

SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

Losses and Damages from Climate Change in the Arab region

Goals and implementation mechanisms



Background:

The Loss and Damage Fund was the biggest breakthrough agreement from the COP 27 Conference held in Egypt. Nevertheless, adaptation plans in many developing countries of the Arab region remain ineffective, especially with the **intransigence of developed and rich countries that are responsible for the majority of global emissions, topped by the United States, the European Union and China**. Within the framework of its tireless endeavors to protect human rights and promote sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and good manner, **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights releases its eighteenth issue** of SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region under the title “**Losses & Damages Caused by Climate Change in the Arab Region: Objectives and Implementation Mechanisms**”, in order to track good practices as well as the challenges faced by Arab countries in achieving SDG13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Observatory** focuses on 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 monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced by the rest of the Arab countries in the same regard.

Monitoring Methodology

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

The **Observatory** also relies on information and data published by the ministries of Arab environments on their official websites, and whatever is reported by newspapers, in digital and traditional forms, to highlight the efforts made by Arab governments to achieve SDG 13 and the challenges they face in the process.

Targets of SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

SDG 13 Observatory targets and indicators vary 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 include; integrating measures related to climate change into policies, strategies, and planning at the national level; enhancing resilience and resilience in the face of climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and enhancing resilience to those hazards; and education, awareness-raising and building 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.

SDG 13 Legal Frameworks: Climate Action

SDG13 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.

It is noteworthy that the Arab DG13 Observatory is a research periodical issued by Maat under the umbrella of "Maat Platform for Climate Action", launched at the beginning of the 2023. The Platform seeks to enhance the work of CSOs in the field of climate action, by launching studies and periodicals aimed at raising levels of climate awareness, in

addition to organizing a series of training workshops and activities concerned with discussing mechanisms to address and combat climate change at all levels.; national, regional and international.

Axis I: The Country Focus of this Issue

First: Issue Subject: “Losses & Damages Caused by Climate Change in the Arab Region: Objectives and Implementation Mechanisms”

a. Overview of the reality of Arab countries being among those suffering from losses and damages:

Loss and damage are a concept open to interpretation by various groups and there is no agreed definition on loss and damage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, losses and damages can generally be understood as the negative impacts of climate change that often occur when mitigation and climate adaptation are weak or absent.

Losses and damages, especially economic ones, are negative effects that require a monetary allocation, such as the costs of rebuilding flood-damaged infrastructure, or the loss of revenue from crops destroyed by drought. While “non-economic losses and damages refer to negative impacts that are challenging or impossible to quantify in monetary terms. Examples include trauma resulting from experiencing a tropical cyclone, the disruption of communities due to displacement, or the loss of biodiversity.

Adaptation can't prevent all losses and damages. Developing countries and vulnerable groups, such as people of low socioeconomic class, migrant groups, the elderly, women and children are disproportionately affected by these impacts.

Most countries in **the Arab region** suffer from huge climatic losses and damages that require significant efforts to compensate or mitigate their effects, most notably an almost continuous drought since 1998, which is the most severe drought in 900 years. However, this does not prevent the fact that over the past three decades, some of the largest fossil fuel-producing Arab countries have had a substantial and detrimental influence on climate change in developing nations.

According to World Bank data, the Arab region includes 6% of the world's population. However, it has only 1% of the world's fresh water resources with 17 countries in the region below the water poverty line. With precipitation expected to drop by 20-40% in a world 2°C hotter, and up to 60% in a world 4°C hotter, **the region's ability to save water for its population and economies will pose significant challenges for the countries in the region.**

Although the Arab region contributes only 4.5% of the emissions that cause global warming, it pays the greatest price as a result of climate change¹. Extreme temperatures and unbridled climatic phenomena, such as drought and torrential rains, have become a common reality in the Arab world, and many Arab countries are now accustomed to temperatures of up to 50 degrees Celsius during the summer months. Each part of extra warming means more climate impacts, with losses from climate change in developing countries estimated at between \$290 billion and \$580 billion by 2030.

b. Efforts to combat losses and damages in the Arab region:

There are ongoing discussions on the “loss and damage” even before the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. The idea of establishing a “loss and damage” fund was first floated in 1991, at the suggestion of Vanuatu, a low-lying island nation in Pacific. Article 8 of the Paris Agreement recognizes “the importance of avoiding, mitigating and responding to losses and damages associated with the negative impacts of climate change”, **which led to the establishment of a formal implementation mechanism and the recognition that it should be funded at COP27** which became a critical first step towards helping developing countries deal with losses and damages caused by the adverse effects of climate change.

On November 6, 2022, Egypt presented a proposal during the procedural session of the COP27 Climate Conference to include the "loss and damage item" on the agenda which is related to financing damages resulting from climate change in developing countries. This is the first time that the issue has been included on the agenda of climate conferences; to address the losses, damages and compensation provided by developed countries to developing countries that are more affected by the risks of climate change

¹ التغير المناخي: هل تختفي الزراعة من المنطقة العربية؟، بي بي سي نيوز، 14 نوفمبر 2021، <http://bitly.ws/M8KU>

and that did not contribute significantly to harmful emissions that led to a rise in global temperature. The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) concluded its negotiations by agreeing to establish the "Loss and Damage" Fund, to help “the countries most affected” by climate change, to bear the increasing costs of the damages resulting from it. A committee was formed to develop a mechanism to follow up on the details of how the Fund operates and its sources of funding, for approval at the next COP28 Conference of the Parties in the UAE by the end of 2023.

In continuation of previous endeavors, on March 27-29, 2023, the first meeting of the specialized committee was held to discuss the details of establishing a “loss and damage financing” fund, during which it was agreed that a transitional committee consisting of 24 members (14 from developing countries and 10 from developed countries) would develop a specific definition of loss and damage, as well as details of the establishment and sources of financing. The committee holds three meetings throughout the year to discuss these details, with clear recommendations for adoption in the “COP28” that will be held in the UAE, as well as workshops to discuss how to activate the work of the fund and the financing issue.

In conclusion, it should be noted that approving the Loss and Damages Fund is the biggest breakthrough resulting from the COP 27. However, many developing countries, especially in the Arab region, have set adaptation plans as goals, but they are yet to be seen fully implemented on the ground. **These plans often encounter opposition and obstacles from developed and wealthy countries that cause most of the world's emissions, especially from the United States, the European Union and China, and at the Arab level Saudi Arabia and Qatar;** due to concerns about being burdened with financial obligations. Some of these countries make efforts through initiatives, such as Saudi Arabia's Saudi Green Initiative; or humanitarian aid, as China does.

Although the term "loss and damage" is associated with developing or poor countries, **there is no classification of the number of countries with climate losses and damage to date.** However, considering the strong advocacy efforts from the countries most impacted by climate change, particularly in the Arab region, **it is expected that some rich countries will reconsider their stance and contribute to financing operations during the climate conference (COP 28).** Especially China being the largest emitter of

greenhouse gases in the world, and it is also expected that reliance will be heavily concentrated on financial institutions instead of countries, or that part of the losses and damages will be allocated from other funds that already exist, or that fossil fuel companies be taxed.

c. Efforts to combat losses and damages in the Arab region in June:

In the framework of the endeavor to combat and mitigate climate damage and losses, the **UAE** Cabinet approved the third version of the second edition of the of the UAE's Nationally Defined Contributions Report. The third version represents **a commitment to reduce emissions** at the level of the UAE, bringing the target reduction to 40 % by 2030, with clear goals set for all local sectors. This commitment includes all parties in the country, including government and private sector institutions, to accelerate the UAE's path to achieving climate neutrality by 2050².

Qatar has also set targets to reduce emissions in all sectors by 25% by 2030. Qatar Energy's sustainability strategy aims **to reduce carbon intensity** by 25% in exploration and production operations and 35% in Liquefied Natural Gas LNG facilities by 2035. The company also plans to implement carbon capture and storage technology to capture more than 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year by 2035³.

Saudi Arabia, Saudi companies (Aramco Company, Saudi Electricity Company, and Inowa Company) purchased the largest number of carbon credits in the largest global auction carried out by the “Regional Voluntary Carbon Market” company, where carbon credits are one of the means offered globally to enable companies to contribute in reaching carbon neutrality, and ensuring a reduction in carbon emissions in value chains. The bidding carbon credits cover 18 projects, which include various projects that avoid the issuance of carbon emissions and work to remove them, and about three quarters of the projects are concentrated in the Middle East and North Africa, southern countries, and Sub-Saharan Africa⁴.

Libya, the Libyan government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian company Eni, **with the aim of studying and identifying opportunities with Libya to**

² الإمارات تسرع هدف خفض الانبعاثات إلى 40% بحلول 2030، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/PjG8>
³ تقرير لـ مجلس صناعات الطاقة: قطر تعزز استثماراتها محافظة على مكانتها كأكبر مصدر للغاز، الشرق، <http://bitly.ws/PjKw>
⁴ السعودية تشتري أكبر عدد من أرصدة ائتمانات الكربون في مزاد عالمي، الطاقة، <http://bitly.ws/PjQD>

reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop sustainable energy in Libya. The step came in line with the strategy and objectives of the Libyan government to accelerate carbon removal and energy transition paths. The memorandum will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by reducing routine gas flaring, fugitive emissions and breathing, as well as potential projects to reduce emissions from sectors that are difficult to mitigate⁵.

Second: Issue Eighteen Subject “Republic of Yemen”

a. Background on the effects of the war on the climate crisis in Yemen

The conflict in Yemen has been raging for eight years. Being one of the poorest countries in the world today, with a faltering economy and political and security instability, the impact of climate change on the country, in light of the war, exacerbates the situation further, leading to a variety of problems.

The war's destruction of urban infrastructure, water shortages, flood damage and weak government capacity have left two-thirds of the country's nearly 30 million people without access to safe water, sanitation and other basic services. These factors exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in the country, which is exacerbated by extreme poverty, lack of food and water, an outbreak of cholera, and disruption of health care services.

In 2014, the Iran-backed Houthi militia invaded the capital, Sana’a, and occupied it, turning its cities into a horrific bloodbath since that time, by brutally bombing residential neighborhoods with ballistic missiles, and throwing tens of thousands of its members and children into the crematoriums of war, in addition to escalating acts of piracy in the Red Sea. The Yemeni people have paid a heavy price for the Houthi coup, with over 40,000 killed and tens of thousands injured in direct military attacks⁶.

Since the Houthi militia's coup against the legitimacy in Yemen in 2014, the country has been witnessing a fierce war, the effects of which were not limited to the humanitarian, political and economic aspects, but also extended to the environmental aspect, causing

⁵ اتفاقية جديدة ل(إيني) مع ليبيا للحد من انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري، فواصل، <http://bitly.ws/PjvZ>
⁶ بعد تصنيفها جماعة إرهابية.. «مبليشيات الحوثيين» عقود من القتل والدمار في اليمن، جسور بوست، 1 مارس 2022، <http://bitly.ws/Mj8B>

severe damage to the environment, which caused the suspension of many existing projects and plans to confront the consequences of climate change, for example, the program to raise the resilience of local communities⁷.

Yemen faces a range of challenges, including desertification, oil leaks and the spread of sea mines on the beaches and coasts, through the decline of cultivated areas and the massive spread of locust swarms, to the rain floods resulting from the destruction of the water drainage infrastructure and the lack of maintenance in light of the corruption of the Houthi militia. Tragedy has shaped the lives of Yemenis over the past years, causing immense material and human damage. The Houthi militia has planted more than two million mines in various areas, especially in agricultural areas, plains and valleys, destroying crops and livestock and threatening the lives of farmers and pastoralists.

Mines in certain areas have caused destruction and soil deterioration and its salinity due to the lack of irrigation, cultivation and care for it, preventing thousands of farmers from cultivating their land, as in many regions along the west coast that were once known for their palm plantations, which have now become desert areas unsuitable for cultivation. The Safer reservoir, which contains about 1.1 million barrels of oil, poses a significant threat to the environment and the population in the event of a leak or explosion in the corroded reservoir. The United Nations has confirmed by sending a ship to the reservoir site to conduct urgent assessment and maintenance operations before transferring the crude oil to an alternative reservoir that is still stationed in Djibouti⁸.

Over the past eight years, the Houthi militia has refused to allow maintenance or emptying of the reservoir, despite the risks it poses to the Red Sea; neighboring coasts; the environmental, health and economic systems, amid constant international warnings that oil leakage from the Safer reservoir could result in a huge environmental disaster in the area.

The Houthi militia imposed a siege on a number of cities, such as Taiz and Al-Dhale, which prevented waste from being transported to designated dumps, recycled, or safely disposed of. This led to the accumulation of waste in the streets and neighborhoods, which causes pollution, the spread of diseases, and unpleasant odors. The excess waste

⁷ الحرب الحوثية الممنهجة وآثارها المدمرة على البيئة اليمنية (تقرير)، مأرب برس، 6 يونيو 2023، <http://bitly.ws/MjdX>
⁸ المرجع السابق ذكره

also increased **greenhouse gas emissions** and created a fertile environment for mosquito infestation, contributing to the spread of infectious and viral diseases. Yemen witnessed floods due to heavy rains in several areas, in which the water drainage infrastructure was destroyed by the Houthi militia, causing damage to the infrastructure, internally displaced people (IDP) sites, and shelters⁹.

b. A brief on government policies related to combating the climate crisis in Yemen:

1. Yemen's position on international agreements:

Climate change forces various countries and societies to adapt to limit its harmful repercussions. This was the trend in Yemen from the beginning of the 1990s, where Yemen has been keen to protect the environment and ensure that the planet is preserved from the devastating effects of global warming resulting from climate change. It joined **the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** and became a party to it on May 21, 1996, and became a party to the **Kyoto Protocol** in September 2004. In September 2016, Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi signed the **Paris Agreement** on Climate Change in the United Nations building.

2. The National Program for Adaptation to Climate Change:

The authorities concerned with monitoring climate change and its effects in Yemen issued three environmental reports (National Communications) on climate change in the years 2001, 2009, and 2018, and developed a National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) that identified the urgent requirements for adaptation in three sectors: water, agriculture, and coastal areas, 12 projects were proposed in this regard. With the political and security turmoil in the country, along with the outbreak of war in 2015, the climate issue receded and became a secondary priority, projects and plans that were supposed to be pursued to address and adapt to the effects of climate change have stalled¹⁰.

⁹ المرجع السابق ذكره
¹⁰ الانكشاف الجديد: اليمن في مواجهة مخاطر التغير المناخي، مركز الامارات للدراسات وحدة الدراسات اليمينية، 5 ديسمبر 2022،
<http://bitly.ws/Mjm5>

3. Yemen's participation in climate conferences

Yemen has participated in numerous climate conferences, the latest of which was COP 27. However, unlike other participating countries that presented strategic plans to address climate change, because Yemen lacks an emergency plan to adapt to natural disasters and climate changes, but hoping to draw the attention of the States Parties to the tragic situation of high temperatures and turbulent rainy seasons, which contributed to the spread of swamps as a result of torrents and floods and caused the loss of thousands of lives. The Yemeni president also pointed out that Yemen's environmental and tourism assets have been devastatingly affected in light of the collapse of the protection network due to the war sparked by the Iranian-backed terrorist Houthi militia.

There are efforts and interventions aimed at dealing with the issue of climate change in Yemen in cooperation with the international community, the most important of which are:

- **World Bank Pilot Program for Climate Resilience 2012:**

It is a participatory plan funded by the World Bank based on the efforts made by the **Government of Yemen**, the objectives of its national adaptation plan, and its strategic climate resilience program are to support investments that mainstream and enhance climate resilience planning and action. At the end of 2021, the program's investment in Yemen amounted to \$1.59 million.

- **Rainwater Harvesting plans from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP):**

In the face of the negative effects of water scarcity in the Yemeni countryside resulting from climate change, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has drawn up plans to collect rainwater, build channels and networks to use flood waters for irrigation, and also to support integrated watershed management practices and reclamation of degraded agricultural lands. With the support of the Yemen Emergency Response to the Crisis Project, the same UN program is working to rehabilitate irrigation canals and agricultural terraces, and build walls to protect against floods in some areas.

▪ **World Bank Integrated Urban Services Project:**

The World Bank is financing the so-called Emergency Integrated Urban Services Project, which aims to help 16 cities restore infrastructure services and become resilient to climate fluctuations. **The project is based on project cooperation agreements between it and local partners in Yemen, including: the Public Works Project, the Urban Water Supply Projects, and the Road Maintenance Projects.** The program was suspended for a period due to the conflict, and in December 2021 the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank approved two grants totaling \$170 million with the aim of restoring essential services in urban areas in Yemen, enhancing resilience to climate change, and addressing the problem of food insecurity in rural areas through Improve road quality. In March 2022, locals in Yemen discussed the need to activate the second phase of the program.

c. Efforts to achieve SDG13 targets to enhance climate action:

During June, the State of Yemen made efforts to ensure its contribution to protecting the environment and its resources, and the climate is an essential part of the environment. Therefore, the government has taken many measures aimed at reducing climate change, which will naturally affect the reduction of air, water, and soil pollution. In that section, the focus will be on the efforts of Arab governments to achieve the targets of Goal 13 during June, as follows:

Target 1	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
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The Yemeni government directed its efforts to integrate measures related to climate change into policies, strategies and planning at the national level through various efforts represented in:

The Minister of Water and Environment, Engineer Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi, approved a \$5 million plan for biodiversity support in Yemen approved by the Global Environment Facility for the eighth phase, as support provided by Yemen to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in implementing a coordinated and emergency plan to save the Safer reservoir and end the potential environmental disaster posed by a dilapidated oil reservoir, as part of Yemen's water and climate change strategy

supported by the United Nations Development Program. This effort emphasizes coordination and joint action in developing policies that improve Yemen's ability to adapt to climate change¹¹.

Minister Al-Sharjabi discussed with the Deputy Director of the UNDP in Aden, Walid Baharoun, international efforts to prevent a potential disaster in Yemen, the region, and the world that threatens peace and security in the Red Sea, which may result from the leakage of more than a million barrels of oil on board the Safer tanker. He emphasized that Yemen's contribution is in line with the government's commitment to support and facilitate the UN and international community's efforts to protect the environment and to save Safer and prevent any potential disasters¹².

Target 2	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and national disasters in all countries
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Within the framework of Yemeni efforts aimed at enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate-related hazards, the Minister of Water and Environment, Eng. Al-Sharjabi; the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fisheries, Major General Salem Al-Soqtari; and the Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Qasim Buhaibeh, participated on the 6th of June, in **the work of the Sustainability Forum. And government work organized by the Arab Organization for Administrative Development of the League of Arab States** in partnership with the government of the United Arab Emirates in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

The Forum discussed; Innovative sustainable policies, the importance of the green economy as a strategic priority for Arab governments, in addition to the readiness of Arab governments for a sustainable future. The forum witnessed the launch of the report on the status of Arab governments "Sustainability and Green Government", which would contribute to raising the readiness of Arab governments to achieve sustainability and confront climate change and the economic and social challenges associated with it; and explore future sectors that achieve contributions to Arab

¹¹ وزارة المياه والبيئة اليمن، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/Mjs5>

¹² المرجع السابق ذكره

development by defining proactive climate policies, visions and actions and focusing on flexibility to adapt to the requirements of the green economy¹³.

Target 3	Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaption, impact reduction and early warning
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Within the framework of raising individual and institutional capabilities and raising Yemeni awareness towards climate issues, the Minister of Water and Environment, Engineer Tawfiq, met with the Director of the Office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Aden “FAO” Dr. Walid Saleh, and the two discussed a number of issues related to the environment and climate, Engineer Tawfiq reviewed **a project to build capacities for climate change**, and capacity-building of the authority’s two branches in Hadramout Governorate, the coastal regions (Mukalla) and the valley and desert regions (Saeyun), which will also include the rest of the authority’s branches, estimated at about one million dollars, funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, which focused Yemen to develop **the skills of the environmental workforce in Yemen**¹⁴.

Axis II: Achieving SDG 13 in the Arab region

This axis reviews the reality of achieving SDG13 in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that were made to enhance climate action during the month, by classifying those efforts according to the goals followed by the Observatory as follows.

Target 1	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
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¹³ وزارة المياه والبيئة اليمنية، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/MjsF>

¹⁴ مرجع سابق، الوزير الشرجبي يبحث التعاون والتنسيق بين الوزارة والمنظمة مع مدير مكتب الفاو بعدن

First: North Africa:

a. Egypt

During June, the Arab Republic of Egypt made targeted efforts to integrate measures to deal with climate change within the framework of national policy, strategy and plans. The most prominent of these efforts are:

Within the framework of integrating national efforts to combat climate change into national strategies and plans, Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, announced the **preparation of an integrated management plan for air quality and climate is being developed in Cairo**, implemented in cooperation with the World Bank in Egypt for \$200 million, in the start of the activities of the fourth day of the Environmental Investment Support Week, in celebration of World Environment Day 2023. Dr. Yasmine emphasized that the launch of an integrated climate and air quality management plan is aligned with the government's efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate the sources and amounts of pollutants that lead to the decline in air quality. This plan helps fight regional and global warming and improves the quality of life for residents in Cairo¹⁵.

b. Libya

The Ministry of Environment believes that environmental work should be based on cooperation and partnership between all state institutions, and it can only be achieved by concerted efforts. To achieve this goal, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Libyan Center for Solar Energy Research and Studies. The terms of the agreement focus on enhancing cooperation between the two parties in promoting the transition to renewable energies in Libya, while also protecting the environment from the polluting effects of fossil fuel energy. Fossil fuels contribute to environmental pollution and are a significant source of carbon dioxide emissions, which is a key factor in climate change¹⁶.

¹⁵ تبدأ اعداد خطة متكامله لادارة تلوث الهواء والمناخ مع كافة اطراف المصلحة، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <http://bitly.ws/MjAa>،
¹⁶ وزارة البيئة - ليبيا المركز الليبي لبحوث ودراسات الطاقة الشمسية، وزارة البيئة ليبيا، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/LmNa>

c. Morocco

On June 23rd in Tangier, in a speech during the official opening of the "MedCOP Climate 2023" conference, the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water emphasized that Morocco took proactive practical measures to confront the decline of water resources due to climate changes affecting the Mediterranean basin. It was pointed out that Morocco worked to strengthen its resilience in the face of climate changes, especially in a situation characterized by weak precipitation, such that Morocco has 152 dams with a storage capacity of about 19.9 billion cubic meters, which is expected to rise to 25 billion cubic meters in 2027. Several hill and minor dams are being built, groundwater management is organized through mattress contracts, and working on connecting water basins, which will enable, during the coming months, the transferring of between 300 million and 400 million cubic meters of water from the Sebou basin to the Bou Regreg basin, thus ensuring drinking water for about 12% of the Moroccan population.

In this context, it was noted that the organization of this conference reflects the joint commitment to regional cooperation and coordination to face the challenges of climate change, which became a real threat to the environment and societies in various parts of the world, especially in the Mediterranean basin, which, given its geographical location and natural characteristics, as well as its socio-economic and population estimated at 500 million people, is considered one of the most sensitive areas in which the impact of climate change is severe¹⁷.

d. Algeria

During a field visit, Minister Faiza Dahleb, and her leaders inspected the state of Guelma, the minister inspected the conditions of the sector and the most important projects of concern to the state. After inspection, she listened to presentations about the projects and mechanisms adopted by the various state departments to protect the region from the various threatening dangers, especially fires caused by high temperatures in the summer, as well as ways to exploit this forest wealth sustainably.

¹⁷ ميد كوب: المغرب اتخذ تدابير عملية استباقية لمواجهة تراجع الموارد المائية بسبب التغيرات المناخية (السيد بركة)، أكسبريس، 23 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LPQA>

After receiving a presentation on the national plan for adaptation to climate change, the Minister stressed the importance of strengthening climate governance and adapting to the phenomena of climate change to confront the latter and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. She also highlighted the great role played by Algeria and its strong commitment to the international agreements signed in combating climate change.¹⁸

e. Mauritania

During June, the Joint Program for the Sahel Intervention Project to address the challenges of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change in Mauritania was launched. The new project is a part of a regional operation at the level of the G5 Sahel and Senegal, which was launched in response to the call of the leaders of the five G5 countries, by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in cooperation with the UN resident agencies. Funding amounting to 180 million dollars has been allocated for this project for the six countries, co-financed by IFAD, a group of donors and the six governments. The financing of the Mauritanian component amounts to 24.6 million dollars over six years in two phases, where 50% of the component was filled¹⁹.

f. Tunisia

The discussions are continuing between Tunisia and Egypt to implement the agreement signed in the environmental partnership between them in the "COP27", in addition to Tunisia's willingness to participate in the COP28. Tunisia is always proactive with regard to climate issues and prepared a national strategy aimed at reducing the volume of carbon intensity. The definition of the concept of a low-carbon national strategy was based on a number of forward-looking models for some sectors such as energy, industry, agriculture, forests, and waste.²⁰ Tunisia seeks to reduce carbon rates by 45% in 2030, which is the nationally determined contribution target, and by 85% in 2040, and hopes that the level of carbon intensity will decline to zero in 2050²¹.

¹⁸ وزارة البيئة والطاقة المتجددة الجزائرية، 24 يونيو 2023، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/LQ8k>

¹⁹ معالي الوزير يعطي شارة انطلاق مشروع تدخل البرنامج المشترك للساحل لمواجهة تحديات كوفيد19 والنزاعات والتغيير المناخي في موريتانيا، وزارة الزراعة الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية، 22 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LTu7>

²⁰ البيئة التونسية: المناقشات مستمرة مع مصر لتنفيذ اتفاقية الشراكة البيئية الخاصة cop27، اليوم السابع، 17 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/M2hr>

²¹ المرجع السابق ذكره

According to the Tunisian Ministry, confronting climate change requires an active role and effective participation from all parties, especially the private sector, by strengthening its participation in the implementation and financing of major projects in the field of reducing emissions and adaptation within the framework of the green economy, besides the important role of local structures and authorities to support the elements of local development in harmony with national policies, especially in actual and field implementation of adaptation projects at local levels²².

Regarding the ministry's plan to deal with climate changes, a long-term vision was defined to make Tunisia able to withstand and adapt to the effects of current and expected climate changes, by strengthening the coping capabilities of its ecological and agricultural systems, its citizens, its economy, and its rural and urban spaces, and working to complete a number of procedures, measures and transformations necessary to ensure a sustainable economic and social development path²³.

A national strategy was prepared to withstand climate change through the methodology of expanded dialogue with all parties and sectors that are most vulnerable and affected by climate change, seeking the help of international and local experts in the field, and benefiting from the available data, tools and modern approaches at the international level, including in particular the reports of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Climate, which is the highest scientific body for guidance in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). All other strategies concerned with this issue and the SDGs were taken into consideration²⁴.

Second: Arab Gulf States

A. Saudi Arabia

Under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh, the foreign ministers of the League of Arab States and developing Pacific Island countries held their second ministerial meeting on June 12, 2023 with the aim of further developing joint cooperation efforts between the two sides in the economic, developmental and environmental fields. The meeting recognized the special

²² المرجع السابق ذكره

²³ المرجع السابق ذكره

²⁴ المرجع السابق ذكره

circumstances of the Pacific and Arab countries related to access to finance for development, including climate finance.²⁵

The meeting noted the catastrophic and increasingly dangerous challenges posed by climate change at all levels, and declared the importance of joint action to address this change effectively and urgently. The meeting welcomed the UN efforts in this regard and the results of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit (COP27), and also welcomed the convening of the UN Summit on the UNFCCC (COP28) in Dubai.

It was pledged to contribute to the successful results of the Summit, including activating the loss and damage facility and joint coordination to ensure the flow of financial support and necessary technologies to developing countries. It was also agreed to support initiatives aimed at achieving green development, including the Saudi initiative for a green Middle East. The foreign ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by their countries to achieve sustainable development, reduce poverty, and leave no one behind, and took note of the efforts made in this regard within the framework of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the SDGs Summit in September 2023 and the Future Summit during the same month of 2024²⁶.

B. Bahrain

Representative Hisham Al-Asheeri, Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, and Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Services Committee in the House of Representatives, participated in the work of the **Sustainability and Government Action Forum** organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) of the League of Arab States in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, on June 6, 2023. Both confirmed the readiness of the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve sustainability, confront climate changes and the associated economic and social challenges, and exploring future sectors that make contributions to sustainable development by defining proactive climate policies, visions and actions, and focusing on flexibility to adapt to the requirements of the green economy.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is also continuing to pursue policies and initiatives that support the promotion of climate action, and strategies aimed at enhancing environmental

²⁵ دعم دولي لاستضافة السعودية معرض "إكسبو 2030"، إندياندينت عربية، 13 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LUdZ>
²⁶ المرجع السابق ذكره.

sustainability and ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future, pointing out that building the capacities of green governments is an opportunity where investments and innovative solutions can reduce operational costs²⁷.

C. UAE

The UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Maryam bint Muhammad Al Muhairi, chaired an open ministerial discussion session within the agenda of the UN Security Council, on “threats to international peace and security” on June 14, 2023, where the session discussed “The Impact of Climate Change on the Roles and Responsibilities of UN Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions.”²⁸

During the (COP28) conference to be held in Dubai later this year, **the United Arab Emirates, as host of the global event, plans to allocate a day (Relief, Recovery and Peace)**, which is the first of its kind in the history of the conferences of the parties, with the aim to highlight the interrelationship of climate change, peace and security issues to propose practical solutions to combat climate change and reduce its impact on stability²⁹.

The UAE encourages to adopt an ambitious agenda during (COP 28) to reach an adequate level of climate financing in light of the scarcity of the necessary support to limit climate changes, especially in countries and societies that suffer from humanitarian and security crises. In some cases, they receive as low as 80 times less per capita than other developing countries, which already receive insufficient inflows. Now is the time to better understand how to interact with these phenomena, the role that the international community can play, and how we can cooperate to build peaceful, more prosperous, climate-resilient societies³⁰.

D. Kuwait

The Director-General of the Environment Public Authority, Samira Al-Kandari, announced **Kuwait’s accession to the “Crimea Alliance for Climate Initiative”** launched by the UAE in partnership with Indonesia at the 27th Conference of the Parties in Sharm

²⁷العشيري: جاهزية مملكة البحرين لتحقيق الاستدامة ومواجهة التغيرات المناخية، الوطن، 6 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LVjN>
²⁸ الإمارات: تخصيص يوم للإغاثة والتعافي والسلام خلال مؤتمر كوب 28 للتغير المناخ، الشروق، 14 يونيو، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LW4T>
²⁹ المرجع السابق ذكره
³⁰ المصدر السابق ذكره

El-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022. On June 16, Al-Kandari stressed Kuwait's commitment to this initiative, which targets accelerating and increasing efforts to preserve and rehabilitate mangrove ecosystems and highlight their importance in mitigating and adapting to climate change³¹.

This initiative is one of the nature-based solutions to face the challenge of climate change and efforts to absorb and isolate greenhouse gas emissions globally, and that the authority, as the national point of contact with the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, is working to implement Kuwait's commitments in this regard, as it submitted a document of contributions at the national level in 2021, including a number of projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 by 7.4% of total national emissions³².

E. Sultanate of Oman

The Greater Oman Municipality, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and with the support of the World Bank, **launched on June 10 the Oman Plan to Confront the Effects of Climate Change**. It was pointed out that climate change is one of the most important challenges facing the world, and Earth has never been subjected to this level of the currently witnessed carbon emissions; what necessitated that some countries and cities of the world warn to confront possible disasters, the dimensions of which are still not fully defined. It was pointed out that the Municipality, as part of the global and national systems, fulfills its responsibilities towards this global threat, and joins the rest of the world's cities to mitigate carbon emissions through policies and projects that achieve sustainable practices and enhance the city's resilience. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Environment, Engineer Ahmed Al-Qatarneh, pointed out the importance of transferring this plan to the implementation stage, to be applied later to the rest of the Jordanian governorates and cities, so that the results will be tangible for all³³.

Oman's plan to confront the effects of climate change is a continuation of the resilience plan which was launched in 2017, and aims to improve the resilience of the city and make it more resilient in the face of shocks or problems. The two plans to prevent Oman and confront the effects of climate change are consistent with the government's

³¹ الكويت تنضم إلى "مبادرة تحالف القرم من أجل المناخ"، الهيئة الوطنية للإعلام، 16 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LWpg>

³² المصدر السابق ذكره

³³ الأمانة تطلق خطة عمان لمواجهة آثار التغير المناخي، وكالة الأنباء الأردنية، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/M2P3>

commitments to international agreements, the latest of which is the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through which countries must reduce carbon emissions by various percentages to contain the rise in global temperature to less than two degrees Celsius in 2030³⁴.

The plan includes several axes for the city to be initiative to preserve the environment by adopting sustainable policies and practices aimed at raising the standard of living of citizens and preserving the city for future generations, working on axes related to transportation, electric energy consumption and waste management, and a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40%, and for the city to become carbon neutral in 2050, which qualifies it to participate with other global cities in influencing and leading to confront the effects of climate change³⁵.

g. Qatar

On June 16, the Environmental Operations Department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change inaugurated **an early warning system project to monitor oil pollution in the marine environment of the State of Qatar via satellite** at the ministry's headquarters. The project system, the latest of its kind, is characterized by its ability to capture small-sized oil slicks (40 liters) without being affected by weather conditions such as clouds, rain, fog and sunlight. The system also works by transmitting radar waves reflected from the surface of the oil slick, where the satellite picks them up as black or blind spots, then sends the pictures and reports to the ministry³⁶.

Third: Levant Countries:

A. Jordan:

The implementation of the Green Growth National Action Plan (GG-NAP) (2021-2025) covering 6 sectors: energy, water, waste, agriculture, tourism and transportation was monitored through cooperation with ministries, international organizations and global initiatives, and coordination and support continued to get the European Union grant to support the green economy in Jordan, which includes 8 projects and two indicators,

³⁴ المصدر السابق ذكره

³⁵ المصدر السابق ذكره

³⁶ وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي بدولة قطر، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/M34G>

where the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) received a \$7 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) to support electric transportation in Petra, and received a \$6 million grant from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which is in its final stages of implementing a green sustainable job creation project for refugees and host communities³⁷.

Two pioneering energy efficiency networks for the industrial sector were launched as part of the Emissions Reduction Policy Dialogue project in cooperation with GIZ, as the green climate measures in the transport sector and their impact on financial, environmental and social aspects were assessed by certain mathematical models. An executive map and a national program will be developed to implement a sustainable national solid waste management system, in coordination with international bodies such as the World Bank, which includes better utilization of waste, recycling and reuse to achieve economic, environmental and social benefits.

With regard to the phenomenon of climate change, the Government of Jordan has stressed in more than one international forum the need for concerted efforts to implement the provisions of global agreements confronting climate change, and the Ministry of Environment worked with the World Bank to prepare a draft "Jordanian policy framework for cooperative approaches under Article VI of Paris Agreement and other international carbon markets, besides working with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the GGGI to integrate the private sector into climate action, by holding several sectoral consultation sessions with representatives of the private sector in the relevant sectors (energy, water, agriculture, tourism, etc.)³⁸

The Ministry also worked with the GCF through the GGGI to prepare a draft "Climate Financing Policy" and present it to the relevant authorities, besides working with the UN Development Program (UNDP) to prepare the national policy for climate change and work with the relevant authorities to ensure that the policy is integrated into the plans and programs of the various national agencies, and approving the updating of the national climate change policy (2022-2050).³⁹

³⁷ المصدر السابق ذكره

³⁸ المرجع السابق ذكره

³⁹ المرجع السابق ذكره

Recently, the second phase of accreditation of the Cities and Villages Development Bank has been entered into as the national approved body for the GCF. The Ministry supervises many documents of climate change projects implemented by other ministries, makes observations on them, and studies their compatibility with national policies and plans for climate change. The Ministry also started the actual operation of the monitoring, reporting and verification system, data collection and entry into the system, inventory and registration of capital projects that respond to climate change, and their entry into the monitoring, reporting and verification system.

Jordan also participated in the conferences of the parties concerned with confronting climate change at the global level, which is an active participation, as an official delegation headed by His Majesty the King and representatives from most ministries participate in these conferences annually to negotiate with the great powers to help Jordan face the consequences of climate change, pointing to working with the relevant authorities to work for the success of the Jordanian initiative launched by His Majesty the King during the 27th Conference of the Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh under the title "Climate and Refugees Interconnected Initiative", which stipulates that countries must recognize that conflict leads to an increase in forced displacement worldwide, and that refugee-hosting countries and the main source of this phenomena are located in Asia, Europe and Latin America⁴⁰.

b. Palestine:

On June 15, the Environmental Quality Authority launched the **National Digital Platform on Climate Change in Palestine** during a workshop held in Ramallah, with the participation of the head of the Environmental Quality Authority, Nisreen Al-Tamimi, the Minister of Local Government, Majdi Al-Saleh, the head of the Energy Authority, Zafer Melhem, the head of the Water Authority, Mazen Ghoneim, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ammar Yassin, and the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hussam Tlaib.⁴¹

The importance of the electronic platform, which is the first electronic application that includes those interested in climate change affairs, emerged to cooperate together to

⁴⁰ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁴¹ اطلاق سلطة جودة البيئة للمنصة الوطنية الرقمية لتغير المناخ لدولة فلسطين، سلطة جودة البيئة فلسطين، فيسبوك: <http://bitly.ws/M2Ww>

solve the climate crisis by presenting climate action in Palestine through the platform, and reviewing the priorities and needs of those interested in financing and projects, which is an awareness tool for researchers, students and all those interested in working on climate change projects. This tool contains information panels displaying maps and graphic presentations about emissions and the sectors most affected by this phenomenon, and highlights national strategies and plans related to climate change and action plans for various sectors⁴².

Fourth: East Africa:

A. Somalia

Elias Abu Bakr, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, participated in the celebration that was held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States today, on the occasion of the International Day for Desertification and Drought Control, and was organized by the Environment and Meteorology Department of the Arab League. He called for concerted efforts among the **Arab countries to develop an Arab road map that contributes to developing radical solutions to solve the climate change crisis**, opening horizons for Arab and international cooperation in this regard, and exchanging experiences to create a better future. The Ambassador added that Somalia suffered a lot as a result of climatic changes, especially the drought crisis and recurrent floods. With reference to the latest international reports in this regard, the year 2022 witnessed the death of an estimated forty-three thousand (43,000) cases, half of whom were children under five years due to the increasing drought, this number is higher than what witnessed in 2017 and 2018, as Somalia suffers from a severe humanitarian crisis due to the worsening drought crisis, the worst in forty years.⁴³

B. Djibouti

In the presence of Djibouti's Minister of Finance and Economy for Industry, Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, and Minister of Infrastructure and Equipment, Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim, the African Development Bank launched the Integrated Urban Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation Study Project in Djibouti. The African Program aims to finance disaster risk

⁴² المرجع السابق ذكره

⁴³ سفير الصومال يدعو لوضع خارطة طريق عربية لحل أزمة تغير المناخ، المصري اليوم، 20 يونيو 2023، <http://bitly.ws/Mk7Q>

management and its components through a grant of US\$ 3.8 million from the African Development Fund. The Bank's initiative provides innovative disaster risk financing tools that will enable Djibouti to better hedge against flood risks. The program will also enhance the capacity of national actors involved in disaster risk management, assist in the development of a national disaster risk financing strategy, and cover a three-year period (2023-2025) and will be implemented by the Djibouti Roads Agency.⁴⁴

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

A. Egypt

Within the framework of Egypt's drive towards enhancing flexibility and resilience in the face of climate-related threats, Egypt participated in the 58th session of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the UNCCC in Germany, and reviewed, during the workshop held on the sidelines of the "Evaluation of Global Progress Made in Nature-Based Solutions to Face the Effects of Climate Change", the progress made so far in the Nature-Based Solutions Initiative (ENACT) launched by Egypt in partnership with Germany, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a number of countries during the activities of the Climate Conference 27 in November 2020, as one of the mechanisms to link between facing the effects of climate change and preserving diversity biological and nature protection.⁴⁵

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with Mr. Abdul Hakim El-Waer, Assistant Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the FAO Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa and his accompanying delegation, in order to enhance **ways of bilateral cooperation in the areas of adaptation projects and linking climate change, biodiversity and use of land and local communities**, and linking this to achieving one of the framework's goals, which is declaring 30% of land and water protected areas by 2030. The Minister of Environment

⁴⁴ جيبوتي: البنك الأفريقي للتنمية يطلق مشروع دراسة متكاملة عن البنية التحتية الحضرية والتكيف مع المناخ، البنك الأفريقي للتنمية، 6 يونيو 2023،

<http://bitly.ws/Mkce>

⁴⁵ وزارة البيئة تشارك في الدورة ٥٨ لاجتماعات الهيئات الفرعية لاتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ في بون بألمانيا ... مستشار وزيرة البيئة يعرض التقدم المحقق في مبادرة الحلول القائمة على الطبيعة ENACT خلال الحدث الجانبي "تقييم التقدم العالمي في الحلول القائمة على الطبيعة لمواجهة آثار تغير المناخ"، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <http://bitly.ws/MiCN>

indicated that the Ministry is interested in integrating local communities in preserving natural resources, managing protected areas, and creating job opportunities for them in these areas, which prompted her to launch the "Tales of Their People" campaign to establish a dialogue for local communities, with the aim of preserving their heritage, traditions and customs in 11 tribes living within natural reserves, and to emphasize the idea that ecotourism is not limited to the place only, but also the lives of its inhabitants and their relationship with the surrounding nature that resulted in their cultural and artistic heritage, pointing to the possibility of cooperation in supporting these communities, some of which work in agriculture to enhance their capabilities to preserve biodiversity and face the effects of climate change.⁴⁶

The Minister of Environment stressed her aspiration to cooperate with the organization in building on the existing partnership in the joint file between the organization, the ministry and the Global Environment Facility in adaptation and food security projects, by going to involve the private sector in working on an adaptation project related to land use management in partnership with the private sector to support small farmers and housewives, while achieving the mitigation goal while simultaneously reducing emissions from the agricultural sector, noting that it is a promising opportunity for joint cooperation in linking climate change, biodiversity, land uses and local communities⁴⁷.

In celebration of World Environment Day 2023, Yasmine Fouad visited the Ateco Pharma factory, the first environmentally friendly pharmaceutical factory, besides the factory's procedures that qualify it to **be an environment and climate friendly factory** in terms of clean energy and the reduction of carbon emissions, where natural gas is used as clean energy instead of diesel, and It is used also in steam boilers and central air-conditioning units for industrial and central refrigeration, especially since natural gas plays a key role in reducing carbon emissions. A closed irrigation system is also used to preserve the environment by using the output of industrial waste, the industrial process, and the output of the water plant after processing it to convert the available spaces in the factory to green areas without the need to use city water and ensure the implementation of the reuse principle. The output of the production process of steam is also used to convert it into condensed water and collect it in underground tanks. This

⁴⁶ وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع مساعد المدير العام لمنظمة الفاو والممثل الإقليمي لمنطقة الشرق الأدنى وشمال أفريقيا سبل التعاون المستقبلي في مشروعات التكيف، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <http://bitly.ws/MjB6>

⁴⁷ نفس المرجع السابق

output is pumped with special pumps to feed the water tank of the industrial steam boilers instead of using city water, in order to achieve the principle of recycling and use, and also reduces the energy consumed.⁴⁸

Egypt participated in a session entitled "**Advocacy for Climate and Development Priorities**" within the activities of the OPEC Fund for Development Forum, with the participation of Dr. Abdel Hamid Al-Khalifa, Director General of the OPEC Fund for Development, and Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt in the Conference of Parties to the UNCCC and the Special Envoy for financing the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, **that it has become necessary to reform the global financing system and adopt new financing policies that contribute to providing adequate, fair and effective financing for development and climate action**⁴⁹.

Mohieldin noted the importance of strengthening the regional and local climate and development action dimensions and drew attention to the practical outcomes of the five regional forums launched by the Egyptian presidency of COP 27 in cooperation with the UN regional economic commissions and climate leaders by discussing more than 400 projects and choosing about 120 climate projects that could be invested, financed and implemented during the first edition of the forums. The second edition, the UAE the president of COP 28 joined it, aims to reach final agreements to finance and implement between 10 and 15 projects before the Climate Conference in Dubai. Regarding the local dimension of development and climate action, Muhyiddin said Egypt's national initiative for smart green projects was a pioneering development model and climate action settlement. It succeeded in drawing up an investment map in all governorates of Egypt and involving all local parties and various community groups in the development and climate work implementation⁵⁰.

B. Morocco:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in Germany's climate meetings in Berlin in June 2023. Morocco had long been a leading country thanks to King Mohammed VI's initiatives, achieving its ambitious national goal of reducing CO₂ emissions. Morocco had

⁴⁸ نفس المرجع السابق
⁴⁹ محيي الدين: إصلاح نظام التمويل العالمي ضروري لتمويل العمل المناخي، اليوم السابع، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/Ln2H>
⁵⁰ نفس المرجع السابق

adopted the region's best standards for combating climate change, resulting in the Noor solar power plant providing 1.3 million people with clean electricity.⁵¹

C. Tunisia:

The Ministry of Environment, under the supervision of Ms. Leila Chikhaoui Mahdaoui, Minister of Environment of Tunisia, organized the first meeting of the Tunisian-Japanese Joint Committee to activate the Joint Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Exchange Mechanism on June 20, 2023, with the participation of high-level representatives and experts from the Japanese and Tunisian sides⁵².

On the margins of organizing the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), Tunisia has spent the memorandum of understanding on joining Japan's mechanism for exchanging greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Agreement on Climate. The mechanism, which currently comprises 26 Member States, including 3 Arab States (Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates), aims to contribute to the financing of projects related to renewable energies, transport, clean industries, and waste disposal that led to the reduction and exchange of greenhouse gases under the Japanese carbon market⁵³.

During the first meeting of the mechanism, the procedures for submitting, approving, following up, and evaluating projects, and the practical procedures for authorizing the exchange of carbon reductions between Tunisia and Japan, were approved. Practical measures were also discussed to start financing electricity production projects by adopting renewable energies in southern Tunisia, with final project financing documents to be completed by the end of 2023.⁵⁴

⁵¹ العمل المناخي.. المغرب، بلد رائد منذ فترة طويلة بفضل مبادرات جلالة الملك (وزيرة الخارجية الألمانية)، أكسبريس، 6 يونيو 2023، متاح على:

<http://bitly.ws/LND7>

⁵² السيدة وزيرة البيئة تشرف على الاجتماع الأول للجنة المشتركة التونسية اليابانية لتفعيل آلية التبادل المشترك لتخفيض انبعاثات غازات الدفيئة، وزارة البيئة،

فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/M2oj>

⁵³ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁵⁴ المرجع السابق ذكره

Second: Arab Gulf Countries:

A. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's efforts in mitigating climate change have been demonstrated by pioneering and successful proposals with realistic goals, culminating in the Green Saudi Initiative and the Green Middle East, through which Saudi Arabia contributed to the development of effective solutions to the problem of climate change; other countries were unable to do their part. Saudi companies purchased the largest number of carbon credit balances in the largest global auction carried out by Regional Voluntary Carbon Market. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund-owned Carbon Market successfully sold 2.2 million tons of carbon stocks, with the largest carbon credit auction held in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Carbon credit credits are one of the global means of enabling companies to contribute to carbon neutrality and ensuring that carbon emissions in value chains are reduced⁵⁵.

The company intends to use all available tools to address the challenges and impacts of climate change. The auction demonstrates the important role that voluntary carbon markets play in channeling finance to projects we desperately need to promote climate action. It seeks one of the world's largest voluntary carbon markets by 2030, a market capable of offsetting hundreds of millions of tons of carbon emissions annually, funding projects facing climate change, and upgrading living standards in the global South⁵⁶.

B. Bahrain:

Bahrain stressed during the Security Council meeting on climate change, peace, and security chaired by the Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates on June 14, 2023. Bahrain has placed the sustainable development principle at the heart of its national strategies, particularly Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. But climate change is a global challenge that requires global solutions and international cooperation as a threat that is no less dangerous than traditional threats to international peace and security.

⁵⁵ السعودية تشتري أكبر عدد من أرصدة ائتمانات الكربون في مزاد عالمي، الطاقة، 15 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LTUh>

⁵⁶ المرجع السابق ذكره

Bahrain stressed the importance of a comprehensive collective preventive approach to addressing the security challenges arising because of climate change, targeting primarily conflict-affected States through the development, expansion, and acceleration of integrated solutions to overcome vulnerabilities toward conflict resolution and durable peace⁵⁷.

There are many efforts for Bahrain, such as the government's initiatives and efforts to address the negative impacts of climate change; its emissions do not exceed 0.07% of total global emissions; The Kingdom announced its commitment to achieving zero neutrality by 2060 by adopting a set of short-term goals by 2035, it seeks to reduce emissions by 30% through de-carbonization and capture initiatives, energy efficiency initiatives and doubling renewable energy sources. Bahrain conducted the necessary studies to assess the impact of sea-level rise on coastal areas. The Kingdom has developed a long-term plan commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges and the nature of the priority areas to be protected⁵⁸.

The Ambassador explained that she believed international challenges required international efforts and enhanced cooperation among stakeholders. Bahrain supported the "Green Middle East Initiative" the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced in 2023. It reiterated her support for the initiatives agreed upon during the Middle East Green Initiative Summit. It also approved four major global climate change initiatives, the Global Ocean Alliance initiative, the Global Methane Pledge, the Green Government Initiative, and the UAE's Strategic Initiative to Achieve Climate Neutrality by 2050.⁵⁹

Third: Levant Countries:

a. Lebanon

During the periodic national steering committee meeting in Lebanon, within the project "Flexible water solutions to climate change in Jordan and Lebanon", in the presence of the Ministers of Environment and Agriculture of the Caretaker Government, Nasser Yassin, and Abbas Al Haj Hassan, the ministers discussed the objective of the project to

⁵⁷مملكة البحرين تؤكد أمام مجلس الأمن أهمية معالجة التحديات المرتبطة بالتغير المناخي، وكالة أنباء البحرين، 14 يونيو 2023، متاح على:

<http://bitly.ws/LVqj>

⁵⁸ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁵⁹ المرجع السابق ذكره

find innovative ways to promote climate change adaptation and mainstream climate and gender change into urban planning. Funded by the Adaptation Fund, the project promotes the sustainable management and use of water resources through the promotion of water-saving irrigation and sustainable agriculture, as well as promoting the use of unconventional water sources such as treated wastewater and rainwater. In Lebanon, the project focuses on the Zahleh district and city, which are particularly vulnerable to recurrent droughts, severe heat, and fluctuating rainfall patterns, becoming one of the most significant challenges the region faces⁶⁰.

Fourth: East Africa:

A. Comoros

In the context of enhancing resilience to climate change, Comoros organized a ministerial conference on "Africa's Blue Economy and climate Action" with island States and coastal communities at the forefront, held in the capital city of Moroni from 12 to 14 June 2023. The Conference's main objective was to prepare the "Moroni Statement," a document to be presented at major international conferences on the environment, such as the "Cob28 Climate Conference". President Ghazali Osmani of Comoros also participated in the dialogue at the International Summit of the New Global Finance Pact, held in the French capital, Paris. He stressed that concerted action must be taken to find an international methodology to deal with all challenges, as many rich countries had not achieved their commitments on climate finance. There was a need for close cooperation between the North and the South to obtain the funding that States needed to invest in sustainable development, better protect the environment, reduce greenhouse emissions and impose an international carbon tax⁶¹.

Target 3	Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation
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⁶⁰ الاجتماع الثاني للجنة الوطنية لمشروع الحلول المرنة للمياه لمواجهة تغيّر المناخ في لبنان، وزارة الاعلام الجمهورية اللبنانية، 1 يونيو 2023، متاح على:

<http://bitly.ws/M3or>

⁶¹ رئيس الاتحاد الإفريقي: نأمل في توحيد الجهود العالمية لمواجهة التغيرات المناخية، الوطن، 23 يونيو 2023، <http://bitly.ws/Mjlp>

First: North Africa:

a. Egypt

In support of education and awareness-raising to raise environmental awareness, the Minister of Technical Education discussed on June 24 and the Chairman of the Organizational Committee of the National Initiative for Smart Green Projects; Access of pre-university education students to the National Green Projects Initiative and mechanisms for the participation of the Ministry of Technical Education in the second phase of the initiative. He noted the Ministry's desire to integrate concepts of the environment and climate change into school curricula and to study how to address the effects of this phenomenon, especially in the light of the State's strategy and efforts to counter climate change and the transition to renewable energy.⁶²

As part of increasing students' awareness of climate change, the Ministry has implemented training and awareness-raising programs on the concepts of climate change issues through training bags for teachers and managers to support their skills in developing student awareness of climate change, its causes, and negative impacts on people, the environment and living organisms and how to cope with and reduce them, to maintain an end to their effects in the light of sustainable development requirements.⁶³

b. Morocco

The third session of the Mediterranean Climate Forum on Mediterranean Climate Issues for Climate Action, "Med Cop," was held in Tangier (northern Morocco) on 22 and 23 June. The conference was organized on the initiative of the Council of Tangier Tetouan al-Hoceima and the Mediterranean Climate House on the slogan "Med Cop," held under the auspices of King Mohammed VI. Moroccan Minister Nizar Baraka, Minister of Processing and Water, and Minister of Energy and Environment Transition inaugurated the conference. They focused on the role of the Earth actor and its involvement in operationalizing ruler measures to combat climate change. The Med Cop-Climate Conference program includes 16 thematic symposiums, a business forum, parallel

⁶² وزير التعليم يوجه بمشاركة طلاب مدارس المتفوقين بالمبادرة الوطنية للمشروعات الخضراء، اليوم السابع، 24 يونيو 2023، متاح على:

<http://bitly.ws/LZQg>

⁶³ المرجع السابق ذكره

activities (formative courses, working meetings between officials and representatives of companies and contractors (B to B), and meetings of research centers, studies, and civil society organizations on "Med Cop-Climate," in various locations in Tangier⁶⁴.

The conference was a launch of "Cob28 Dubai in the Arab Emirates;" more than 1,500 participants from Moroccan and international academic experts and researchers on climate issues attended it, along with government officials, representatives of the private sector, and civil society. Participants discussed several topics such as "Sustainable food systems," "Cities and regions adapted to climate change," "Sustainable management of water resources and the blue economy," "Energy transition," "Women and climate," "Climate project financing," "Nature-based solutions," "Climate migration" and "Peace, security and decentralized cooperation."

The participants in the Med Cop Conference called for new and additional public funding for developing countries to cope with climate change effects and to help them adapt and mitigate them. Participants urged the provision of "additional funding to developing countries, together with existing funding from the Green Climate Fund" and "Public Assistance for Development," provided that this did not affect the financing of international action under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention⁶⁵.

Second: Arab Gulf Countries

a. UAE

The UAE's sustainability efforts extend to environmental education and awareness-raising. Environmental education had been incorporated into the national curriculum. The Government and various organizations were implementing awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives to attract public participation in environmental conservation efforts.

The United Arab Emirates, UNDP, and UNICEF confirmed, during a dialogue session on 29 June organized in collaboration with the Presidency of COP 28, that children and young people are driving change with their determination and vitality, calling for their

⁶⁴ الدورة الثالثة من مؤتمر "ميد كوب" تركز على دور الجماعات الترابية في تسريع أجندة المناخ، أكسبريس، 23 يونيو 2023، متاح على:

<http://bitly.ws/LNUK>

⁶⁵ "ميد كوب المناخ" في المغرب يمهد لـCOP28 .. تمويل واقتصاد أزرق، العين الإخبارية، 27 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LNUU>

voices to be incorporated into the UN discussions through the climate agenda. Ambassador Mohammed Abushahab opened the dialogue, which is part of a more inclusive discussion, to be held before the start of the Conference of the Parties in the United Arab Emirates (COP28). It aims to ensure that children's and young people's voices are heard, and their participation is essential in relevant efforts⁶⁶. The Permanent Mission of the State noted that children and young people are not just victims of the impacts of climate change; they are the leaders of change with their resolve and vitality, calling for their voices to be incorporated into discussions through the Climate Action Agenda⁶⁷.

Axis III: Efforts of the League of Arab States to Combat Climate Change

A. The National Initiative for Green Smart Projects is included on the agenda of the Arab Committee for the Follow-up of Sustainable Development Goals of the League of Arab States

The most prominent efforts of the League of Arab States in the climate file in June were the **General Secretariat of the LAS (the Department for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation) approval of the inclusion of the National Initiative for Green Smart Projects in the agenda of the Arab Committee to follow up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the Arab region.** It also agreed to invite investors and financial institutions to study and finance projects that are the winners of the National Initiative for Smart Green Projects during the Arab Committee's meeting to follow up on the thirteenth Sustainable Development Goals implementation.⁶⁸

Ambassador Hisham Badr, General Coordinator of the National Initiative for Green Smart Projects, explained that the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States welcomed (Management of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation) The inclusion of the Initiative in the agenda of the Arab Committee for the Follow-up of

⁶⁶ الإمارات تدعو لإشراك الشباب في العمل المناخي، الاتحاد، 29 يونيو 2023، متاح على: <http://bitly.ws/LVQP>

⁶⁷ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁶⁸ المبادرة الوطنية للمشروعات الخضراء الذكية تعلن إدراجها على جدول أعمال اللجنة العربية لمتابعة تنفيذ أهداف التنمية المستدامة بجامعة الدول العربية، وزارة التخطيط والتنمية الاقتصادية، 25 يونيو 2023، <http://bitly.ws/M5od>

Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the Arab region is part of the League of Arab States' interest in the Initiative and its intelligent and practical solutions to address the risks of climate change and environmental problems.⁶⁹

One of the most important outcomes of the meeting held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in the presence of representatives of Arab States, chaired by the Minister of Commissioner Nada El Agizy, Director of the Department for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation of the League of Arab States, the presentation of the initiative as a successful example by the Arab States and Egypt's willingness to convey its successful experience and technical support to the Arab States.⁷⁰

Investors and financial institutions were invited to study the initiative's winning projects and fund them to ensure that they continue to provide smart and practical solutions to address the risks of climate change⁷¹.

b. League of Arab States launched a report on sustainability and government action:

On June 6, the Arab Administrative Development Organization of the League of Arab States, in partnership with the Government of the Emirates, launched the report "Sustainability and Government Action - The State of Arab Governments" on the sidelines of the Sustainability and Government Action Forum held by the Organization in Egypt. The report interviewed 1,800 Arab government leaders and resulted in recommendations in areas of transformation, such as the nurturing and development of smart cities, green finance and resource mobilization in the private sector, innovation in policymaking, and investment in raising awareness⁷².

The launch of the report "Sustainability and Government Action - The State of Arab Governments" in cooperation between the Arab Administrative Development Organization and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, is a golden opportunity to learn about the readiness of Arab Governments to address climate change and their

⁶⁹ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁷⁰ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁷¹ المرجع السابق ذكره

⁷² رئيس «COP28»: الحكومات لها دور محوري في الحد من تداعيات تغير المناخ، المصري اليوم، 6 يونيو 2023، <http://bitly.ws/M5ti>

willingness to exploit growth opportunities in the green economy and contribute to the achievement of national development goals. The report conducted a questionnaire on the sustainability and readiness of Arab Governments, and about half of the government officials stated that their governments had a complete and published carbon emission reduction plan⁷³.

Axis IV: Analytical View & Recommendations

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

Since the beginning of this year, the majority of Arab Governments have turned their focus to the objective of financing losses and damages and the need to move from putting the objectives and recommendations of the COP 27 into action, being a critical success factor in all pillars of climate action. Arab Governments need to double adaptation financing by 2025 and achieve an effective outcome on the current general loss and damage through clear recommendations from the Transitional Committee on the Fund to Address Losses and Damage and Financing Arrangements by the COP 28 Climate Summit, hoping that there will be an opportunity to set new funding targets at the COP28 Climate Summit, contributing to charting a new course for greater climate ambition.

Indeed, through their participation in the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB 58), the Arab States could place the issue of financing at the top of the conference's priorities. It sought to increase financial flows on climate from different sources and noted the new Global Collective Quantitative Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, as well as tracking wealthy countries' commitment to this year's \$100 billion climate finance target, the new quantitative collective target (NCQG) on climate finance refers to the value of the new funding that will replace the \$100 billion commitment starting in 2025; So, according to the preliminary indications in Bonn, it is believed that the 28 Cup in Dubai will meet global expectations on the issue of finance.

⁷³ المرجع السابق ذكره

The target least achieved is the third target seeking to improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change. June witnessed limited awareness-raising activities to mitigate the effects of climate change in many countries, especially in the countries of the Arab conflict region, where no efforts have been made in this target since more than one month.

The countries that came first in terms of achievements in June was Egypt, which adopted policies and activities that reduce carbon emissions. But this does not necessarily mean that Egypt has been able to reduce the damage of climate change. On the other hand, many countries have not been monitored in June taking any measures to combat climate change, topped by Sudan and Eritrea due to armed conflicts.

The State focus of this Issue, "Yemen" faces serious environmental problems due to continued violations by Iran-backed Houthi militias and escalating civil war; thus, it ranked 171 out of 182 countries on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index, which assesses vulnerability and readiness to climate change. Despite all regional and international interventions to improve climate conditions, these interventions remain limited in Yemen and below the required level. Much remained to be done to help Yemen cope with the impacts of climate change, and intensive and diverse efforts, including a national plan and a comprehensive environmental policy system, were urgently needed.

Since 2020, Yemen has adopted a climate **emergency plan to address and mitigate natural disasters**. However, despite the announcement by the Minister of the Environment in March 2023 that the Government was making efforts to prepare a climate contingency plan to address and mitigate natural disasters, as well as to combat desertification, prevent sand creeps, and mitigate the effects of drought, no such plan has yet been mentioned. "Therefore, the Yemeni authorities are not expected to be able to undertake similar interventions in the face of the impacts of climate change in the foreseeable term due to the continuing conflict and the thorough destruction of infrastructure and property caused by the Houthi movement, because of the unstable political and security conditions that hinder the activity of State institutions.

Given the efforts of the League of Arab States in June, the LAS focuses its entire goal towards one goal: initiatives aimed at adapting to climate change. For example, the

National Initiative for Green Smart Projects is included in the agenda of the Arab Committee for the Follow-up of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the Arab region. It omitted to talk about losses and damages this month, given the widespread vogue of both Arab governments and the Bonn climate negotiations.

b. **Recommendations**

First: Maat calls on donor financial institutions to intensify their financial assistance to the Arab States, particularly those most vulnerable to climate risks and conflict affected that lack strong institutions capable of financing damage, given the importance of grants and financial assistance needed to mitigate losses and damage resulting from climate change.

Second: In order to mitigate the impacts of climate and reduce climate risks, **Maat urges the League of Arab States to establish partnerships with the Yemeni Government on climate change preparedness efforts and programs,** including pre-storage of supplies, food, water, and other essential needs of societies.

Third: Maat appreciates the efforts of Arab Governments in the launch of early warning systems given their huge importance in the rapid prediction of climate change. In this regard, **Maat calls upon the Governments of Arab States that have not yet established early warning systems to be ready to mitigate negative repercussions.**

Fourth: In the context of the High-level Political Forum's review of 2023 Goal XVII on strengthening partnerships by Governments, **Maat calls upon Arab Governments to strengthen the partnerships in climate action with the Governments of Arab States by sharing their successful experience in Arab partnerships to mainstream the use and expertise of climate action with other Arab States.**

Fifth: Maat appreciates the Egyptian Government's efforts to enhance the participation of school students in the National Green Transformation Initiative, and encourages the Arab Governments to transform university campuses into green, carbon-free areas to stimulate green transformation and combat climate change, as do European countries (the model of the University of London's Faculty of Economics and Political Science, which was ranked first as a carbon-free university).

Sixth: Maat recommends that Governments of Arab States to mobilize and support the health community in climate action and identify urgent climate action by increasing spending on a healthier, fairer, and greener future to mitigate the devastating toll of climate change. On all humans