

SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

Arab efforts towards raising awareness of the effects of climate change





Introduction:

Despite the vital importance of the governmental and international efforts to combat climate change, as well as the national, regional and international strategies that seek to reduce the effects of climate change, the importance of the responsibility that can be assumed by the individual and society towards this climate challenge cannot be ignored, as the challenge of adapting to climate change involves both collective and individual action. Therefore, Arab governments sought to conduct workshops and training for all individuals in different sectors to raise awareness of the destructive behavior that should be abandoned by individuals and which could have a significant negative impact on the exacerbation of the phenomenon of climate change.

In the context of its deep interest in protecting human rights and promoting sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and good manner, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights released the **7th issue** of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region, entitled **“Arab Efforts towards Raising the Awareness of the Effects of Climate Change”**, in order to track good practices as well as the challenges faced by Arab countries in achieving Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

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

Monitoring Methodology:

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



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

Targets of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

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

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

Legal frameworks for 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.

First Axis: The State Focus of the Issue "Kuwait"

First: Overview of the Kuwaiti government's efforts to curb climate change

1. Wataniya Strategy to Combat Climate Change:

It is worth noting that the State of Kuwait does not have a strategy to combat climate change yet, but it has confirmed in many international forums concerned with climate change that it is working to launch a national strategy in line with achieving the sustainable development goals in general and with SDG13 (climate action) in particular, that what was referred to during the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



Change in the United Kingdom by Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who stated that his country seeks to adopt a national low-carbon strategy until 2050, based on the principles of a circular carbon economy, and work to promote the reduction, disposal, reuse, and recycling of greenhouse gases, and enact legislation and laws related to reducing emissions and adapting to their negative effects at the national level, in line with local, regional and international environmental obligations.

It is worth noting that Kuwait attaches great importance to diversifying energy sources, by introducing renewable energies and replacing fossil fuels with liquefied gas to ensure the sustainability of energy supplies for future generations. Kuwait also paid attention to increasing natural reserves to reach 15% of the total area of the country, in addition to cultivating mangroves in the northern coasts and islands of Kuwait with the aim of sequestering and storing carbon.

Kuwait has also actively participated in the Clean Development Mechanism program under the Kyoto Protocol, and is now seeking to participate in the mechanisms of Article VI of the Paris Climate Agreement related to market and non-market mechanisms and joint cooperation; to promote sustainable development and environmental safety, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has also mitigated the environmental repercussions resulting from the receding (Aral) Sea in Central Asia and (Corley) Lake in Ghana and reducing the radiations resulting from the explosion of the (Chernobyl) reactor, whose effects extended to all regions the world, including Kuwait.¹

2. Environmental Awareness:

Kuwait has worked to spread environmental awareness, enhance the environmental concept, and combat climate change at all levels among society groups through multiple awareness campaigns, an example of which is the “Let us protect it” campaign, which aims to identify the Environmental Protection Law No. 42 of 2014 and its amendments, and raise environmental awareness among citizens and residents throughout the State of Kuwait, which included many activities using the means (daily newspapers, advertising banners, awareness text messages, work booths in commercial malls, social networking sites, a campaign website, buses as exhibition spaces, radio advertisements, conferences and journalist meetings).²

3. Elimination of Ozone Depleting Substances:

In the context of preserving the environment from climate change, the government in Kuwait launched a national strategy that seeks to get rid of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

¹اليوم السابع، الكويت تدعو إلى تضاعف الجهود لمواجهة ظاهرة التغير المناخي والحد من آثارها، 3 نوفمبر 2021، <https://bit.ly/3zF4WkR>
² الهيئة العامة للبيئة الكويت، التوعية البيئية، <https://bit.ly/3QpTrnS>



Within the first phase, which extended for the period (2000-2015), Kuwait's consumption of CFCs, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and methyl bromide was completely eliminated, which increase climate change.

The second phase of the strategy to get rid of ozone-depleting substances was launched during the period (2012-2020), which aims to phase out HCFCs, with a target reduction of 40% of the average consumption of these substances by Kuwait for the years 2009-2010, with reference to the success of Kuwait in freezing its consumption to the baseline consumption level in 2013, and has also reduced 10% of its baseline consumption level in 2015.³

4. Launching Afforestation Campaigns to Combat Climate Change:

The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has announced several projects to increase reforestation in more than one area in Kuwait, and tens of thousands of plants and trees have been planted so far. The application of the plant belt includes two aspects: the first is afforestation, which means planting tall trees, and the second is reforestation, which is, planting small and medium-sized trees in order to reduce the encroachment of sand and dust by wind, adding that this method reduces the effects of dust-laden winds and limits the effects of climate change.

5. Shift towards alternative energy:

Kuwait seeks to produce electrical energy through solar energy in the sector of new residential buildings that are distributed to citizens, in addition to the afforestation process that aims to absorb carbon dioxide, which leads to climate modification. Kuwait has started to generate electricity from solar energy, but it is still in a small scale, as it has brought in windmills to generate energy and sell it to individuals, and this energy is expected to increase in the next years.⁴

6. Government of Kuwait: National Adaptation Plan 2019-2030:

The government of Kuwait launched the National Adaptation Plan for the year 2019-2030, in the context of low and volatile rainfall and dust storms, one of the greatest climatic aspects that disturb the ecosystems in Kuwait. The plan prepared by the Environment Public Authority, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning, and the United Nations Development Office, with the participation of many environmental specialists, recommended **planting trees, educating citizens and raising public awareness about the consequences of climate change**, among the greatest efforts demanded by Kuwait in the coming years.

³ الهيئة العامة للبيئة الكويت، التخلص من المواد المستنفدة لطبقة الأوزون ، <https://bit.ly/3dhLLWu> ،
⁴ر صيف 22، تشجير ومحميات وطاقة بديلة... ماذا نعرف عن جهود الكويت لمحاربة التغير المناخي؟، 30 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3dgsEMC>



The plan added that extreme increases in temperature and reduced precipitation would fundamentally alter ecosystem functions and socio-economic aspects. The plan pointed out that frequent dust cases are closely related to the deterioration of air quality in the atmosphere, which has led to serious health-related problems, which will increase the subjection of urban areas in Kuwait to climate change.⁵

Second: Kuwaiti efforts to achieve the targets of SDG13 and promote climate action:

Kuwait has made efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources, where the climate is considered to be an essential part of the environment. Therefore, Jordan has taken many moves 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 targets of SDG13 during June will be focused on, as follows:

Target (1) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

In light of the Kuwaiti government's efforts to integrate measures related to climate change into national policies; Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) chaired a high-level panel discussion on climate change, entitled "Climate change and Resilience: incorporating science and technology into the study of the oceans in a manner consistent with traditional knowledge."

It was noted that Kuwait has an interest in supporting small island developing states, and has participated in the establishment of the group of friends of the Small Island Developing States, in cooperation with the permanent delegation of the Republic of Armenia, within the framework of strengthening the continuous cooperation between the permanent delegation of Kuwait and UNESCO, as the Small Island Developing States are vulnerable particularly for climate change, it is now urgent to act.⁶

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

On enhancing flexibility to address climate-related hazards; In the speech of the government of Kuwait delivered by the Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi at the Security Council session on maintaining international peace and security and climate-related security risks, it was emphasized that the government

⁵ الجريدة، خطة التكيف الوطنية: المطر والغياب يهددان النظم البيئية، 1 أغسطس 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SEaDrW>
⁶ الجريدة، الكويت تتأخر حلقة نقاشية لـ «يونسكو» عن التغير المناخي والقدرة على التحدي، 9 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3p6A1IS>



would continue to support the efforts of the United Nations to address the challenges and dangers of the phenomenon of climate change, believing that addressing this phenomenon is a common responsibility, albeit to varying degrees, in line with national priorities and capabilities, in order to achieve the aspirations of the peoples.

The government of Kuwait, as a neighboring country to Iraq, indicated that it agrees with Iraq on the effects of climate change on the ecosystem, especially the Mesopotamian Marshes, which calls for close cooperation at various levels to reduce its repercussions on the environment and population, and work to revive and develop this region.⁷

Also in the context of combating climate risks; Kuwait launched an afforestation campaign in the presence of a large crowd of heads of diplomatic missions in the country. The Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program for the Arabian Gulf Region (Habitat) in Kuwait, Ameera Al-Hassan, stressed the importance of continuing the “**Kuwait Plants**” campaign that was launched in 2019, with the aim of planting 1,000 trees in “Abdaliyah Reserve”, in cooperation with the Kuwait Oil Company, and promoting agricultural environmental awareness to achieve sustainable development goals.

The campaign aims to green areas to resist the impact of global climate change, combat desertification and reduce the severity of climate change represented by high temperature and lack of rain. The trees that will be planted are all desert-resistant to heat and water shortages, and help improve the general hygiene of the population, as they are an important element in the nature cycle. In addition, the participation of more than 50 ambassadors contributes to raising awareness about the importance of steps being taken to improve the climate. This campaign is considered one of the efforts of the State of Kuwait to abide by international agreements related to climate, particularly the climate change agreement in Paris, which called for a serious address to the obvious effects of climate change and limiting the rise in temperature.⁸

Target (3) Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

As the Kuwaiti government seeks to improve education, raise awareness, and human and institutional abilities to mitigate climate change; the State of Kuwait participated in the opening session of the Third World Conference on Climate Change held in Geneva, and it was emphasized that the State of Kuwait shares the world’s countries in the risks that will result from the phenomenon of climate change, and called on Kuwait to **raise climate awareness in**

⁷القبس، الكويت: سواصل دعم المساعي للتصدي لتحديات تغير المناخ محليات ، <https://bit.ly/3JK3eDd> ،
⁸الجريدة، حشد دبلوماسي شارك في «الكويت تزرع» لمقاومة التغير المناخي، 5 ديسمبر 2022،



line with the decisions that will be issued by this conference, and to hold workshops, seminars, and symposiums to raise this awareness so that the negative effects of these changes on social and economic life in the world can be realized. The conference stressed the need to flexibly prepare climate information and predictions and the need to develop climate models that are used in climate predictions.⁹

Second Axis: The Reality of Achieving SDG13 in the Arab Region

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

Target (1) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

First: North Africa:

1. Egypt:

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with the Portuguese Minister of Environment and Climate Action to discuss ways of bilateral cooperation at the national and global levels in the fields of environment, climate, and biodiversity, on the sidelines of her participation in the United Nations Conference on Stations 2022 in Lisbon, which was hosted by the governments of Portugal and Kenya from June 27 to July 1, 2022 under the slogan "Save our oceans, protect our future"

Yasmine Fouad congratulated the Portuguese government for organizing the United Nations Ocean Conference 2022 in cooperation with Kenya, as one of the milestone steps in environmental work. During the meeting, the minister reviewed national efforts to address the effects of climate change and the threat of severe climatic conditions to local communities, especially those near the coasts.¹⁰

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with the Australian Minister of Environment on the sidelines of her participation in the United Nations Conference on Stations 2022 in Lisbon. During the meeting, Yasmine Fouad reviewed some of Egypt's efforts to prepare for the presidency of the upcoming COP27 climate conference, through the Higher Committee for organizing the hosting of the conference headed by the Prime Minister, which Egypt seeks to be an implementation conference that works on formulating the pledges made in Glasgow,

⁹إيلاف، الكويت تطالب برفع الوعي بالتغير المناخي، <https://bit.ly/3JGtU7W>
¹⁰وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع نظيرها البرتغالي التعاون الثنائي على المستويين الوطني والعالمي في مجال البيئة والمناخ والتنوع البيولوجي، 1 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3A2JpUA>



and advancing the course of climate action in a balanced manner, and making progress in mitigating, adapting, and formulating mechanisms to activate the San Diego Loss and Damage Program.¹¹

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with British Lord Goldsmith, on the sidelines of the United Nations Ocean Conference, which is being held in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, pointing out the aspiration to obtain the support of countries in the various initiatives.¹²

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, participated in the consultative session that was held with the participation of the ministries of the environment of a number of countries, a number of development partners, in addition to civil society organizations, through the video conference feature, to discuss the global initiative for waste 50 by 2050, which will be launched during the upcoming COP27 climate conference, which aims to raise the recycling rate to 50% of African waste by 2050.

The Minister of Environment stressed that the upcoming climate conference is the fifth high-level global conference hosted by Africa, so it is an opportunity to achieve a real impact in the field of climate change, as the climate conference will be a comprehensive conference for implementation, explaining that climate changes have significantly increased their intensity during the past few years, as Africa has witnessed severe bouts of high temperatures, long seasons of drought, in addition to a decrease in the level of rivers, in addition to the continent's exposure to many natural disasters and crises.¹³

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy of the COP27 Climate Conference, held a meeting with Hala Al-Saeed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, to follow up the work on the preparations for Egypt's hosting of the COP27 Climate Conference, in the presence of the working team formed by the two ministries in this regard.

Yasmine Fouad began her speech by praising the constructive cooperation between the two ministries in many files, including working to integrate environmental sustainability and climate change issues into the local and national planning process and various economic

¹¹وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تتناقش مع نظيرتها الأسترالية التعاون الثنائي في مجال التنوع البيولوجي وإدارة المياه وبدائل البلاستيك، 1 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3Q8PSmx>

¹²وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة: علينا الاستفادة من نتائج المؤتمرات المتعاقبة جلاسكو والمحيطات وشرم الشيخ للبناء عليها خلال مؤتمر التنوع البيولوجي القادم COP15، 2

يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SJQ8ds>

¹³وزارة البيئة، وزيره البيئة والمنسق الوزاري ومبعوث مؤتمر المناخ COP 27 : اول تشاور حول المبادره العالميه للمخلفات ٥٠ بحلول ٢٠٥٠، 3 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3dgl2sw>



policies, in addition to stimulating the private sector to accelerate the transition to environmental conservation and others¹⁴.

According to the instructions of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Ali Abu Sunna, Executive Director of the Environmental Affairs Agency, visited Sharm El-Sheikh to see the environmental conditions in the city, as part of preparations for Egypt's hosting of the 27th session of the International Climate Conference, Cop27, to be held next November in Sharm El-Sheikh.

To complement the role of the Ministry of Environment in the coordination work between the various authorities, Ali Abu Sunna, with a number of technicians from the protected areas sector in the agency and Brigadier Ibrahim Alawi, the minister's advisor for nature reserves, inspected the equipment and development work that is in full swing to reach the landmarks and the environmental situation in the city to the best pictures before the world, in cooperation with all environmental work partners in preparation for receiving the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change Cop27, noting that the development work includes the Ras Mohammed and Nabq reserves, the oxidation lakes area, and the Peace Park¹⁵.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and Nevine Gamea, Minister of Trade and Industry, held an expanded session of talks to review the latest developments regarding Egypt's hosting of the 27th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh next November, many leaders of the Ministries of Industry and Environment participated in the meeting.

The Minister of Environment said that in the framework of the preparation of the Supreme Committee to host the conference, the committee approved the existence of a special day for "reducing emissions" within the unofficial days of the conference, which is entrusted to the Ministries of Industry and Petroleum, and will include a number of heavy industries with the aim of opening a logical and scientific dialogue with representatives of these industries to hear their views and point of view, on how they are committed to reducing emissions to limit the effects of climate change, and the mechanism that will be implemented in this regard¹⁶.

¹⁴ وزارة البيئة، وزيرنا التخطيط والتنمية الاقتصادية والبيئة تتابعان الأعمال الخاصة بتجهيزات استضافة مصر لمؤتمر المناخ COP27، 4 يوليو 2022،

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

¹⁵ وزارة البيئة، الرئيس التنفيذي لجهاز شئون البيئة في زيارة تفقدية لمدينة شرم الشيخ، 4 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3A5HuyE>

¹⁶ وزارة البيئة، وزيرنا التجارة والصناعة تستعرضان آخر مستجدات التحضير لاستضافة مصر لقمة المناخ COP27 خلال شهر نوفمبر المقبل، 6 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3Qo3haB>



Within the framework of the Prime Minister's assignments to prepare lists of green development projects and start promoting them with international financing bodies, Rania Al-Mashat announced the launch of the "Noufi" program for financing and investing in climate projects according to an integrated approach between the water, food and energy sectors, and promoting the first list of projects in these sectors, in order to promote environmentally friendly projects within the National Climate Change Strategy 2050, and to promote Egypt's Vision 2030.

This occurred during the activities of the Joint Coordination Cooperation Platform of the Development Partners Group, which was held in partnership between the Ministry of International Cooperation and the United Nations Office in Egypt, under the title "Climate Change and Strengthening Partnerships and Strategic Dialogue on Fair and Sustainable Climate Finance... The Axis of the Relationship between Energy, Food, and Water" Noufi Program.¹⁷

Prime Minister, Mostafa Madbouly, held a meeting to follow up efforts to prepare for Egypt's hosting of the 27th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27. The Prime Minister stressed the keenness to follow up diligently the preparation steps for the COP27 climate conference, and to provide various aspects of support, in order to ensure permanent coordination between the concerned authorities, to achieve the appropriate organization of this important international event¹⁸.

Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and Engineer Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources held a coordination meeting at the headquarters of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources to discuss preparations for Egypt's hosting of the COP27 World Climate Summit in Sharm El Sheikh next November, and to review the efforts of the joint working team of the two ministries in completing the necessary arrangements to organize a number of activities related to environmental sustainability and carbon reduction in the energy, oil and gas sectors within the conference activities, in preparation for presenting the developments of cooperation in this context to the Higher Committee for hosting the conference headed by Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, discussed with Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum, the procedures of preparing well for the "carbon reduction" day, which was approved within the unofficial substantive days during the upcoming COP27 Climate Summit, and the tasks entrusted to the Ministry of Petroleum during the coming period of work on

¹⁷وزارة البيئة، إطلاق برنامج "نُوقِي" لجذب التمويلات والاستثمارات لقائمة مشروعات التنمية الخضراء في قطاعات المياه والغذاء والطاقة، 7 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3zH7a39>

¹⁸وزارة البيئة، رئيس الوزراء يتابع جهود التحضير لاستضافة مصر للدورة الـ27 لمؤتمر تغير المناخ، 7 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SBjRoT>



defining topics which will be discussed on that day, in preparation for submission to the Supreme Committee for hosting the conference¹⁹.

Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, confirmed that the preparation and launch of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO 6) report represents an independent, impartial and transparent assessment of the state of the environment, the effectiveness of policy response to environmental challenges, and possible paths to achieve various internationally agreed environmental goals, noting that this would support environmental decision-making processes not only for governments, but also for stakeholders from local governments, private sector institutions, youth and other relevant societal actors and groups, and encourage fruitful interaction between science and policy. This occurred during a recorded speech delivered by Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, during the launch of the League of Arab States' sixth Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO-6) in the Arab region.²⁰

Within the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of State for Migration and Egyptians Abroad Affairs, and to complement what was agreed upon during the meeting of Yasmine Fouad and Ambassador Nabila Makram, Minister of Migration, to coordinate the participation of young Egyptians studying abroad "MEDCE" in the 27th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Framework United Nations Convention on Climate Change "COP27", which will be held next November in Sharm El-Sheikh.

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, confirmed that young people presented unconventional ideas to achieve sustainability at the COP27 climate conference in several areas, such as electric and participatory transport, following sustainable practices in hospitality and food presented at the conference, benefiting from food waste and using environmentally friendly packaging methods, in addition to submitting proposals for pilot projects to confront effects of climate change.²¹

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, and Maya Morsi, President of the National Council for Women, held an extensive meeting via video conferencing to discuss preparations for the 27th Conference of Parties on Climate Change, which Egypt will host in Sharm El-Sheikh in November, in implementation of the decisions of the Higher Committee concerned with preparing for the COP27 climate conference. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, confirmed that the meeting dealt with discussing the women's initiative that will be launched before the climate conference, and it will be reviewed and discuss mechanisms for its

¹⁹ وزارة البيئة، وزيراً البيئـة والبيئـة يبحثن تنظيم فعاليات لخفض الكربون بالصناعة البترولية في مؤتمر المناخ COP27، 26 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SwrCML>

²⁰ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة: التقرير يساهم في دعم عمليات اتخاذ القرارات البيئية للحكومات وأصحاب المصلحة من الحكومات المحلية ومؤسسات القطاع الخاص والشباب وغيرها من الجهات والفئات المجتمعية ذات الصلة، 23 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3JAKfLq>

²¹ وزارة البيئة، في إطار التعاون بين وزارة الهجرة ووزارة البيئة.. شباب المصريين الدارسين بالخارج يتقدمون باقتراحاتهم وأفكارهم لمؤتمر المناخ COP27، 27 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3zF2Zop>



implementation during the activities of the Women's Day, which will be held on the sidelines of the climate conference, with the identification of donors and funders for this initiative.²²

Within the framework of Egypt's efforts to support the environmentally friendly technological transformation to address the effects of climate change, Egypt participated in the celebration of the People's Republic of China, inaugurating the shipment of the first batch of equipment to contribute to transforming Sharm El-Sheikh into a green city, provided by the Chinese Ministry of Environment to the Egyptian Ministry of Environment to address the effects of climate change in the framework of the Southern Assistance Program.

Algeria:

The Minister of Environment, Samia Moualfi, received the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Algeria at the Ministry's headquarters. The two parties discussed ways and mechanisms of cooperation and partnership between the two countries and the strengthening of the Algerian-Egyptian bilateral relations in the field of environment and climate change. Among the most important things discussed was the establishment of a joint committee to implement the executive program in the field of environment and climate change, which extends until 2024, recently signed during the eighth session of the joint committee between the two countries last June. Among the most important points that were discussed was the preparation file for the 27th session of the World Climate Summit to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, next November.²³

The Minister of Environment, Samia Moulafi, participated, as a guest of honor, in the high-level meeting of the Sahel Group, organized by the Algerian Red Crescent, which deals with the issues of migration, the food crisis and climate change. The Minister delivered a speech on this occasion, in which she highlighted Algeria's role in confronting the effects of climate change, as well as the mega projects that the state was pioneering in combating desertification, such as the Green Dam project, which President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced on its resurrection, which covers an area of 4.7 million hectares.²⁴

Mauritania:

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development received, in her office in Nouakchott, HE Alexandre Haine, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Mauritania. The meeting dealt with the areas of cooperation existing between our country and this organization, especially in the field of visualization,

²² وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة ورئيسة المجلس القومي للمرأة تبحثان مبادرة المرأة التي سيتم إطلاقها قبل مؤتمر المناخ COP27، 27 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3A7wFfv>

²³ وزارة البيئة الجزائرية، <https://bit.ly/3p8ITte>

²⁴ وزارة البيئة الجزائرية، <https://bit.ly/3d2Gbqx>



preparation and access to project finances in accordance with national priorities in the field of adaptation to climate changes, restoring ecosystems and the agreement on wetlands.²⁵

Sudan:

The Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Research Center to implement the program of using alternative materials for construction in the work areas of the Climate Change Adaptation Project in White Nile State. Emphasis was also placed on strengthening cooperation with the National Research Center by making use of mature technologies that suit local communities and make them more prepared to face climate change.²⁶

A project to strengthen national capacities was established, which aims to improve the decision-making process and generalize global environmental commitments at the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources. Within that framework, a training workshop was held on climate change and improving national capacities in that field.²⁷

Sudan participated in the regional ministerial conference on the impact of the environment and climate change on migration in the Ugandan capital Kampala. The participants in the conference discussed enhancing cooperation in relation to climate change, migration, displacement and resettlement of the displaced. The conference also aims to develop an integrated approach to mobility resulting from climate change, while further addressing the effects of climate change on the movement of people in the region.²⁸

Saudi Arabia:

The Kingdom organized the Jeddah Summit for Security and Development, during which Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Crown Prince, affirmed that Saudi Arabia hopes that the summit will establish a new era of joint cooperation; to deepen the strategic partnership with the United States. The Saudi Crown Prince added, before the leaders and heads of delegations of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, America, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq in Saudi Arabia, that the world is currently facing challenges, most notably climate change, that requires dealing with realistically and responsibly, to achieve sustainable development, by adopting a balanced approach, with a gradual and responsible transition towards more permanent energy sources. He pointed out to the Jeddah Summit for Security and Development that the major challenges that the world has recently faced due to the Corona

²⁵وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، <https://bit.ly/3P4vBx2>
²⁶لمجلس الاعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، ذكرة تفاهم مع المركز القومي للبحوث لإنفاذ برنامج إستخدام المواد البديلة للبناء في مناطق عمل مشروع التكيف مع التغيرات المناخية، 7 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3BRFOk9>
²⁷المجلس الاعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، <https://bit.ly/3QMvGf9>
²⁸سونا، بمشاركة السودان: إنطلاق المؤتمر الإقليمي حول الهجرة والتغير المناخي بكمبالا، 27 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3p6MfBw>



pandemic, in addition to the geopolitical situation, require more concerted international efforts to recover the global economy and achieve food and health security.²⁹

Sultanate of Oman:

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Agency, participated in the environmental cooperation meeting “for a better future” that was held in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Omani delegation participating in the meeting was headed by Abdullah bin Ali Al-Omari, head of the Environment Agency, this meeting to enhance regional cooperation and confront environmental challenges that affect the region. The Sultanate of Oman, along with the participating countries, stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination in the region and the need to conclude bilateral and multilateral action plans and plans to follow up on the results of this meeting.

The participants also stressed the need for coordinated and timely procedures to protect the natural environment of the region, and the need for cooperation in the field of environment as a shared responsibility, and that such challenges do not recognize any limits, including global warming, climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental pollution, especially sand and dust storms, which are among the most pressing environmental challenges in the region, as well as the role of public and youth participation and NGOs in achieving a healthy environment.³⁰

The Sultanate of Oman and the Federal Republic of Germany signed a declaration of joint intent for cooperation in the field of energy, which contributes to the exchange of technical knowledge, its integrated systems and smart grids. The signing of this declaration fulfills the desire of the two countries to continue to strengthen and develop their cooperation in the field of energy on the basis of mutual benefit, as parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and their desire to create a framework for the exchange of technical knowledge, advice, skills, and experiences in the field of energy.³¹

Iraq:

In light of the launch of the Catalytic Climate Action Project in Iraq, which supports national efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change, and which focuses on preparedness to confront drought, management of water resources and renewable energy, the Ministry of Environment confirmed that it will continue to work with the United Nations and the international community on projects to reduce the damage caused by the climate changes in

²⁹الطاقة، قمة جدة للأمن والتنمية.. رسائل ولي العهد السعودي بشأن النفط والغاز وتغير المناخ، 16 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SOPVFZ>

³⁰اليوابة الإعلامية سلطنة عمان، سلطنة عُمان تشارك في اجتماع التعاون البيئي بظهران، يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3p1EFs5>

³¹الوطن، سلطنة عمان وألمانيا توقعان إعلان النوايا المشتركة في مجال الطاقة، 16 يوليو 2022، <https://alwatan.com/details/472943>



Iraq. The Ministry of Environment also relies heavily on international support, as international funding has been spent mainly in the face of desertification and dust storms, and the deterioration of agricultural land. Climate changes affect all regions of Iraq; they constitute a major challenge facing human life in water resources remained scarce.³²

UAE:

The UAE hosted the 3rd National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA), under the theme 'Financing the transition of the UAE to net zero by 2050'. The dialogue was organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA), and the panel discussion brought together 80 representatives of relevant government and private sector institutions, including financial regulators, banks and finance companies. The participants in the dialogue discussed the trends of sustainable finance globally, and reviewed the status of this type of finance at the local level, with the aim of exploring the necessary tools and mechanisms to support the UAE's journey to reach climate neutrality. The discussions also addressed the need of the Middle East and North Africa region for 1.2 Almost \$1 trillion in investments to decarbonize the regional economy.³³

Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, visited the National Center of Meteorology in the capital, Abu Dhabi, and Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos, Director of the National Center of Meteorology and President of the Asian Meteorological Federation, welcomed her along with a number of senior employees. The visit witnessed the launch of an updated version of the "National Air Quality Platform" in the UAE.

The updated version of the National Air Quality Platform is characterized by easy access for all members of society to information on the state of air quality, in addition to the benefit of a number of sectors with information, especially the health and academic sectors. The "National Air Quality Platform" reviews the state of air quality in the country in real time through the air quality index, which is a simplified representation of data using color indices to determine the extent of air quality and the health effects associated with it in a specific area across the Emirates.³⁴

The Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change has signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the French government with the aim of enhancing the economic and social benefits of climate action and raising ambitions for implementing the Paris Agreement, in addition to supporting the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the

³² وكالة الأنباء القطرية، العراق يؤكد تعاونه مع الأمم المتحدة لتقليل أضرار التغيرات المناخية، 17 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3SAB1mo>

³³ العين الإخبارية، عبر التمويل المستدام.. الإمارات تسرع التحول نحو الحياد المناخي، 27 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3pbLdEh>

³⁴ الخليج، إطلاق الإصدار الثاني للمنصة الوطنية لجودة الهواء، 26 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3A7KZEw>



Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), to be hosted in the UAE in 2023, at the "Expo City Dubai".³⁵

Climate and the future of clean energy occupied an important place in the UAE-US summit held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The summit, which brought together Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and US President Joe Biden, was culminated by the signature of an important agreement between the two countries to explore new opportunities in the field of climate and clean energy to drive economic growth and sustainable development. The agreement adds more gains to the world thanks to the strong interest and bold initiatives adopted by the UAE to combat climate change and help the planet restore its ecological balance.³⁶

Bahrain:

A closing ceremony (the Climate Innovation Initiative) was launched under the auspices of the Minister of Oil and Environment. This initiative is considered among a number of diverse and distinguished initiatives within the framework of achieving sustainable development goals and reducing the effects of climate change. This initiative plays a key role in supporting national efforts to protect the environment and raise awareness about it. The Climate Innovation Initiative came provides a space for creativity and innovation in the field of confronting climate change and adapting thereto.³⁷

During the visit made by Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, and H.E. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dina, Minister of Oil and Environment, to a number of mangrove plantation nurseries in the Kingdom of Bahrain to determine the nurseries' readiness to achieve national goals, they stressed the importance of increasing green spaces and multiplying the mangroves in order to reduce the effects of climate change and contribute to achieving the goals of the Kingdom of Bahrain to reach net zero.³⁸

The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Kingdom of Bahrain handed over the invitation from President Al-Sisi to the King of Bahrain, to participate in the activities of the 27th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.³⁹

Jordan:

³⁵ سكاي نيوز عربية، الإمارات وفرنسا توقعان اتفاقية لتعزيز فوائد العمل المناخي، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3zDis8u>

³⁶ العين الإخبارية، الإمارات ترفع راية المناخ مجددا.. مكاسب العالم من قمة بايند ومحمد بن زايد، 16 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3JHE8Fh>

³⁷ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة، سعادة وزير النفط والبيئة والمبعوث الخاص لشؤون المناخ يرفع حفل ختام (مبادرة الابتكار المناخي)، 29 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3zP8WPU>

³⁸ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة، خلال جولة تفقدية قاما بها الى عدد من مشاتل الإستزراع وزيرا البلديات والنفط يؤكدان على مضاعفة أشجار القرم للحد من تغيير المناخ، 6 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3zIDZn1>

³⁹ الدستور، الرئيس السيسي يدعو ملك البحرين للمشاركة بـ مؤتمر المناخ في شرم الشيخ، 7 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3bE51gy>



The Minister of Environment met with the Italian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Jordan. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the most important and prominent environmental issues of common interest, strengthening aspects of cooperation and joint coordination between the two friendly countries, and the efforts made by both parties in facing urgent environmental challenges, specifically with regard to the measures to confront Challenges of climate change and waste management as well as the ways to enhance them to serve the interests of the two countries in this field.⁴⁰

The Ministers of Agriculture, Water, Irrigation and Environment were briefed on the mechanisms and plans for implementing a project to build resilience to climate change in Jordan. The project sought to improve the efficiency of using water in agriculture in the southern governorates, with a value of 33 million dollars. The project is funded by the United Nations Climate Change Fund, in partnership with the FAO and the United Nations Development Program.

As part of the ministries' endeavors to adapt to climate changes and achieve food security, the country has worked to establish about 2,000 rainwater harvesting wells in a number of governorates, as part of its plan to establish 6,000 wells and a number of excavations and dams in the Kingdom's regions in cooperation with the armed forces, leading to home water harvesting that helps in home farming and saves water for the family and takes advantage of the rain.⁴¹

Target (2) **Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries**

Under the instructions of Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, the Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, announced that the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the relevant ministries, has completed the preparation of the first package to finance the projects of the National Climate Change Strategy 2050. Yasmine Fouad explained that the set of projects aim to focus on the energy, food and water sectors in cooperation with the ministries of electricity, energy, agriculture, water resources, irrigation, housing and urban communities.

The Minister of Environment confirmed that this package of projects was prepared based on the idea that energy is the basis of life with the increase in the use of new and renewable energy in the agricultural sector to provide food, especially in light of the high food

⁴⁰ وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة... يلتقي السفير الإيطالي لدى المملكة، <https://bit.ly/3bJAXjJ>
⁴¹ وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، اطلاق وزير البيئة وعدد من الوزراء على أليات وخطط تنفيذ مشروع بناء المنعة للتغيرات المناخية في الأردن، <https://bit.ly/3vQeisO>



prices worldwide, as well as in providing water needs through the establishment of desalination plants. It has the use of new and renewable energy plants.

Fouad discussed with the International Monetary Fund mission Egypt's steps in the climate file, especially with the launch of the National Climate Change Strategy in Egypt 2050, and preparations to host the next COP27 climate conference. The representatives of the mission expressed their aspiration to get to know Egypt's vision to implement the climate change strategy, and to update the national contributions strategy, the mechanisms of Egypt's direction towards green investment and the involvement of the private sector, in the presence of a number of the leaders of the Ministry concerned.

During the meeting, Fouad confirmed that Egypt's experience in working on the first offering of green bonds through the Ministry of Finance was distinguished, especially in working on selecting programs and projects that will be implemented within the framework of these bonds and making sure that they take into account the climate dimension of adaptation and mitigation, as we started with energy projects. She explained that the last period witnessed a shift in the vision of the financial sector in Egypt for the environment and climate projects, especially after developing policies and the language of dialogue in the environment sector to go towards a real integration of the environment and climate dimension in development sectors, and work in parallel on greening the state budget to ensure a comprehensive and real integration of the environment into the development process.⁴²

Fouad and Ashraf Sobhy, Minister of Youth and Sports, held an extensive meeting to discuss preparations for Egypt's hosting of the 27th Climate Conference on Climate Change in Sharm El Sheikh. During the meeting, the Minister of Environment explained that the Climate Conference needs a number of young volunteers who have been trained by the Ministry of Youth to participate in organizational aspects. During the upcoming climate conference, the United Nations organization needs about 260 volunteers with specific specifications and qualifications, and the organizational part of the conference needs nearly 1,000 young people.⁴³

Fouad met with the Acting Assistant Director of the US Agency for International Development for the Middle East, Mr. Andrew Plett and the USAID delegation in Cairo to discuss joint cooperation in a number of environmental issues such as climate, biodiversity, ecotourism, and integrating the environmental dimension into educational curricula. The

⁴² وزارة البيئة، دياسمين فؤاد : الطاقة والغذاء والمياه الثلاثى الأساسى لتلبية الإحتياجات الإنسانية والتوجه التدريجي للتحول الأخضر، 5 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3BX60D8>

⁴³ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع بعثة صندوق النقد الدولي الاستثمار الأخضر وآليات تنفيذ الاستراتيجية الوطنية لتغير المناخ ٢٠٥٠، 5 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3JcP5f1>



Minister praised the fruitful cooperation with the Agency in supporting environmental work in Egypt.

Fouad reviewed the features of preparing to host the next climate conference COP27 as an implementation conference, in light of the completion of the Paris Agreement rules book, and Egypt's keenness to build on the success achieved in the Glasgow Climate Conference and advance the climate action agenda, and work to achieve parallel and balanced progress in all negotiation tracks, especially the goal of maintaining the temperature at 1.5 degrees, in addition to Egypt's keenness to meet with various regional groups to find out their aspirations and requirements to ensure that decisions are reached that achieve the interests of all.⁴⁴

During the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition session via video conference, attended by the Minister of Environment, the Ministerial Coordinator and the Envoy of the Climate Conference COP27, Fouad presented Egypt's views of the upcoming COP27 climate conference, especially in the field of just energy transition and its importance at this critical time. Fouad stressed that Egypt, during its presidency of the upcoming COP27 climate conference, seeks to be an implementation conference, with the completion of the Paris Agreement rulebook, building on the successes achieved at the Glasgow Climate Conference in various tracks such as mitigation, adaptation, losses, damages and financing.⁴⁵

Fouad, Minister of Environment, Dr. Khaled El-Anani, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and Major General Mahmoud Shaarawy, Minister of Local Development, held a meeting to discuss the latest developments in the file of transforming Sharm El-Sheikh into an environmentally friendly green city, in addition to discussing mechanisms for the safe disposal of waste for hotel and tourist facilities in the city, in preparation for Egypt's hosting of the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change "COP 27" next November.⁴⁶

Fouad held a press conference after the cabinet meeting, under the chairmanship of Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, at the government headquarters in the new city of El Alamein, where she indicated that within the framework of Egypt's preparations to host the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Climate COP27, and in conjunction with the President of the Republic, for Berlin to participate in the Petersburg Climate Dialogue, and on the basis of Egypt's active role at the international level within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention

⁴⁴ وزارة البيئة، وزيراً البيئة والشباب والرياضة يعقدان اجتماعاً موسعاً لمناقشة الإستعدادات الخاصة بتنظيم مؤتمر المناخ COP27، 18 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3BMfUHV>

⁴⁵ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تبحث مع ممثلي الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية USAID التعاون الثنائي في عدد من الملفات البيئية، 18 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3QuNVkb>

⁴⁶ وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تحتتم جلسة الانتقال المستدام للطاقة بالمنتدى الاقتصادي العالمي مع رئيسة المنتدى، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Sy2xB1>



on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, Egypt submitted the updated report of the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change , which comes as one of the commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁴⁷

Libya:

The Libyan Organization for Environment and Sustainable Development issued a publication appealing to the city and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Interior, Civil Defense and the National Safety Authority to cooperate in putting out fires caused by climate change in the city of Msallata, and demanded the Libyan government to provide the capabilities and firefighting equipment from cars, elements or a point of civil defense to be It is located within the walls of the reserve to provide assistance to the reserve first, because it is always exposed to fires and to all surrounding areas.⁴⁸

Morocco:

In light of the international efforts to mitigate the effects of global warming that cause climate change, Morocco has adopted a pioneering trend in the field of clean energy for years, expecting through this to reach 51 percent of its energy needs through renewable sources by 2030, while Morocco is heading to become one of the most important hydrogen producing countries.⁴⁹

The continuous field interventions, by land and air, over a period of 6 days, enabled significant progress to be achieved in containing the forest fires raging in a number of provinces of the Tangiers-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region, thanks to the recruitment of thousands of firefighting teams supported by volunteers from the population of the neighboring regions.⁵⁰

The wave of fires that pervaded a number of forests in the north of Larache, Taza and Tangier districts, knocked on the gates of Rabat, where a fire broke out in the Green Belt forest in the Al-Fath district of Rabat. The firefighting teams of the regional command of civil protection in the city, backed by elements from the Water and Forestry Authority and the soil and security authorities, were able to contain the fire that broke out in the forest of the Yacoub Al-Mansour district in Rabat.⁵¹

⁴⁷ وزارة البيئة، ووزراء البيئة والسياحة والآثار والتنمية المحلية يواصلون مناقشة استعدادات استضافة مصر لمؤتمر الأطراف السابع والعشرين لاتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ "COP 27"، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vMhYfb>

⁴⁸ وزارة البيئة، مصر تعلن تقديم التقرير المحدث للمساهمات المحددة وطنياً NDCs كأحد التزاماتها في إطار اتفاق باريس، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Q6LO6k>

⁴⁹ المنظمة الليبية للبيئة والتنمية المستدامة، <https://bit.ly/3A5diDF>

⁵⁰ الأخبار، المغرب يتقدم في سباق الطاقات المتجددة والطاقة النظيفة، 3 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3JbpxX3>

⁵¹ هشام المساوي، حرائق الغابات : تدخلات ميدانية متواصلة برا وجوا لإخماد النيران وحماية أرواح المواطنين، 18 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3P85jtG>



Mauritania:

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in the green belt of Nouakchott organized the official launch ceremony of the National Tree Week, for this year 2022, which covers the period from 1 to 7 August 2022. The National Tree Week aims to sensitize citizens about the importance of trees in combating desertification and climate change, and to achieve sustainable development.

This year, the Week aims to plant approximately 6000 hectares, or nearly 7 million trees, to be planted on the entire national territory, from now until 2024. It will take place at the level of section No. 4 of the green belt of the city of Nouakchott of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall, from which the activities of the National Week for Trees were launched, about 500 trees are planted on an area of a hectare.

The National Great Green Wall Agency will also carry out large-scale afforestation operations and mechanical and biological stabilization of shifting sands at the level of the states located on its track throughout this week in order to protect 1,500 hectares, in addition to the free distribution of some fruit trees and shade-oriented. Many bushes will be planted throughout this week by some organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the level of the Embera refugee camp in the Paskno district.⁵²

Somalia:

The United Nations warns that 1.4 million children are facing malnutrition in Somalia this year amidst a prolonged drought. East Africa has suffered four consecutive seasons of poor rains - Somalia has been one of the countries worst affected. More than 750,000 people there have been forced from their homes across the country in search of food, water and pasture.⁵³

Jordan:

The Kingdom has launched a “national capacity-building project to adapt to the phenomenon of climate changes in the water and agricultural sectors,” which is part of the national plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project aims to manage and create water sources, and is implemented in cooperation with the Ministries of Water, Irrigation and Agriculture, in addition to the Ministry of Environment, the national umbrella for the climate change program. The value of the project is \$33 million, and it is funded by the Green Climate Fund, which is one of the global financial mechanisms for financing environmental projects with impacts on climate change. The first axis of the project is implemented in the governorates overlooking the Dead Sea basin (Madaba, Karak, Tafila, Maan), because these areas are considered the

⁵² الأخبار، حرائق الغابات تدق أبواب الرباط، 8 أغسطس 2022، <https://bit.ly/3BOXNks>
⁵³ وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، حفل الانطلاق الرسمي للأسبوع الوطني للشجرة، لهذا العام 2022، <https://bit.ly/3A63XLM>



most affected and suffer from a lack of rain, according to Al-Khashanah. The project seeks to establish more than 8,000 water collection systems, represented by ground or overhead tanks, and the use of water-saving devices in home systems, in addition to making use of treated water.⁵⁴

The Jordanian government, in cooperation with UNICEF, launched a new study that warns of serious social and economic consequences awaiting most countries of the world in light of rising temperatures, climate change and the food price crisis. According to the study, the costs of water stress in Jordan are evidence of the increasing water shortage globally, as demand continues to exceed supply. The study warned of the increasing effects and harms on children and women, especially water stress and economic and social conditions, especially since Jordan is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world.⁵⁵

Target (3) Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Within the framework of the directives of Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, to activate the national dialogue on climate change in all governorates of the Republic, including the participation of all segments of society, the EEAA branch in Sohag participated in the first scientific forum between the Valley of Science and Technology at Sohag University and the Al-Azhar International Center for Astronomy and Space Sciences at the Islamic Research Complex, under the auspices of The Grand Imam, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, in the presence of Major General Tariq Al-Fiqi, Governor of Sohag, Dr. Essam Amer, Head of the Branch Sector at the Environmental Affairs Agency, a number of Al-Azhar and Church leaders, representatives of the Ministries of Youth, Sports and Higher Education, and representatives of civil society organizations and NGOs.

Fouad confirmed that participation in these events comes as part of Egypt's preparations to host the Climate Conference Cop 27 during the month of November 2022, where the national dialogue on climate change presents a message to the world that the next climate conference is an executive conference in which all segments of society participate and stand in solidarity to reduce the negative impact of climate change, as the results and recommendations of the national dialogue in the different governorates will be compiled and studied to benefit from them in the discussions and events of the climate conference.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ BBC News، تغير المناخ: الجفاف يهدد حياة ملايين الأطفال في الصومال، 12 يوليو 2022، <https://bbc.in/3JK97Aj>
⁵⁵ الدستور، "البيئة": الأردن من أكثر الدول تأثراً بظواهر التغيرات المناخية، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3QwFtAY>
⁵⁶ الدستور، بالتعاون مع اليونيسف.. الحكومة الأردنية تطلق دراسة حول تغيرات المناخ، 20 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3A2gbnj>



Within the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Children's Fund to raise awareness among young people, the Ministry and the organization announced, through their official Facebook page, that they had received training requests to conduct a participatory questionnaire at the local community level on issues related to youth and climate change.⁵⁷

Fouad praised **the youth's awareness of the dangers that threaten the environment, including the issue of climate change**, noting that this year's marathon aims to raise awareness of this issue and ways to confront its negative effects, and mobilize the energies of young people to positively participate in this important issue, and during the event, a problem was also shed light on the problem Single-use plastic waste and ways to reduce it through safe and environmentally friendly alternatives.⁵⁸

Within the framework of preparations for Egypt to host the 27th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change "COP 27", which is scheduled to be held next November in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, launched **the Environmental Awareness Program to develop some concepts, skills and special environmental trends on the issue of climate change and adaptation and mitigation mechanisms** among the pioneers in youth centers, at the level of the Republic.

The launch of this program is due to the importance of raising environmental awareness of the issue of climate change, which has become one of the most important issues at the present time, as it is linked to the survival of man on the planet, due to its direct and indirect impact on many sectors in the country, which called for the Egyptian government to launch the national strategy for changes. Climate Change 2050, stressing that Egypt is one of the countries most exposed to the negative effects of climate change on sectors such as coasts, agriculture, water resources, health and infrastructure," which required the state to take many measures to adapt to climate change.⁵⁹

Fouad announced the launch of the first national campaign to raise awareness of the issue of climate change under the slogan "Back to nature," as part of the President's initiative to raise environmental awareness, "Be Prepared for Green," and in continuation of Egypt's preparations for the Cop27 Climate Conference to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2022.

⁵⁷ وزارة البيئة، جهاز شئون البيئة بسوهاج يشارك في الملتقى العلمي الأول تحت عنوان الفلك وتكنولوجيا الفضاء تجاه البيئة والمناخ، 8 يوليو 2022،

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

⁵⁸ وزارة البيئة، <https://bit.ly/3BN6Su8>

⁵⁹ وزارة البيئة، البيئة : إطلاق المارثون البيئي السنوي للعام الثاني على التوالي بالإسكندرية تحت عنوان " من أجل مكافحة التغيرات المناخية"، 30 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3db3P4I>



Fouad confirmed that the campaign aims to create real environmental awareness of climate change issues among the Egyptian society of all its spectrums and age groups to actively participate in protecting the environment from the effects of climate change and developing their responsibility for the importance of their role in this issue, which has become a reality in our lives. We contribute to solving it because we are all reaping its effects in the weather fluctuations and unusual climatic effects by publishing media materials and awareness films in various media and on social media platforms, as well as spreading awareness messages on electronic screens in public squares and preparing public meetings and seminars in all governorates.⁶⁰

Sudan:

The Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources, through the project of adapting rural livelihoods to climate change in the Horn of Africa in Khartoum, concluded a series of training workshops on environmental and social requirements that were implemented in the states of Kassala, Gedaref and White Nile.⁶¹

UAE:

Ain El Bee'ah Association in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Abu Dhabi Environment Network in the United Arab Emirates signed a regional agreement for media cooperation in the field of spreading awareness and knowledge in issues of environmental protection, sustainable development and climate change. This agreement comes within the framework of both parties seeking to provide the appropriate tools to localize knowledge and enable the targeted groups of individuals, institutions, civil society organizations and others at the national and regional levels to have access to responsible knowledge tools in the mother tongue in the field of environment, sustainable development and climate change, especially since the Arab region is preparing to host two important international events in this field: the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022 in Sharm Sheikh (COP27) in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2023 in the United Arab Emirates (COP28).⁶²

Yemen:

The Public Authority for Environmental Protection, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the World - FAO - under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Environment, inaugurated a training and consultative workshop for a project to raise and

⁶⁰ وزارة البيئة، البيئة والشباب يطلقان البرنامج التوعوي لتنمية المفاهيم والمهارات البيئية بقضية التغيرات المناخية وآليات التكيف والتخفيف لدى الطلائع بمراكز الشباب على مستوى الجمهورية، 31 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vJfBtI>

⁶¹ وزارة البيئة، وزارة البيئة تطلق أول حملة وطنية لرفع الوعي بقضية التغيرات المناخية تحت شعار "رجع الطبيعة لطبيعتها"، 31 يوليو 2022،

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

⁶² نبض، المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية عبر مشروع تكيف سبل كسب العيش الريفي مع التغير المناخي في القرن الأفريقي، يختتم سلسلة ورش العمل التدريبية الخاصة بالاشتراكات البيئية والاجتماعية التي تم تنفيذها بولايات كسلا، القضارف والنيل الأبيض #سونا #السودان، 25 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3Ssqzvs>



strengthen the capabilities of the Public Authority for Environmental Protection and Climate Change for effective coordination with the Green Climate Fund. This workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of the Commission and empower it with the Green Fund to support Yemen in raising its flexibility and capabilities in measures to address the effects of climate change at the level of adaptation and mitigation, which will help to overcome some of the obstacles and challenges that impede climate action in Yemen, which gives importance to this project so that Yemen can Access to financing large projects by the Green Climate Fund.⁶³

A Yemeni government report monitored the damage of 449 displaced families as a result of torrential rains and storms, which swept away the muddy tents and homes of the displaced in the Marib Governorate, in the northeast of the country. The aforementioned cases were partially monitored in the camps of Al-Jafina, As-Suwayda, Al-Samya, Al-Dhamin Al-Sharqi, Al-Munif and Batah Al-Mail, and the field monitoring teams are still continuing the survey process for the affected people.⁶⁴

Syria:

The workshop held by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment discussed what has been accomplished by local partners in the field of scientific research, data, maps and surveys related to climate change and dust storms and their impact on natural and human resources in Syria. The workshop, which was held in the Ministry's building, aimed to unify efforts and put what was reached to decision-makers for a moment in development and economic plans and programs to adapt to climate changes.⁶⁵

Palestine:

The head of the Environmental Quality Authority discussed with the Minister of Education mechanisms for expanding joint cooperation; to serve educational, environmental and climatic issues. The two parties stressed the importance of sustaining educational, environmental and climatic work, and integrating students into the various activities implemented by "Environmental Quality" in schools to promote the concepts of awareness, environmental education, climate change mitigation and voluntary work. The two parties discussed the implementation of comprehensive awareness programs, providing training workshops for trainers of educational cadres, building their capacities and providing them with training

⁶³ نبيض، توقيع شراكة إعلامية مناخية بين جمعية عين البيئة بمصر وشبكة بيئة أبوظبي بالإمارات، 1 أغسطس 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vSNIF0>

⁶⁴ الأمانة، "تأثرت اليمن بالتغيرات المناخية وخيارات التكيف والتخفيف ضرورة للحد والتقليل من مخاطر التغيرات المناخية"، 17 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3QatE3x>

⁶⁵ مصرواوي، "أهالي مأرب يستغيثون".. ارتفاع أعداد المتضررين بسبب السيول في اليمن نتيجة التغير المناخي، 15 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3bMR0vv>



packages to implement environmental awareness programs in schools, and to establish an electronic platform specialized in this field.⁶⁶

Qatar:

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by Al Daayen Municipality, in cooperation with IKEA, organized an educational and awareness-raising event on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Plastic Bags. The event included asking a number of questions to the public about everything related to the harms and dangers of using single-use plastic bags on the environment, soil, water and wildlife, and the extent to which they are difficult to decompose and their harmful impact on human and animal health. During the event, environmentally friendly bags were distributed and the public was introduced to the rules for using plastic. The Department of General Hygiene has shared some awareness pictures about plastic damage, and awareness panels were displayed on all IKEA screens and Doha Festival City Mall, which dealt with guiding tips for plastic damage and the controls for its use.⁶⁷

At the international level and within the framework of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights' interest in the global climate change file; Maat has monitored some international movements that are consistent with what is stated in the observatory of the SDG 13 in the Arab region, during the month of July, which is also in line with the target of Goal 13 (climate action), as follows:

Target (1) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of access to safe drinking water and sanitation conducted a country visit to the Republic of Tunisia from 18 to 29 July 2022. During the visit, he met with state officials at the national and municipal levels, civil society organizations and individuals working in the field of human rights in Access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and other relevant stakeholders and rights holders, there is a particular interest in analyzing water management mechanisms and the impact of climate change on the hydrological map in Tunisia.⁶⁸

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

⁶⁶ وزارة الإدارة المحلية والبيئة، ورشة عمل حول التغيرات المناخية والعواصف الغبارية وأثرها على الموارد الطبيعية والبشرية، 27 يوليو 2022،

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

⁶⁷ سلطة جودة البيئة، سلطة جودة البيئة والتربية والتعليم تؤكدان على مرتكزات التعاون المشترك، 7 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vQsqqq>

⁶⁸ وزارة البلدية، نظمت وزارة البلدية ممثلة ببلدية الطعنين بالتعاون مع إيكيا، فعالية تثقيفية وتوعوية بمناسبة اليوم العالمي للحد من الأكياس البلاستيكية، 3 يوليو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3QxNUM2>



According to estimates of the United Nations Environment, 80% of the people displaced by climate change are women, and in that context, Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed the close relationship between climate change and violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective, during the fiftieth session of the Council Human Rights in Geneva, and indicated that when women are displaced due to climate change that leads to displacement, they are more vulnerable to violence, including sexual violence, where when they sleep, wash, shower or dress in shelters, tents or camps, the risk of sexual violence It is a tragic reality in their lives as immigrants or refugees.⁶⁹

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, delivered an opening statement to the fifteenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in which she highlighted the need to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations meetings on climate change, as they are the most groups exposed to the dangers of climate change. Therefore, they must be involved in decision-making.⁷⁰

Suggestions and recommendations:

Within the framework of what was included in this observatory of good practices carried out by the governments of Arab countries, especially with regard to promoting the third target of SDG 13 related to raising awareness of climate change issues, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents a set of recommendations in the hope of culminating Arab development efforts in the field of climate action and facing all the challenges that impede its course.

First: As indigenous peoples and women are among the groups most affected by climate change, **Maat for Peace recommends the participation of these vulnerable groups in United Nations meetings and their involvement in decision-making.**

Second: Maat appreciates the efforts of international mechanisms in promoting climate action, and **recommends the League of Arab States to cooperate with the UN mechanisms related to climate change**, and to make joint plans aimed at protecting vulnerable groups from the negative effects of climate change.

Third: In light of the effectiveness of media awareness campaigns aimed at limiting the phenomenon of climate change by modifying human behavior, Maat recommends media institutions and civil society organizations concerned with the climate crisis need **to work jointly in order to intensify awareness campaigns**, and to conduct workshops and training,

⁶⁹ خبير أممي في المياه الصالحة للشرب والصرف الصحي يزور تونس 15 يوليو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3IGlmfy>، ⁷⁰ Ohchr ، يؤدي تغير المناخ إلى تفاقم العنف ضد النساء والفتيات 12 يوليو 2022، <https://tinyurl.com/3r5up94c>



Maat also indicates the necessity of activating the role of these awareness campaigns in the Arab conflict areas in particular, where most of the peoples of those regions see that awareness campaigns to limit climate change are a luxury in relation to other crises such as war.

Fourth: Maat realizes the role of different groups of youth and women in promoting climate change issues, and recommends Arab civil society organizations **to encourage and hold forums and workshops that aim at giving an opportunity for groups to propose solutions to the climate change crisis**, and to submit those recommendations to the decision-making authorities.

Fifth: Maat recommends the governments of Arab countries to **integrate the achievement of SDGs 13 and 17** on partnerships for the goals, by participating in directing local resources in order to implement initiatives aimed at reducing the repercussions of Regional climate changes.