://bit.ly/3RWlmxQ>

²⁴ رؤية مستقبلية لمواجهة تحديات التغير المناخي، الإمارات.. <https://bit.ly/412OM1D> BBC

²⁵ <https://bbc.in/3xxZoHY> عربية، تغير المناخ: تعيين سلطان أحمد الجابر لقيادة مؤتمر كوب 28 يثير انتقادات للإمارات، 12 يناير 2023، Sky news

²⁶ <https://bit.ly/3leRJ6m> الإمارات وكوريا تدعوان للالتزام الجماعي لمواجهة تغير المناخ، 16 يناير 2023،

around the World - Global Assessment". She attended the opening session of the meeting, which emphasized the necessity of accelerating the pace towards renewable energy and doubling its share to two-thirds of the energy in the world by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050.²⁷

B. Qatar:

The Government Communications Office affirmed the commitment of Qatar, through all its institutions, to addressing climate change. Hamad Medical Corporation's obtaining the Diamond Certificate for the Rising Star of Sustainability category, presented by the Federation of Arab Hospitals as part of the Golden Initiative Awards to address the challenge of climate change facing the world, is an affirmation and appreciation of these exerted efforts. The government communication said that the Golden Initiative Awards seeks to honor Arab health institutions, that are making outstanding efforts in adopting plans for green recovery and greening health care, to become a more environmentally friendly sector and addressing the effects of climate change.²⁸

In the plenary session of the 13th session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Shura Council reviewed the efforts of Qatar and its relentless pursuit towards relying on renewable energy within the framework of the trend towards achieving sustainable development in accordance with the Qatar National Vision 2030. In a related context, the council pointed to the completion of the agriculture initiative one million trees, which aims to reduce carbon emissions. He also referred to the Qatar National Strategy for Environment and Climate Change, which aims to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the long term by reducing carbon emissions by 25 percent by 2030. The Shura Council member stressed that these remarkable successes make the Qatari experience a model in implementing sustainable development programs and plans, especially its success "in diversifying energy sources and benefiting from the prevailing climatic conditions in the country and transforming climate challenges into real opportunities for investment and development, supporting its ability to fulfill its international obligations stipulated in many international treaties related to protecting the environment and confronting climate change."²⁹

C. Bahrain

Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the country, and with the continuous follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

وزارة التغير المناخي والبيئة، المهيري تؤكد دعم دولة الإمارات الدائم في تحول الطاقة إلى المصادر المتجددة والنظيفة كأحد أهم الأدوات لتحقيق الحياد المناخي، 15 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3KmR85y>

²⁸ <https://bit.ly/41ckc5M> الشرق، الاتصال الحكومي: حمد الطبية تدعم جهود التصدي لتغير المناخ، 19 يناير 2023،

²⁹ <https://bit.ly/416Zm7H> مجلس شوري، مجلس الشورى يستعرض جهود قطر في مجال الطاقة المتجددة، 14 يناير 2023،

Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has adopted many programs, and initiatives aimed at reaching zero neutrality by 2060 to meet the challenges of climate change and protect the environment in pursuit of a green economy³⁰.

D. Sultanate of Oman:

The head of the Environment Agency in the Sultanate of Oman, Abdullah bin Ali Al-Omari, discussed with the Director and Regional Representative of the United Nations Environment Program in West Asia, Sami Dimassi, many common issues, including international relations and training programs in the biodiversity and climate change. During the meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the "Oman Conference on Environmental Sustainability 2023" they discussed the effects of dirt and dust in the region and their impact on air quality, and the possibility of developing appropriate solutions to reduce their impact on the environmental performance index of the Sultanate of Oman.

Dimassi stressed the importance of the partnership between the United Nations Environment Program and the Environment Agency in the Sultanate of Oman in preparing the national strategy for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, noting that the Sultanate has achieved positive numbers during the past period in the level of the environmental performance index³¹.

Third: Levant countries:

a. Jordan:

The Jordanian monarch, King Abdullah II, stressed the importance of opening new horizons of cooperation between his country and the United States to face common global challenges during his reception at Al-Husseiniya Palace, a delegation from the executive businessmen organization of the American National Security Group, according to the Jordanian Royal Court. He also referred to "the importance of opening new horizons of bilateral cooperation to face common global challenges, especially those related to food security, energy, and combating the effects of climate change³²."

b. Syria:

Syrian Minister of Agriculture Hassan Qatna considers that the quadruple Arab cooperation could be a nucleus for expanded Arab cooperation with other countries. It requires reviewing legislation, customs regulations, and others to amend them and enhance intra-Arab trade. Commenting on the importance of this cooperation in light of the threats related to the provision of food and climate changes at the local and regional levels, the Syrian Minister of Agriculture, Hassan

³⁰ <https://bit.ly/3S9nORR> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة، وزير النفط والبيئة يشارك في قمة صوت الجنوب العالمي تحت شعار (وحدة الصوت ووحدة الهدف)، 15 يناير 2023،

³¹ <https://bit.ly/3YZNyIK> الشروق، سلطنة عمان والأمم المتحدة تبحثان التعاون في مجال البيئة وتغير المناخ، 17 يناير 2023،

³² <https://bit.ly/3Z3ccSB> إسبوتنيك، ملك الأردن يؤكد أهمية فتح آفاق جديدة من التعاون بين بلاده وأمريكا، 9 يناير 2023،

Qatana, points out that "the challenges arising from global crises and what they may lead to in terms of food shortages and disruptions in markets and prices Energy and food will have a direct impact on the possibility of achieving food security for the population, whether in their ability to obtain food or the ability to store food or obtain food at all times in sufficient quantity and quality, in addition to the challenges of climate change and the deterioration of land and water resources, the high costs of production and its direct impact on the ability of producers to continue agricultural production, and its connection to marketing problems"³³.

c. **Jordan:**

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources launched (Jordan's track for reducing carbon emissions), which was prepared by the ministry in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to develop scenarios for carbon emissions until 2050. The Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr. Salih, said that solar energy in Jordan is among the highest in the world. The Kingdom has achieved at the regional and global levels a quantum leap by reaching advanced stages in renewable energy and the transition towards sustainable energy systems³⁴.

Moawiya Khaled Al-Radaida, Jordanian Minister of Environment, said that an effect that Jordan has from climate change is the lack of rainfall, pointing out that the dams in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are now suffering from a drought problem due to the lack of rain that led to a lack of water storage. He said we hope that the next rainy season will be better. The Jordanian government continues its efforts to reduce water loss to address these challenges as the government launched a major Jordanian project, the "National Carrier", to fill the drinking water deficit and turn to agriculture through the water footprint³⁵.

The Minister of Environment, Muawiyah Al-Radaida, with the participation of the Minister of Water and Irrigation, Eng. Muhammad Al-Najjar and the Minister of Agriculture, Eng. Khaled Hanifat, inaugurated the activities of the fourth dialogue workshop with the private sector to enhance the environment for investment in climate action, which is being held by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as part of the readiness project funded by The Green Climate Fund aims to enhance the enabling environment for private sector investment in climate action. During his speech, the Minister of Environment stressed the importance of holding this dialogue workshop aims to discuss the challenges faced by the private sector in climate action in agriculture and

³³ <https://bit.ly/3IPzaOM>المبدان، وزير الزراعة السوري لـ"المباين نت": قريبا مذكرة تفاهم للتعاون الزراعي بين 4 دول عربية، 31 يناير 2023،

³⁴ <https://bit.ly/3YHIIIS>وزارة الطاقة والثروة المعدنية، الخرابشة: مسار خاص بالأردن لتخفيض الانبعاثات الكربونية،

³⁵ <https://bit.ly/3YNIQsW>اليوم السابع، وزير البيئة الأردني لـ"القاهرة الإخبارية": أطلقنا مبادرة "اللاجئين والمناخ" بعد زيادة عدد السكان، 31 يناير 2023،

water and the needs of the sector in these two fields. He stressed 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 level³⁶.

The Ministry of Environment and the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Unit of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, with the participation of several government agencies, launched the first round of the Green Factory Award "GFA" in cooperation with the Green Actions in the Enterprises "GAIN" project. The project is implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and funded by the German Federal Ministry BMZ, in partnership with several government agencies, namely the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, the Institution for Standards and Metrology, the Royal Scientific Society, local industrial chambers and local experts specialized in energy, water, and environment management, which It aims to honor the efforts of leading factories in applying the best environmentally friendly practices and their optimal use of resources³⁷.

d. Iraq:

German Chancellor Olaf Schultz said he discussed with Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad al-Sudani providing economic support in Iraq to confront the dangers of climate change, explaining that Iraq plays a positive role as a mediator in the region. The German chancellor said he discussed with the Iraqi prime minister the possibility of importing natural gas from Iraq³⁸.

Fourth: East African countries:

a. Somalia:

Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, the Egyptian Prime Minister, and his Somali counterpart, Hamza Abdi Berri, chaired the headquarters of the Council of Ministers' expanded discussion session to discuss ways to enhance cooperation relations between the two countries in various fields. Berri conveyed the Somali President's greetings to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Republic, and thanked him for the role played by President El-Sisi in supporting the Somali people. He also congratulated the Egyptian state for its success in organizing the 27th Climate Summit, praising the establishment of a fund for losses and damages as the summit results. He also expressed Somalia's aspiration to benefit from this fund in the

³⁶ <https://bit.ly/3xCTc1s> وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة يفتتح الورشة الحوارية الرابعة مع القطاع الخاص لتعزيز البيئة للاستثمار في العمل المناخي، 19 يناير 2023،

³⁷ وزارة البيئة، وزارة البيئة ووحدة الطاقة والاستدامة البيئية في غرفة صناعة الأردن وبمشاركة عدة جهات حكومية تطلقان الدورة الأولى من جائزة المصنع الأخضر، <https://bit.ly/3k6JqBR>

³⁸ <https://bit.ly/3IBrgkR> اليوم السابع، المستشار الألماني: سندعم العراق لمواجهة أخطار التغير المناخي، 13 يناير 2023،

matter of climate finance, as well as to benefit from Egyptian expertise in dealing with the effects of climate change³⁹.

b. Djibouti:

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) have launched US\$3.7 million to improve the living environment of 600,000 Djiboutians affected by climate change. The Government of Djibouti has initiated the implementation of the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Study and Climate Adaptation Study Project in Djibouti City. At a total cost of US\$3.7 million (over 658 billion Djiboutian francs), the project is co-financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through its concessional lending arm, the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF), as well as the Global Center for Adaptation (GCA).⁴⁰

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. Morocco:

Peasants in Morocco suffer from drought due to climate change and global warming, which puts their crops at risk of spoilage. The authorities of the Al Haouz region, in the center of the Kingdom, take practical steps to save the region; it is not the first time that Moroccan farmers asked for help because the farming season has been affected by climate change, global warming, and waste of water resources. Morocco suffered from drought in its rivers and valleys due to the lack of rainfall for four years⁴¹.

A member of the Kingdom Academy and former Secretary-General of the Government, Idriss Al-Dahhak, confirmed that Morocco, thanks to a set of plans, can be a model in facing water scarcity. Al-Dahhak added, during an opening lecture to the ninth scientific conference of the Center for Human Studies and Research in Oujda, that Morocco, despite the scarcity of water, has so far been able to manage this vital substance well thanks to the dams policy launched by King Hassan II, and the policy of water management and the continued construction of dams that King Mohammed VI personally watches over.⁴²

At the 15th Conference of Agriculture Ministers in Berlin, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Mohamed Al-Siddiqi,

³⁹ الهيئة العامة للاستعلامات، رئيسا الوزراء المصري والصومالي يترأسان جلسة مباحثات موسعة لتعزيز علاقات التعاون بين البلدين، 9 يناير 2023،

<https://bit.ly/3YBu2MF>

⁴⁰Afrik, DJIBOUTI: AfDB and GCA Release \$3.7 Million for Climate Resilience in the Capital, 25 January 2023, <https://bit.ly/3leaUxh>

⁴¹سكاي نيوز عربية، تحركات عاجلة في دول مغربية لأجل احتواء "أزمة الماء"، 10 يناير 2022، <https://bit.ly/3xz20FD>

⁴²مدار، الضحك: المغرب نموذج في مواجهة شح المياه، 7 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/419xRug>

highlighted Morocco's experience in managing and adapting to climate change; the effects of climate change, especially the problem of drought. In his speech, the minister, who presented Morocco's achievements in the agricultural field, stressed the importance of everyone's solidarity while launching a sustainable dynamism that enhances the resilience of food systems based on solid productive tissues based on agriculture and fishing. The minister stressed that thanks to the directives of King Mohammed VI, Morocco was able to develop an integrated approach with the central goal of ensuring the availability of food, promoting agricultural development and marine fishing sustainably, and giving priority to protecting natural resources through their rational use and adaptation to climate change⁴³.

b. Algeria:

Algeria is experiencing exceptional heat waves these days in the height of winter, as the temperatures currently recorded in some coastal cities exceed 26 degrees Celsius this threshold has been crossed in the east of the country, which made climate experts warn of the repercussions of climate change. The last days in Algeria have witnessed very weak amounts of rain, and what is currently causing fear and anxiety is the continuation of stability and spring and summer weather, until the last week of the month, due to the concentration of air elevation that prevents the passage of all disturbances to the North African region, especially Algeria, it remains stationed between Spain, Portugal, and other European countries⁴⁴.

Second: Gulf countries:

a. Saudi Arabia:

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, a member of the Saudi Council of Ministers, and climate affairs envoy, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, discussed with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Rola Dashti, aspects of enhancing cooperation and joint action between the Kingdom and the United Nations Organization (ESCWA) in environmental preservation and climate change for a safe future and environment. During the meeting, they discussed environmental issues and ways to achieve sustainable development goals and unify international efforts to confront the effects of climate change.⁴⁵

⁴³ <https://bit.ly/3XK6aoX> 24 ساعة، عرض التجربة المغربية ببرلين في مجال المناخ، 21 يناير 2023،

⁴⁴ <https://bit.ly/4172LTW> صيف في شتاء الجزائر يُقلق المزارعين... السلة الغذائية في الصحراء؟، 14 يناير 2023، النهار،

⁴⁵ <https://bit.ly/3YHySij> اليوم السابع، السعودية والأمم المتحدة تبحثان تعزيز التعاون في مجال البيئة، 12 يناير 2023،

Third: Levant countries:

a. Jordan:

Experts and specialists in climate science have warned of a rise in the average temperature of the atmosphere and oceans due to the accumulated concentrations of current and future greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the growing human activities since the second of the twentieth century. Experts expect that the average surface temperature of the globe will reach a high level by the end of the twenty-first century, resulting in harmful repercussions that negatively affect environmental systems and human populations. One of the most important sectors affected is the agricultural sector by climate change in Jordan due to the increased demand for food, water scarcity, widespread drought, and the impact of plant, animal, and fish wealth, which led to a decline in the agricultural sector's ability to meet human food needs⁴⁶.

b. Lebanon:

In general, is that the winter season has decreased on rainy days due to the climatic changes that the world is witnessing. The winter pattern has changed from the past, with extremes in temperature and precipitation. A long period of good weather may pass, followed by a heavy flow of rain for a short period that may cause torrential rains, or storms may be accompanied by a severe drop in temperature that does not last long, followed by a return to normal or above-average temperature. Even snow rarely reaches low altitudes, and its stay on high peaks no longer lasts due to the sudden temperature rise. The same applies to the snow witnessed in the highlands and the Bekaa region, as the number of its days decreased in the past years, which negatively affects insects and crops⁴⁷.

Like all other sectors, fishing activity faces challenges in Lebanon, especially in recent years. It is already one of the marginalized sectors, as it lacks the minimum ingredients and technologies required for its development. Meanwhile, fishermen suffer from many pressures in the ports scattered along the Lebanese coast. The problems in this sector are many, the foremost of which is the lack of support for fishermen and the neglect of controls to curb indiscriminate fishing that threatens fish wealth, in addition to climate change, which has repercussions that cannot be underestimated on fishing activity⁴⁸.

⁴⁶ وكالة عمون الإخبارية، خبراء يطالبون بتعزيز كفاءة استخدام المياه للمحافظة على الأمن الغذائي، 10 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/411gDz0>

⁴⁷ IMLebanon، بنى تحتية مهترنة يواجه لبنان عواقب التغيرات المناخية، 17 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3lRGk4U>

⁴⁸ اندبندنت عربية، قطاع صيد السمك في لبنان تحاوطه "شباك الأزمة"، 14 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3KmqU34>

E. Iraq:

Water expert Ramadan Hamza said that the heavy rains that Iraq is witnessing are "part of climate change"; it is dangerous and requires modernizing infrastructure before major floods occur. Prime Minister Muhammad Shia'a al-Sudani directed the suspension of official working hours throughout Iraq due to the rains that led to the flooding of many neighborhoods, streets, and alleys. In Iraq, there is no modernization and development of the infrastructure of the sewage water networks, their obsolescence, and small diameters, and the neglect of their periodic maintenance and renewal, which leads to floods that are greater than in the rest of the world, and the sewage networks and drains must be expanded and restored. The repercussions of extreme climate change include surges that result in extremely dangerous rainfalls if not prepared for by properly modernizing infrastructure and services and adopting engineering and urban planning models that consider climate change and its increasing negative repercussions⁴⁹.

Fourth: East African countries:

Hassan Qarni, the advisor to the Somali president's drought envoy, said from Mogadishu that Somalia is going through the worst natural disasters in its history, and we are on the verge of the fifth season of drought. He explained that the situation is tragic, even though some aid provided by brotherly countries and international organizations saved them from slipping into famine, as happened in 2011. "Qarni" added that the drought affected the Somali people; currently there are displaced people and large numbers affected, and there will not be sufficient humanitarian and relief aid for the steadfastness of the people in that tragic situation. He explained that several things overlapped with each other and brought Somalia to this disastrous situation.⁵⁰

Somalia's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Khadija Muhammad al-Makhzoumi, said that the terrorist "Al-Shabab" movement militias committed crimes against humanity and major environmental crimes over the past 15 years in large areas of the country. The Minister of Environment indicated that the "Al-Shabaab" movement, during the past 15 years, cut down millions of trees and turned them into charcoal, and then exported them outside the country to finance terrorist acts. She emphasized that logging and burning coal pose a threat to the environment and extensive environmental damage, and their consequences are evident in livestock, vegetation, and the population of rural areas in Somalia. The Somali minister stressed the need to take effective measures to prevent and combat logging

⁴⁹ IQ News، 4 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3Ko8lvq>، خبير مائي: الأمطار الغزيرة جزء من التغير المناخي في العراق وقد تنجم عنها فيضانات خطيرة،

⁵⁰ <https://bit.ly/3XLBQu7> الوطن، الإرهاب و5 سنوات من الجفاف.. الصومال يمر بأسوأ أزمة في تاريخه، 11 يناير 2023،

and burning of coal in the country and to liberate the few remaining areas in the grip of terrorists in the central and southern regions of the country⁵¹.

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:

Within the framework of the directives of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, to work on continuing to raise environmental awareness and restore momentum on the issue of climate change among all segments of society in the governorates of the Republic, the Ministry of Environment, through the General Administration of Culture and Environmental Awareness of the Central Administration for Environmental Information and Awareness, organized and implemented an environmental event at the Air Force Museum. On "The Role of Youth in Protecting the Environment... The Road Beyond COP 27" in cooperation with the National Youth Council and the Supreme Council of Culture (Geography and Environment Committee), and with the participation of students of the Faculty of Agriculture at Al-Azhar University.⁵²

Second: The Arabian Gulf:

a. Saudi Arabia:

The Kingdom hosted the international workshop "Regional Capabilities in Monitoring and Predicting Climate Change", which will be held over two days with the participation of 21 countries and 6 international organizations, in addition to the official and concerned authorities in the Kingdom, with the aim of introducing the capabilities of the Climate Change Center in the Kingdom, as well as discussing and presenting the latest international updates in the field of climate change and forecasting, at the Hilton Hotel in Jeddah. Dr. Ayman bin Salem Ghulam, CEO of the National Center of Meteorology and General Supervisor of the Center for Climate Change, said that the international workshop will review a number of important topics on its agenda, including; Research and development of plans to monitor and understand the current climate and predict its future changes, identify research and monitoring gaps that contribute to helping develop research strategies and support climate research, technologies used and operations activities in the region, by bringing together scientists and researchers, including local and international climate change experts, to discuss and exchange ideas.⁵³

⁵¹ <https://bit.ly/3KmisAL> الصومال اليوم، وزيرة البيئة في الصومال: حركة الشباب قطعت ملايين الأشجار لتمويل الأعمال الإرهابية، 30 يناير 2023.

⁵² <https://bit.ly/3jWhWi1>، "27 يناير 2023، Cop27 وزارة البيئة، البيئة تحتفل بيوم البيئة الوطني لعام ٢٠٢٣ تحت شعار "الطريق لما بعد"

⁵³ <https://bit.ly/3XHRt5J> وكالة الأنباء السعودية، المملكة تستضيف ورشة العمل الدولية حول رصد التغيرات المناخية والتنبؤ بها، 16 يناير 2023.

b. Qatar:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change held a symposium entitled "Carbon Balances", in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The symposium, which was attended by Sheikh Dr. Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed Al Thani, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, discussed the role of carbon rates in achieving the goals of reducing emissions. The competent officials from both sides discussed initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change through international cooperation, as one of the mechanisms under the umbrella of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other issues related to Article No. (6) of the Paris Climate Agreement, which are concerned with cooperative ways to deal emissions.⁵⁴

c. Iraq:

A symposium was held at the Desert Studies Center at the University of Anbar, titled (Climate Changes and Desertification and their Repercussions on the Water Crisis in Iraq), as part of the scientific partnership in the "Iraq Thirst" project between the Alamein Institute for Postgraduate Studies, the Bahr al-Uloom Forum for Dialogue, and the Desert Studies Center at the University of Anbar.⁵⁵

Under the supervision and presence of Prof. Dr. Qusai Kamal Al-Din Al-Ahmadi, President of the University of Mosul, and the supervision of Prof. Dr. Abdul-Rahim Ibrahim Jassim, Dean of the College of Engineering, the Department of Dams and Water Resources Engineering in the college, in cooperation with the Directorate of Municipalities of Nineveh Governorate, held its first scientific symposium for the academic year 2022-2024, which was tagged (The Impact of Climate Change) on water resources in Iraq. It was attended by a number of members of the University Council, the Director of Nineveh Municipalities, as well as heads of departments, a number of professors and teaching staff at the college and university, and researchers with specialization. The symposium lectures dealt with topics on climate change and its impact on drought and desertification, and on monitoring water bodies in Iraq, as well as topics related to the water future in Iraq, global warming, climate changes, and drought behavior in Iraq. The symposium aimed to show the impact of climate change on the abundance of water in Iraq and how to plan to meet the challenges of drought caused by global warming and climate changes to come up with recommendations in this regard.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ <https://bit.ly/3SfJRGn>، وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي تعقد ندوة عن دور أرصدة الكربون في خفض الانبعاثات، 31 يناير 2023،

⁵⁵ معهد العلمين للدراسات العليا، مشروع ظمأ العراق في جامعة الأنبار.. مناقشة التغيرات المناخية وانعكاساتها على ازدهار المياه في العراق، 26 يناير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3kiQw62>

⁵⁶ <https://bit.ly/3Z6fyUH> جامعة الموصل، كلية الهندسة تقيم ندوة علمية عن اثر التغير المناخي على الموارد المائية في العراق، 17 يناير 2023،

Axis III: role of international mechanisms in promoting climate action

The **UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** has issued a guidance note to clarify states' obligations in relation to access, use and control of land, particularly on pressing issues affecting human rights such as evictions of land users, international investment, land disputes, and climate change. In many parts of the world, land is not only a resource for food production, income generation, and housing development; it also forms the basis for social, cultural and religious practices and the enjoyment of the right to participate in cultural life. The high demand for land and rapid urbanization in most parts of the world have greatly affected the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The commission says that "land degradation due to overuse, mismanagement and unsustainable agricultural practices has caused food insecurity and water degradation and is directly linked to climate change."

The general comment reflects the committee's concerns about the impact of climate change on access to land. "Increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods are increasingly affecting access to land," the panel explains, adding that "States are obligated to design climate change adaptation policies at the national level. A level that takes into account all forms of Land use change caused by climate change."

Conclusion & Recommendations:

a. Analysis of the reality of climate action in the Arab region.. What do the data indicate?

Arab governments made many efforts to enhance climate action during the month of January, and this can be seen through the outstanding achievements in realizing the targets OF Goal 13 in the Arab region throughout the month. The first target on integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning was the most achieved during January 2023. Many partnerships for climate action were made within the framework of policies and strategies at the national level. Arab partnerships varied during the month between Arab-Arab partnerships, Arab-international companies, and Arab companies with international organizations for climate action.

Sudan was selected as the country focus of this issue given the fact that it is one of the most vulnerable to climate change, and one of the countries that must make more efforts for climate action, as the situation in Sudan is worrying and needs more adaptive policies and measures with the effects of climate change on various sectors, The existing policies are insufficient and require further development.

As for the least achieved targets it was the target on Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. It is noted during January that there are few awareness activities that are carried out in order to mitigate climate change, and in general, awareness is restricted to limited activities throughout the year, despite the pivotal importance of awareness and its impact on mitigating climate change in the Arab world.

As for the countries that achieved the most successes throughout the month of January, it is the State of Egypt, which carried out many activities, especially with regard to reducing emissions and managing waste around the countries, despite the fact that it is one of the countries most affected by climate change, while Comoros did not achieve any remarkable efforts during the month of January to reduce climate change.

b. Recommendations:

First: In accordance with Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, and the third target of the thirteenth goal, which is concerned with raising awareness to reduce climate changes, Maat recommends that **Arab governments change educational curricula and increase public awareness of climate changes**. It also recommends that **Arab civil society organizations encourage the establishment of forums and workshops aimed at giving an opportunity for groups to propose solutions to the climate change crisis**, and to submit those recommendations to the concerned decision-making authorities.

Second: Given that a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions come from means of transportation, Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries integrate technology with means of transportation and **convert means of transportation into electric means of transportation and the use of bicycles**.

Third: In light of the partnerships that Arab governments undertake, Maat values these efforts and partnerships, and **recommends that Arab governments share their successful experience in Arab partnerships for climate action** with other Arab countries.

Fourth: In light of the endeavor to confront global warming, Maat for Peace recommends that the governments of Arab countries that have not yet begun to launch afforestation initiatives, **increase the capacity of plants and increase the green areas** in all cities, which helps absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the effects of negative climate changes, and also benefit from successful experiences of Arab countries in the field of afforestation initiatives.

Fifth: In light of the importance attached to early warning systems in predicting climate changes and thus preparing for them, limiting them and adapting

to them, Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries to establish more early warning system, in parallel with achieving the target 2 of Goal 13 related to Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.