



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

# SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

## Climate Change in the Arab Region

### Youth in Confrontation



Nineteen issue

July 2023

## SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region: 19<sup>th</sup> Issue

### Climate Change in the Arab Region... Youth Are in the Crosshairs

#### Background:

Young people are among the groups most vulnerable to the environmental impacts of climate change, especially in the Arab region. Young people's involvement in climate action is not an option, but a necessity, given the fact that they are among the groups most susceptible to the dire consequences of climate change, including food insecurity, water scarcity, extreme weather events, conflict over dwindling resources, and displacement.

Amid these challenges, many young Arabs are taking on climate leadership motivated by a desire to meaningfully engage in climate action, embracing a variety of roles in government, academia, civil society, media and the private sector to address humanity's greatest threat.

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 19<sup>th</sup> issue of SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region under the title “**Climate Change in the Arab Region... Youth Are in the Crosshairs**”, to track good practices as well as the challenges faced by Arab countries in achieving SDG13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on last July.

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 literature, 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.

## Rationale for 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, 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 period, 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.

## Axis I: Country Focus of this Issue

### First: Subject of the issue: Climate Change in the Arab Region... Youth Are in the Crosshairs

The international community recognized the importance of engaging various societal groups in environmental policy-making during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (known as the Earth Summit) in 1992 and in Agenda 21. Nine major groups were designated as channels for achieving sustainable development goals in the world, including young people, who are estimated at 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24, accounting for about 16% of the global population, according to the United Nations<sup>1</sup>.

Studies indicated that by 2030, the target date for achieving the sustainable development goals, the number of young people is expected to increase by 7%, to approximately 1.3 billion, so the importance of youth participation is reflected in the face of climate change. In addition, a recent study issued by the World Bank indicated that up to 132 million people worldwide may fall into extreme poverty by 2030 as a result of climate change, 44 million due to its impact on health, 33.5 million due to the impact on food prices, and 18.2 million due to the impact of disasters<sup>2</sup>.

#### a. An overview of the reality of youth in the Arab countries:

The Arab region is experiencing serious effects of climate change on society and the environment in terms of affecting agriculture, endangering food security, sea level rise, damage to infrastructure, and frequent natural disasters "sudden floods, landslides, and the like, leading to the destruction of livelihoods, migration and conflicts". The impact of climate change will extend to every person in this world, especially young people, who are yet to witness future climatic changes that will affect their security, well-being and even mental health.

In the Middle East and North Africa, there are four countries (Egypt, Djibouti, Yemen and Sudan) where children and youth are exposed to significant levels of risk associated with

<sup>1</sup> <http://bitly.ws/SzUq> دراسة ترصد دور الشباب في رسم سياسات مواجهة التغير المناخي، اليوم السابع،

<sup>2</sup> المرجع السابق ذكره

climate change. This means that around 86 million children (0-17 years old) and more than 34 million young people (15-24 years old) were at risk in 2021. These countries are likely to have more than 103 million children and 53.5 million young people by 2050, who will be more vulnerable to the effects of climate change if urgent mitigation and adaptation actions are not taken<sup>3</sup>.

## **b. Efforts to enhance the role of youth to combat climate change in the Arab region during the last two years**

**UAE**, represented by the Arab Youth Center in Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, and the Office of the Special Envoy of the UAE for Climate Change Affairs, established the **Arab Youth Council for Climate Change in 2021**. The Council aims to achieve 6 main outputs: Involving Arab youth in the environmental and climate decision-making process Locally and globally, building youth capacities and skills to address environmental challenges through training programs, enhancing international cooperation through integrating youth efforts and those made by governmental and private institutions and international environmental organizations, creating creative solutions and consolidating sound environmental practices for the future of the Arab world, in addition to stimulating green financing practices for initiatives and ideas and promising youth projects to address climate change. In conjunction with the Arab region's preparations to host the COP 27 Summit, the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change, which is affiliated with the Arab Youth Center, in cooperation with HSBC Bank, issued the Arab Youth Guide: Sustainable Life in Steps. It provides young competencies and cadres in the Arab region with best practices, mechanisms and successful experiences to achieve sustainability in critical areas<sup>4</sup>.

In Egypt: To enhance youth engagement in climate action, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Environment, in partnership with UNICEF and the United Nations in Egypt, launched the " Youth & Climate" Caravan, during the period leading up to the 27th COP, to encourage youth full engagement in the climate discussion and presenting innovative solutions thereto, in preparation for the Climate Summit COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The initiative comes within the framework of Egypt's keenness to empower young people and play an effective role in the international efforts to combat climate change<sup>5</sup>. The Ministry of

<sup>3</sup> <http://bitly.ws/Sy5J>الأطفال في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا عرضة للأخطار المرتبطة بتغير المناخ، اليونيسف،

<sup>4</sup> مجلس التغير المناخي " يصدر " دليل الشباب العربي للاستدامة"، وكالة أنباء الامارات، <http://bitly.ws/Syc7>

<sup>5</sup> مصر.. مبادرة وطنية تسعى لتعزيز دور الشباب في العمل المناخي قبل انطلاق COP27، اليونيسف، <http://bitly.ws/Sy66>

Planning and Environment also launched the **Ambassadors of Sustainable Development initiative** for young people, to be ambassadors of environmental issues, especially the climate issue, within their university and leadership positions<sup>6</sup>.

**Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University** launched the One Million Young Volunteers for Climate Adaptation (Climate Ambassadors), with the aim of training students and youth of Egyptian universities on biodiversity, climate change and environmental issues<sup>7</sup>.

In **Saudi Arabia**, in October 2021, the "**Green Youth**" summit was launched, to raise awareness of the importance of environmental issues, especially the climate issue, and to develop policies to address them. Participants stressed the need to promote and support youth efforts in preserving the environment and using clean energy. It is noteworthy that the summit includes workshops that discuss the future of climate action; the formation of committees that include the most prominent youth activists; as well as the implementation of cooperative activities concerned with climate policies; and scientific sessions dealing with mechanisms for taking the initiative, through youth leadership in climate action, and the transformation into change makers; in addition to discussing Developing education to train current and future environmental entrepreneurs; best practices for increasing vegetation cover, including but not limited to rehabilitating degraded lands, preserving marine life, and reducing carbon emissions<sup>8</sup>.

### c. Arab efforts in July to enhance the role of youth in combating climate change:

In the **UAE**, the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change, affiliated with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in the UAE, organized two sessions as part of a series of periodic panel discussions for financing a sustainable future, with the wide participation of major financial institutions, the private sector, small and medium-sized companies, and startups, to familiarize young people with services, financial products and opportunities that encourage Arab youth to turn to greener lifestyles<sup>9</sup>.

**UAE** also announced in July that the first group of participants in the International Youth Climate Delegates Programme, numbering 100 delegates, will represent least

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<sup>6</sup> اعرف تفاصيل المبادرات المصرية لدعم مواجهة قضية التغيرات المناخية، اليوم السابع، <http://bitly.ws/SyhK>  
<sup>7</sup> نفس المرجع السابق

<sup>8</sup> قمة الشباب الأخضر تنطلق في السعودية.. للتوعية البيئية، العربية، <http://bitly.ws/Syto>  
<sup>9</sup> «مجلس الشباب العربي» يشجع على التحول إلى حياة أكثر اخضراراً، الخليج، <http://bitly.ws/SyA8>

developed countries, Small Island developing states, indigenous peoples and minority groups. Seventy-four percent of the delegates represented Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States located in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East and North Africa. The group includes 12 delegates from indigenous peoples, in addition to 10 delegates from areas experiencing conflict, 56 young women delegates, and six people of determination, while 72 delegates out of the 100 have never attended any conference of the parties in the past<sup>10</sup>.

**In Jordan;** Jordanian Minister of Environment Muawieh Al-Radaideh highlighted the importance of youth participation in the climate action agenda in Jordan and the world<sup>11</sup>.

In sum, despite the Arab efforts made during July to enhance the involvement of youth in addressing climate change, they have been eliminated in a few Arab governments. However, it's worth noting that the approval of integrating youth into combating climate change is a significant accomplishment this year to be among the priorities of the conference Climate COP 28. This is unique and unprecedented compared to previous conferences. That is why most of the expectations are that these young people will produce fruitful and pioneering results in addressing climate challenges, advancing international efforts to promote sustainable development paths and combining economic development, social progress, and environmental protection in a balanced manner.

## Second: Country Focus of the Issue "Djibouti"

### a. Background on the effects of climate change in Djibouti

Djibouti is one of the groups most vulnerable to climate change and climate-related impacts, including severe droughts, extreme temperatures, rising sea levels, flash floods, and salinization of soil and water. These phenomena have already been observed in the country and are expected to increase in frequency and intensity in the future, according to different climatic scenarios. The country is currently suffering from drought conditions caused by high seasonal temperatures and insufficient precipitation, and this has serious impacts on water availability, livestock and vegetable production, and thus household income.

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<sup>10</sup> «كوب 28» يعلن عن فعاليات تعزز مشاركة الشباب في مفاوضات المناخ العالمية، سي ان ان الاقتصادية، <http://bitly.ws/SLNn>

<sup>11</sup> مرجع ذكر سابقاً

Furthermore, Djibouti heavily relies on imports to fulfill up to 90% of its food needs. The country faced significant challenges due to the aftermath of the Ukrainian war, which disrupted food supplies. Additionally, the economic situation in Djibouti has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in neighboring Ethiopia. As a result, consumers' purchasing power and food availability have been affected. Moreover, Djibouti's susceptibility to climate change introduces additional risks to its food security<sup>12</sup>.

According to a recent survey conducted by OCHA from March to June 2022, it is estimated that approximately 132,000 Djibouti people, representing 11% of the analyzed population (approximately 1.2 million people), are acutely food insecure. It is also estimated that 5,000 people (less than one percent of the analyzed population) are in an emergency state of negative conditions in the country<sup>13</sup>.

## b. Government policies in combating the climate crisis

### 1. Djibouti's position on the international climate agreements

Climate change imposes adaptation on various countries and societies to reduce its harmful repercussions. This was the trend in Djibouti, which was keen to protect the environment and ensure the preservation of the planet from the devastating effects of global warming resulting from climate change. As a result, Djibouti joined the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** in 1995; and it became a party to the **Kyoto Protocol** on March 12, 2002; and to the **Paris Agreement** on November 11, 2016<sup>14</sup>; as well as the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** on June 12, 1997. The Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning, Environment and Management Department issued the first national communication of the Republic of Djibouti to UNFCCC in 2001.

**As for Djibouti's participation in climate conferences**, Djibouti is defined as an effective country in promoting and reducing damage despite its position as one of the countries most affected by the adverse effects of climate, but an active participant in climate conferences and forums. Djibouti actively engaged in many United Nations Framework Conferences on Climate Change, including the most recent one, COP 27. During these

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<sup>12</sup> منحة بقيمة 20 مليون دولار لمساعدة جيبوتي على تخفيف مخاطر الأمن الغذائي الناجمة عن الأزمات المتعددة وتغيير المناخ، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/SCnG>

<sup>13</sup> Djibouti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation March - June 2022 and Projection for July - December 2022, OCHA, <http://bitly.ws/SFhe>

<sup>14</sup> Djibouti, UNFCCC, <https://unfccc.int/node/61053>



conferences, Djibouti highlighted the devastating impact of climate change on the African continent, particularly the East African region, which is greatly affected by carbon emissions despite its minimal contribution. Djibouti also mentioned its strategic plans and ongoing collaborative projects with neighboring countries, particularly Ethiopia, to address climate-related issues<sup>15</sup>.

In the run-up to COP27, Djibouti held an international summit on climate change issues from October 23 to 25, 2022; organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Djibouti, under the slogan "Climate Change and the Path to Adaptation with Sustainable Flexibility". The summit is part of the prospects for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt. It is worth noting that Djibouti intends, through this "major event", to confirm its participation in combating climate change to achieve the common goal of developing reliable operational models for adaptation and sustainable flexibility with emergency changes, as well as a commitment to maintaining the necessary growth and economic development for its citizens<sup>16</sup>.

Djibouti, represented by Head of State Ismail Omar Guelleh, also participated in the Middle East Green Summit held in conjunction with the activities of the COP 27 conference. During the summit, he expressed that Djibouti will spare no effort in confronting climate change, but the effects of climate change are still affecting the entire region, stressing the mobilization of energies and resources to solve the effects of Climate change<sup>17</sup>.

## 2. Government policies regarding combating the climate crisis

Djibouti has adopted many adaptation measures to confront climate change. The National Adaptation Action Program (NAPA), submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2006, identified the sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which are water resources, agriculture, livestock, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems. The first assessment of vulnerabilities in these sectors due to climate

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<sup>15</sup> كلمة إسماعيل عمر جيلي رئيس جيبوتي خلال انطلاق مؤتمر المناخ كوب 27 على المستوى الرئاسي، قناة القاهرة الإخبارية، <http://bitly.ws/SEpj>

<sup>16</sup> جيبوتي تستضيف قمة دولية حول "التغيرات المناخية"، ارم الاقتصادية، <http://bitly.ws/SEr4>

<sup>17</sup> الرئيس الجيبوتي: يجب حشد الطاقات والموارد لمواجهة التغير المناخي، بوابة أخبار اليوم، <http://bitly.ws/SCz2>

change has been conducted, and several urgent adaptation actions have been identified and ranked according to their level of priority<sup>18</sup>.

In 2010, the Republic of Djibouti, on the occasion of the International Day for Reforestation and the Environment, launched a large-scale **afforestation campaign** to plant more than 100,000 trees of different species throughout the country. The initial phase of the planting began with the planting of 50,000 trees in the capital and its environs. The campaign aims to combat desertification and contribute effectively to mitigating the impact of climatic factors<sup>19</sup>.

In 2014, the government adopted a new frame of reference that set a long-term direction: Vision 2035, One year later, its five-year action plan was drawn up. The first Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment (SCAPE) was adopted and is a mid-term version of Vision 2035. The tenth objective of the strategy relates to adapting to climate change, building resilience with a focus on rural communities and integrating adaptation into sectoral policies<sup>20</sup>.

In 2015, the country submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the framework of the Paris Agreement. The initial contribution was converted to a Nationally Determined Contribution in 2016. This document reaffirms Djibouti's commitment and places adaptation as a national priority. It identifies the following adaptation priorities: (1) reducing vulnerability to drought; (2) protection from sea level rise; (3) improving access to water; (4) protecting biodiversity; (5) Strengthening the resilience of rural people<sup>21</sup>.

In 2017, Djibouti prepared a National Strategy on Climate Change (SNCC) to enhance the coherence of climate change actions with Strategy for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and SCAPE and to address the impacts of climate change on various socio-economic sectors in the country. The national strategy identifies priority areas, namely (ensuring access to water for all; promoting best practices in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors; eliminating harmful practices; reducing exposure to the effects of climate change and increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable social, economic or

<sup>18</sup> National Adaptation Plans in focus: Lessons from Djibouti, UNDP, <http://bitly.ws/SCQG>

<sup>19</sup> جيبوتي: تقوم بحملة تشجير لمواجهة التصحر والتحديات البيئية في المنطقة، جريدة القرن، <http://bitly.ws/SM3P>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

geographical sectors; protecting and enhancing ecosystems and preserving on the services it provides; ensuring the development of sustainable and resilient cities in the context of climate change; ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the main strategic infrastructure of the country). It is also indicated that implementation in these areas will be facilitated through the creation of a platform for sharing technologies and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation, as well as mechanisms for measurement, monitoring and action environmental assessments<sup>22</sup>.

Djibouti opened a research observatory to study the effects of climate change in October 2022, with the help of the International Atomic Energy Agency in setting it up. The observatory will help drought- and famine-prone countries improve the management of water and food resources that are increasingly at risk of global warming. This new facility, the Regional Observatory for Environment and Climate Research, will use nuclear and related technologies to generate climate data and models that can inform policy decisions on climate adaptation and resilience in the country, and possibly for the entire East African region<sup>23</sup>.

In November 2022, the Government of Djibouti received a \$20 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) to help Djibouti mitigate food security risks resulting from the multiple crises and climate change affecting the country. The project supports the government of Djibouti in responding to multiple crises and preparing a national preparedness plan to confront crises resulting from climate change, especially food security, to ensure an effective and coordinated response to future crises. The project will also directly target rural communities affected by drought throughout the country, and will support about 8,000 families, including farmers and livestock herders, through improved access to drinking water, irrigation and livelihood restoration activities. It is estimated that the project will reach about 21% of the total population of rural areas in Djibouti, with priority given to families headed by women and youth<sup>24</sup>.

### **c. Efforts to achieve the targets of SDG 13 and enhance climate action**

During July, Djibouti made efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of 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,

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> جيبوتي تفتتح مرصداً، بدعم من الوكالة، لرصد آثار تغير المناخ، الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية، <http://bitly.ws/SCsF>

<sup>24</sup> المرجع السابق ذكره

which will naturally affect the reduction of air pollution, water pollution, and soil pollution. In that section, the focus will be on the **efforts of Arab governments to achieve the targets of SDG 13 during July, as follows:**

<b>Target 1</b>	<b>Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</b>
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The Djiboutian government has directed its efforts to integrate climate change-related measures into policies, strategies and planning at the national level through various efforts that can be presented as follows.

Djibouti, represented by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ilyas Moussa, signed the launch of the largest project ever, with financing of 79 million euros from the Investment Bank for 25 years, to enhance resilience in the face of climate change. The project aims to ensure access to clean water for more than 555,000 people and enable solar energy and renewable energy to produce clean drinking water. The new investment will be implemented by t The National Office of Water and Sanitation of Djibouti (ONEAD) and support Djibouti Vision 2035. The project is the second phase of the (PEPER) project for the production of potable water through desalination and energy. A renewable initiative the first phase has succeeded in producing 22,500 cubic meters of fresh water per day, and the second phase will enable the production of 45,000 cubic meters of fresh water per day and includes the construction of a solar power plant with a capacity of 12 megawatts for water desalination<sup>25</sup>.

<b>Target 2</b>	<b>Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</b>
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During July 2023; one institute specializing in environment and climate change ranked a group of countries based on the hottest around the world Djibouti, is known as one of the hottest countries in the world. Which suffers from many pressing issues related to health risks associated with heat and water scarcity, where temperatures reach 83.3 degrees Fahrenheit. The classification stated that the country is working to harness geothermal energy and

<sup>25</sup> Djibouti: Global Gateway - €79 million EIB support for water desalination and wastewater treatment, European Investment Bank, <http://bitly.ws/SLpG>

implement innovative water desalination technologies to secure water supplies, which can be explained by the effective efforts made by Djibouti to confront climate threats<sup>26</sup>.

<b>Target 3</b>	<b>Improving Education, Raising Awareness, and Human and Institutional Capacities to Mitigate Climate Change</b>
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**Djibouti** cooperated with the UN Volunteers (UNV) and selected a group of youth to enhance their capabilities, build their skills, and raise their awareness of climate change and how to confront it, recognizing the youth capabilities at a time when the world is grappling with pressing environmental challenges. Youth can make change and take the initiative in green transformation and reshaping the future of the planet. Many young volunteers in Djibouti gained knowledge about climate change and helping the most vulnerable and climate-affected countries and villages in Djibouti.<sup>27</sup>

However, it should be noted that Djibouti does not have individual efforts related to raising awareness of climate change, and therefore there is an urgent need to draw the attention of the Djiboutian government to the need to increase awareness programs related to climate.

### **Axis II: Achieving SDG13 in the Arab region**

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

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

##### **A. Egypt:**

Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment and Ministerial Coordinator and COP27 Envoy, participated in a discussion session on ways to enhance cooperation in mitigation measures and mechanisms to accelerate countries' global cooperation in the field of renewable energy

<sup>26</sup> Africanews, Top 10 African countries facing record-breaking heat waves in 2023, 20 July 2023, <https://bitly.ws/SVFm>

<sup>27</sup> Unv, Youth volunteers inspire green transition in Djibouti, <https://bitly.ws/SVlw>

and energy efficiency in the near term, during her participation in the 7<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting on climate action, in the Belgian capital, Brussels. Fouad emphasized that Egypt has re-updated its national contributions plan to accelerate reaching 42% renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030 instead of 2035 and to increase the rate of emissions reduction in the electricity generation, transmission and distribution sector to 80 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent instead of 70 million tons compared to the baseline in 2030. This reduction will be for the benefit of implementing the obligations of the updated national contributions plan, by increasing the size of these capacities and reducing the stations that use fossil fuels.<sup>28</sup>

## B. Libya:

On the sidelines of the Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas participation in the activities of the 8<sup>th</sup> OPEC International Conference, which began on July 5 in the Austrian capital, Vienna, he explained that Libya has developed a short-term strategic plan for the oil and gas sector, aiming to raise its oil production to two million barrels per day. He explained also that the plan includes developing newly discovered fields and raising the production capacity of current fields. The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas stated that the plan also aims to address environmental problems and climate change and reduce carbon emissions by stopping burning gas from oil fields and in oil operations, and focusing on producing electricity from renewable energy sources that have economic returns for the Libyan state, in addition to working on building the technical, administrative and financial capabilities and cadres of the sector and focusing on young elements through “training, qualification and development<sup>29</sup>”.

## C. Morocco

The Moroccan Minister of Equipment and Water, Nizar Baraka, and the Cameroonian Minister of Transport, Jean Ernest Ngalle Bibehe, signed, on July 18 in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, a memorandum of understanding related to the promotion of cooperation activities in the field of meteorology and climatology. Baraka emphasized in press statements that the memorandum of understanding is of special importance for Morocco and mainly aims to strengthen bilateral relations in the field of meteorology, in light of a context marked by climate changes. Baraka clarified that this convention will provide an optimal understanding

<sup>28</sup> خلال مشاركتها في الاجتماع الوزاري السابع حول العمل المناخي، بالعاصمة البلجيكية بروكسل: وزيرة البيئة والمنسق الوزاري ومبعوث مؤتمر المناخ COP27 تشارك في جلسة حول سبل تعزيز التعاون في إجراءات التخفيف، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <https://www.eea.gov.eg/News/11739/Details>  
<sup>29</sup> ليبيا تستهدف زيادة إنتاج النفط إلى مليوني برميل يومياً، العربية، <http://bitly.ws/St6X>

of future developments and contribute to the development of early warning systems to respond to extreme climate phenomena better, he highlighted that this convention will also include developing information systems and calibration systems to obtain more accurate forecasts and respond to the aspirations of the population and sectors active in the field of meteorology. He added that meteorology plays an important role in the areas of forecasting and anticipating extreme weather events, especially since Morocco is affected by climate changes, especially water stress. The climate warning will constitute an important tool for preparing public policies to confront the risks associated with extreme climate events<sup>30</sup>.

#### D. Algeria

Bilal Lamita, Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, revealed on July 4, 2023, that Algeria received a sum of \$3 billion from the UN Green Fund (UNGF), as part of preparing a second plan to adapt to climate change. He also pointed out that the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy worked years ago to prepare the national climate plan, which is considered a means to study the negative effects on all other sectors, explaining that the first plan has been prepared. A second plan will be launched to adapt the major stakes in various fields to climate change, explaining in the same context that the plan will include the implementation of a strategy at the city level, and that its sector is preparing studies and mechanisms and proposing strategies to be implemented in partnership with each government sector separately<sup>31</sup>.

#### E. Tunisia

The Ministry of Environment, under the supervision of the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui El Mahdaoui, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Tunisian-Japanese Joint Committee to activate the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Joint Crediting Mechanism, JCM) on July 20, 2023, with the participation of high-level representatives and experts from the Japanese and Tunisian side. It should be noted that Tunisia, on the sidelines of the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Tokyo Conference on African Development, signed the memorandum of understanding regarding joining the Japanese mechanism for trading greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Agreement. During the first meeting of the mechanism, the procedures for submitting, approving,

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<sup>30</sup> المغرب والكاميرون يوقعان مذكرة تفاهم في مجال الأرصاد الجوية وعلم المناخ، اليوم السابع، <http://bitly.ws/St9P>  
<sup>31</sup> لمواجهة التغيرات المناخية.. الصندوق الأخضر يمنح الجزائر 3 مليار دولار، تادامسا نيوز، <http://bitly.ws/Stk6>

following up and evaluating projects and the practical procedures for authorizing the exchange of carbon reductions between Tunisia and Japan were approved. Practical procedures were also discussed to start financing electricity production projects by adopting renewable energies in southern Tunisia, provided that the final documents for project financing are completed by the end of 2023<sup>32</sup>.

## Second: Arab Gulf

### A. UAE

In its second meeting of 2023, which was held under the chairmanship of Maryam bint Mohammed Al Muhairi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the Emirates Climate Action Council (ECAC) discussed developments in the work of the country's preparations to host the COP28 Conference of the Parties and the latest efforts to enhance the country's climate action. During the meeting, the most important developments in the national plan to prepare the country to host COP28 were learned, in addition to the latest developments and achievements related to the low-carbon development strategy project, and the national monitoring, verification and reporting system project. Transformational projects like the carbon market, the National Adaptation Program Development Project, the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition, and the Climate Ambassadors Program were also reviewed.

The meeting also reviewed developments in the development of the national strategy for climate neutrality 2050, and what has been accomplished so far, in addition to addressing the details of the third edition of the second edition of the Nationally Determined Contributions report that was recently approved by the Council of Ministers as part of the country's commitment to the goals of Paris Agreement, including reducing carbon emissions to 182 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030. With regard to developments in transformational projects - carbon trading, a digital platform will be developed and services will be developed in this regard. As for the National Adaptation Program Development Project, the meeting highlighted holding meetings with strategic partners, and in this regard, the National Dialogue for Climate Ambition will be held on the National Action Plan (NAP),

<sup>32</sup> السيدة وزيرة البيئة تشرف على الاجتماع الأول للجنة المشتركة التونسية اليابانية لتفعيل آلية التبادل المشترك لتخفيض انبعاثات غازات الدفيئة، وزارة البيئة التونسية، <http://bitly.ws/M2oj>



and courses will be held on the knowledge gap in national action programs with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>33</sup>.

### Third: Levant Countries

#### A. Jordan

Jordan is moving towards more success in achieving advanced steps in confronting climate change. The Ministry of the Environment has developed a mechanism to monitor air quality, and Jordan has 26 stations to monitor air quality, distributed in most governorates of the Kingdom, as well as a mobile station. In addition, the Ministry of Environment has 13 water monitoring stations, and this station operates 24 hours a day, Its goal is to monitor air quality, which Jordan is considered one of the developed countries regionally and globally in this field. Transport in Jordan is considered one of the advanced countries in the use of electric and hybrid vehicles, with a percentage exceeding 80,000. This is considered a qualitative leap in terms of finding alternatives that contribute to reducing the climate change process. On the energy level, Jordan is also one of the developed countries that uses alternative energy, and Jordan seeks to reach 50% of renewable energy uses by the coming years, as the percentage at this moment exceeds 29% of Jordan's energy uses<sup>34</sup>.

### Fourth: East Africa

#### A. Somalia

The President of Somalia in mid-July launched the **Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI)** in Somalia, announcing the country's financial commitment of \$10 million which will be part of the country's allocation from the Adaptation Fund in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development. It is worth noting that the initiative is a pan-African flagship program of the African Union, which was founded in 2007 aiming to tackle desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss through a broad belt of green projects from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa. Somalia has become the latest member state of the African Union to join the initiative, which already includes 36 countries from the Sahara, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the dry lands of southern Africa. Somali Minister of

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<sup>33</sup> مجلس الإمارات للعمل المناخي يناقش مستجدات الخطة الوطنية للاستعداد لـ COP28، وكالة الانباء الاماراتية، <http://bitly.ws/Svgv>

<sup>34</sup> «البيئة»: الأردن يعمل على 6 قطاعات للتكيف مع «التغير المناخي»، الدستور، <http://bitly.ws/SuWd>

Environment and Climate Change, Khadija Al-Makhzoumi, stated that the initiative will go a long way in solving the climate-related challenges facing Somalia<sup>35</sup>.

## B. Comoros

A ministerial conference on climate in Africa was held in the capital of United Comoros, Moroni, with the participation of ministers, experts, representatives of civil society and development partners. The conference discussed over three days the challenges and opportunities presented by the climate in Africa, as well as best practices and policies to face the repercussions of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems.<sup>36</sup>

<b>Target 2</b>	<b>Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</b>
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### First: North Africa:

#### A. Egypt

Within the framework of Egypt's move towards enhancing flexibility and resilience in the face of climate-related dangers, the head of the Environmental Affairs Agency participated in the G20 ministerial meeting on the environment and climate sustainability in India. In his speech, Dr. Ali Abu Sunna stressed the importance of this meeting in reaching concrete, comprehensive, ambitious and decisive implementation steps, pointing to the great momentum achieved by the Climate Conference (COP27) under the presidency of Egypt, both at the level of negotiation and intense discussions to reach satisfactory agreements for the various parties, and also the work program to expand on urgent and ambitious mitigation actions and the long-term framework for achieving the global collective goal of adaptation.

Among the most important achievements of the negotiating part of the COP27 Climate Conference are Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and climate financing arrangements, including the announcement of a financing fund to face losses and damages related to the effects of climate change, which is long-awaited as a mechanism that helps poor countries, especially African countries, for their losses in facing the effects of climate change. He explained that participatory work will be done to build on these results during the next

<sup>35</sup> انعقاد مؤتمر حول المناخ في أفريقيا بجزر القمر المتحدة، وكالة الانباء السعودية، <http://bitly.ws/SLiG>  
<sup>36</sup> نيابة عن وزيرة البيئة: رئيس جهاز شئون البيئة يشارك في الاجتماع الوزاري لمجموعة العشرين حول البيئة واستدامة المناخ بالهند، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/News/12747/Details>

climate conference (COP28) at the end of this year, to support humanity to be able to face the effects of climate change<sup>37</sup>.

The head of the Environmental Affairs Agency also drew attention to the set of initiatives that were launched during the climate conference, to enhance work in a number of files and areas related to climate change, including sustainable transportation; financing transparency, green planning; water security, smart Agriculture, nature-based solutions, protecting coastal zones; sustainable cities; equitable energy transition; Integrated Waste Management 50 by 2050 for Africa; A decent life for all, climate, spreading peace and resolving conflicts.

## B. Morocco

The Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Leila Benali, emphasized during her participation in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held in New York, that the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are two pivotal points for promoting global climate action, explaining that the start of their implementation contributed to the growth of environmental awareness and the consolidation of the integration of sustainability in most vital sectors, including the financial sector. In this context, she indicated that Morocco has updated its nationally determined contribution according to a participatory and comprehensive approach that has enabled it to raise the level of ambition regarding reducing greenhouse gases by more than 45% by 2030. She added that the Kingdom has prepared a long-term national strategy by 2050 for low-carbon development, in accordance with the requirements of the Paris Agreement, to guide and plan the necessary policies and measures to contribute to achieving the goals of the Agreement.<sup>38</sup>

## C. Algeria

The Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, Fazia Dahlab, represented Algeria at the high-level preparatory meeting of African heads of state and government, in preparation for the African Climate Summit scheduled for September 4-6 in Kenya for the success of this summit, stressing the importance of placing Africa at the heart of the problem of climate finance, as it is the most affected by the negative effects of climate change. Dahlab called for

<sup>37</sup> نيابة عن وزيرة البيئة: رئيس جهاز شئون البيئة يشارك في الاجتماع الوزاري لمجموعة العشرين حول البيئة واستدامة المناخ بالهند، وزارة البيئة المصرية،

<https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/News/12747/Details>

<sup>38</sup> السيدة بنعلي أمام الأمم المتحدة: بالنسبة للمغرب التنمية المستدامة خيار استراتيجي، البوابة الوطنية للمملكة المغربية، <http://bitly.ws/Stf9>

"the adoption of a comprehensive methodology to implement an African strategy for climate financing and taking into account the concerns of African countries and the various continental initiatives, similar to those launched by the President of the Republic related to the establishment of an African mechanism for protection from disaster risks, this mechanism is considered the best way to protect Africa from various challenges. In this regard, the minister stressed that this continental initiative is "in line with Algeria's national strategy," as Algeria enacted a new law on major risks and sustainable development, which was approved at the government meeting on May 31, 2023, according to which severe weather events were classified as "major risks."<sup>39</sup>

#### D. Tunisia

On July 27, 2023, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Environment, the Minister of the Environment, Ms. Leila Al-Cheikhaoui Al-Mahdaoui, received Ms. Rania Bekhazi, Director of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Office for the Maghreb Countries. During the meeting, the environmental situation in Tunisia and the importance of continuing to activate the ecological transition on the ground in our country were discussed, which falls within the national strategy for ecological transition that was approved last February to ensure the material and immaterial well-being of present and future generations. The meeting also focused on Tunisia's preparations to participate in the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which will be hosted by the UAE from November 30 to December 12 of this year. For her part, Mrs. Rania Bekhazi affirmed her desire for greater coordination and work to enhance ways of cooperation between the Ministry and the organization about the climate change issue, and supporting the green economy as a model of economic development and an essential support for achieving sustainable development<sup>40</sup>.

#### E. Mauritania

Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani, during his participation in the UN Summit on Food System held in the Italian capital, Rome, affirmed that "to confront these effects resulting from climate change, Algeria worked to increase the share of renewable energies in our mixed energy side to 50% in 2030 and today it has reached 34%. These results

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<sup>39</sup> القمة الافريقية للمناخ: دحلب تمثل الجزائر في اجتماع تحضيرى رفيع المستوى بكينيا، وكالة الانباء الجزائرية، <http://bitly.ws/StqI>

<sup>40</sup> وزيرة البيئة تستقبل مديرة مكتب منظمة العمل الدولية لبلدان المغرب العربي، وزارة البيئة التونسية، <http://bitly.ws/M2oj>

will be complemented by the launch of a new development program for green hydrogen as an alternative and sustainable source of clean energy. In addition, Algeria's national climate contribution also contributes to the ecological transformation of other sectors with the potential to mitigate the impact on the ozone layer, such as transportation, agriculture, livestock, or afforestation. This contribution also includes other efforts in favor of the food system and the fight against desertification and food insecurity within the framework of more comprehensive regional activities, as is the case with the Senegal River Investment Organization, of which it holds the rotating presidency, the Great Green Wall Initiative, as well as the CELS Organization<sup>41</sup>.

## Second: Arab Gulf Countries

### A. Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Energy announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host in the capital, Riyadh, in coordination and cooperation with the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the "Climate Week in the Middle East and North Africa for 2023", during the period from 8 to 12 October 2023, where a large number of ministers, officials and media professionals will participate. The Ministry stated that the week's activities and events will be conducted under the title "Global Assessment", to evaluate the progress that has been made towards implementing the goals of the Paris Agreement related to climate change. The Ministry explained that the Kingdom's hosting of Climate Week in the Middle East and North Africa region for the year 2023, before the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the Climate Conventions (COP28), near the end of the year, in the UAE, will provide the opportunity to highlight the region's efforts and review its approach in climate action, highlighting the impacts of climate change at the local and regional levels in the region.<sup>42</sup>

### B. Emirates

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment announced a comprehensive roadmap to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 compared to the business-as-usual scenario. This comes after the Council of Ministers approved the third version of the second edition of the UAE Nationally Determined Contributions report. The third version represents a commitment to reducing emissions at the UAE level, with clear goals set for all local sectors. This

<sup>41</sup> رئيس الجمهورية يستعرض أمام قمة روما جهود موريتانيا ضد التغير المناخي، موريتانيا اليوم، <https://rimtoday.net/?q=node/40067m>  
<sup>42</sup> السعودية تستضيف أسبوع المناخ في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا لعام 2023، العربية، <http://bitly.ws/Styn>

commitment includes all parties in the country, including government and private sector institutions, to accelerate the UAE's path to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The third version of the second edition of the Nationally Determined Contributions report also reflects the UAE's commitment to achieving the goal of Paris Agreement to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius while following all measures to limit temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the current century, with the global goal of limiting the rise in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius, while strengthening efforts to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels<sup>43</sup>.

### C. Bahrain

During the second voluntary national review of the Kingdom of Bahrain on July 18 in New York, Mrs. Noor bint Ali Al-Khalif, Minister of Sustainable Development, affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to achieving sustainability in various developmental, social, economic and environmental fields, noting that SDG13 on climate action is witnessing a significant and tangible movement in the Kingdom, as Bahrain seeks to reach zero neutrality by 2060 through ambitious and implementable initiatives by accelerating the implementation of its plans to switch to renewable energy, quadrupling the number of mangroves, doubling the number of trees in general, and direct investment in carbon sequestration technologies<sup>44</sup>.

### D. Yemen

Minister of Water and Environment, Eng. Tawfiq al-Sharjabi participated in the ministerial meeting of the States of the Group of 77 and China on the Climate and Development Convention, held in the Cuban capital of Havana. Sharjabi pointed out that the effects of climate change are visible in Yemen, which has lost biodiversity, increased pollution levels, collapsed infrastructure and exacerbated problems, increased inequality, and poverty, and threatened uneasy food security due to the war with the Houthi coup militias. He recalled the gains and unification of the Group of 77 and China on many issues in the developing and less developed world. The Minister of Water and Environment reviewed what had been achieved on those issues and the climate change conference decisions, as the established funding decision for losses, damage, and additional funding in the 2015 Paris Agreement. It also

<sup>43</sup> الإمارات تسرع هدف خفض الانبعاثات إلى 40% بحلول 2030، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/PjG8>

<sup>44</sup> في كلمة خلال تقديم الاستعراض الوطني الطوعي الثاني لمملكة البحرين.. وزيرة التنمية المستدامة: حكومة مملكة البحرين ملتزمة بتسريع وتيرة تبني ودمج أهداف التنمية المستدامة، وكالة أنباء البحرين، <http://bitly.ws/Sve5>

reviewed the challenges faced by developing countries to strengthen the Group's procedures, coordination, and positions<sup>45</sup>.

## E. Sultanate of Oman

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifty-ninth session from July 25-28 at UNEP headquarters in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. The Omani delegation to the session was headed by Saeed bin Mohammed Al-Omari, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kenya. The session aimed to elect the chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Bureau members, and members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change task forces for the seventh assessment session. The session includes several meetings and sessions that discuss and explain the electoral mechanism and the appointment of nominating committees. The session has side events of the regions and groups over the four-day cycle<sup>46</sup>.

## Third: Levant Countries

### A. Jordan

The second Climate Coordination Meeting was held at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Zeina Tuqan, and the Minister of Environment, Engineer Maouya Radayda. The meeting emphasized Jordan's seriousness in implementing its climate action commitments to move towards a low-carbon economy, reduce emissions, and enhance climate resilience and its obvious impacts, particularly on the water sector. It also explained Jordan's experience in this area and the Government's proactive position in addressing climate challenges and effects. The participants also developed Jordan's climate action priorities under the vision of economic modernization and its operational program for 2023-2025<sup>47</sup>.

The meeting included a panel discussion on actions taken by the Jordanian Government and partners to strengthen efforts and coordination in the field of climate action

<sup>45</sup> الوزير الشرجبي يشارك في الاجتماع الوزاري لدول مجموعة الـ 77 والصين في كوبا، وزارة المياه والبيئة اليمنية، <http://bitly.ws/Svoo>

<sup>46</sup> سلطنة عمان تشارك في الدورة الـ (59) للهيئة الدولية لمعنية بتغير المناخ (IPCC)، هيئة البيئة عمان، <http://bitly.ws/SvDJ>

<sup>47</sup> عقد اجتماع لدعم أولويات العمل المناخي في الأردن، وزارة البيئة الأردنية، <http://bitly.ws/SuSu>

and to advance Jordan's commitments and assist it in this regard. It also provided information on the World Bank's country report on climate and development aimed at analyzing ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change and optimizing the use of resources to overcome this climate challenge. Jordan's public expenditure report on climate change and the environment was also reviewed, as was an update from the NDC Partnership Programme on coordination and cooperation frameworks to support Jordan's submission of these contributions and proposals on climate finance in terms of harmonizing and channeling financing around climate change priorities and actions.

## B. Syria

Hussein Makhoulf, Minister of Local Administration and Environment, with Ala 'Aladdin Najm Tahir Najm, Technical Adviser to the Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq, discussed the existing cooperation and coordination between the two countries to address climate challenges and their negative repercussions, in which water scarcity is one of the main problems. The Syrian Minister noted that climate change compels Syria to act and join forces to address pressing environmental issues and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including water issues.<sup>48</sup>

## C. Palestine

Palestinian Environment Minister Nasreen al-Tamimi noted in a meeting with media outlets that the State of Palestine had recently updated the nationally determined contribution report and raised its ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although the State of Palestine is not emission-producing, raising its contributions to mitigation is an affirmation of the State of Palestine's effectiveness and interest in standing side by side with the world to address this phenomenon, which threatens all life facilities on this planet, especially for developing and island countries.

It also followed up on projects resulting from national plans, national strategies, and priorities for different sectors and climate change, such as the \$24 million water abundance project for agriculture from the Green Climate Fund - The funding arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in addition to several preparatory projects from the Green Climate Fund that support Palestine's preparation for climate action

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<sup>48</sup> مباحثات سورية عراقية للتعاون في مجالات المناخ والمياه، وزارة الإدارة المحلية والبيئة، <http://bitly.ws/SvBs>



and the preparation of climate change projects for various sectors, which reduce the negative impacts of climate change and contribute to the promotion of agricultural and water work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the coming years<sup>49</sup>.

<b>Target 3</b>	<b>Improving Education, Raising Awareness, and Human and Institutional Capacities to Mitigate Climate Change</b>
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## First: North Africa:

### A. Egypt

The Minister of Environment participated in the opening ceremony of the Chapter Zero Egypt Society in Egypt. The Minister welcomed the cooperation with the Chapter Zero Society in raising awareness for youth and entrepreneurs by providing technical support in bringing up topics for discussion and using the Ministry's database as a reference for raising awareness, such as climate change and biodiversity. The Minister of the Environment noted that young people can create a generation aware of the importance of the environment and how to preserve it and address environmental challenges. The Ministry of Environment has collaborated with the Ministry of Education for three years to develop the Government's first school curriculum to integrate the concepts of climate change, diversity, and environmental sustainability in a simplified manner for students aged 7 to 15 years. In cooperation with the Higher Council of Universities, the first university curriculum to be incorporated into various university disciplines and to support students' and universities' initiatives is also being developed<sup>50</sup>.

## Second: Arab Gulf States

### B. Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Development Fund held a joint workshop with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Fund's headquarters in Riyadh to share knowledge and experience in international development. The workshop reviewed international plans to combat climate change and the most effective measurement mechanisms, including their relevance to the international development framework. The workshop also discussed the current and future

<sup>49</sup> وزيرة البيئة الفلسطينية لـ«جسور بوست»: مواجهة التغيرات المناخية تتطلب تكاتفاً عالمياً جاداً، جسور بوست، <http://bitly.ws/SvED>  
<sup>50</sup> خلال مشاركتها في حفل افتتاح جمعية "تشابتر زيرو إيجيبت": وزيرة البيئة ترحب بالتعاون مع الجمعية في مجال رفع الوعي للشباب ورواد الأعمال، وزارة البيئة المصرية، <https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/News/11732/Details>

climate change impacts on developing countries' sustainable development goals and best practices strategies on climate change to identify a road map for mitigating the global climate threat. The specialists of the Saudi Development Fund highlighted during the workshop's work highlight the Fund's efforts to combat climate change and the Fund's commitment to contribute to sustainable development through clean energy and afforestation initiatives in developing countries, enhance the environment, and create employment in sustainable sectors. The workshop aligned with the Saudi Development Fund's goal of joining forces with leading international organizations. Through its development projects and programs, the Fund supports sustainable development goals achievement, which seek to promote growth and prosperity in all developing countries<sup>51</sup>.

### C. United Arab Emirates

The Government of the UAE called for the children's and young people's voices to be included in the United Nations discussions through the Climate Action Agenda as those who will lead change with their resolve and vitality, noting that the International Youth Climate Programme funds the participation of 100 young people. The UAE, in partnership with the Presidency of COP 28, UNDP, and UNICEF, organized a round-table dialogue on the impact of climate change on young generations affected by conflict<sup>52</sup>.

### D. Bahrain

Under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Din, Minister of Oil and Environment, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Supreme Council for the Environment, and sponsored by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), The Supreme Council for the Environment organized a workshop entitled "Biodiversity, climate change, and nature-based solutions." Representatives from 16 countries across the Middle East and North Africa participated in the workshop to discuss positive and durable solutions to climate change inspired by nature before the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (COP28). Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dina, Minister of Oil and Environment, praised the organization of this workshop, which reflects Bahrain's commitment to achieving zero neutrality by 2060 and establishing the Kingdom's endeavors to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change

<sup>51</sup> الصندوق السعودي للتنمية يعقد ورشة عمل مشتركة في التغير المناخي مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، الصندوق السعودي للتنمية،

<https://www.sfd.gov.sa/ar/n530>

<sup>52</sup> كوب 28.. الإمارات تدعو إلى إشراك الأطفال والشباب في العمل المناخي، رؤية الإخبارية، <http://bitly.ws/Svjn>

based on the foundations of sustainable development and supporting Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. It is worth mentioning that the workshop included discussions under four main themes: a common understanding of the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss and how to link them to nature, and the development of effective nature-based solutions that support green economic development to combat climate change by 2050.<sup>53</sup>

## E. Qatar

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Qatar Council for Research, Development, and Innovation have agreed to launch a research program on environment, climate change, and research priorities in September and proposed steps to implement the cooperative program, which aims to strengthen institutional and community partnership with various stakeholders in the country. In the context of enhanced cooperation between the parties, the two sides reviewed the latest developments and efforts in environmental sustainability and climate change related to research and innovation within the framework of the cooperation program signed in 2022.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Falih bin Nasser bin Ahmed Al Thani briefed on what had been done over the past period, which included the launch of an innovation opportunity on the platform of the Council of Ministries as part of the Open Innovation Programme, as well as the accreditation of a research office of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, as well as the Ministry's registration of environmental labs, on the platform of the council, to make it available to researchers.<sup>54</sup>

## Third: Levant Countries

### A. Jordan

On July 27, the Jordanian Economic and Social Council held a workshop on climate change and equitable transition in Jordan in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Trade Unions to elaborate recommendations that would develop and promote equitable transition in the transport and energy sectors. The equitable transition will provide new jobs that require the promotion of social protection, training, and qualification, opening up workers' freedom of

<sup>53</sup> برعاية وزير النفط والبيئة المبعوث الخاص لشئون المناخ.. تنظيم ورشة عمل دولية بعنوان (التنوع الحيوي وتغير المناخ والحلول التي تعتمد على الطبيعة)، المجلس الأعلى للبيئة.

<sup>54</sup> Qatar: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, QRDI council to launch joint research program, ZAWYA, <http://bitly.ws/SxLt>

representation and raising their trade union voice. Given the importance of advocating such workshops for our belief that some aspects have not been adequately covered, pointing out that the strategy needs to be further developed to come up with a clear vernacular reading of the future of climate change. The workshop included three sessions that discussed the energy sector, transport, finance, and loss compensation strategy, during which they analyzed the challenges faced by Jordan's energy sector due to climate change, as well as presenting available statistics on employment opportunities and the fate of workers on the energy transition path, and discussed the subject of Jordan's financing for the transition to clean energy<sup>55</sup>.

### **Axis III: League of Arab States' Efforts to Combat Climate Change**

#### **First: The General Secretariat organized a workshop entitled "Towards Climate Resilient Food Systems:"**

The most prominent efforts of the League of Arab States in the Climate file during July, following a series of events organized by the Department of Environment and Meteorology under the slogan "From Sharm el-Sheikh to Dubai: Outcomes and Objectives" In preparation for the 28th session of the United Nations Conference on the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) to be held in the United Arab Emirates, a workshop entitled "Towards Climate Resilient Food Systems" was organized on 18/7/2023 jointly with AOAD and FAO. More than 70 participants interested in agriculture, food security, and climate change negotiations participated in the workshop by several Arab countries and Arab and international organizations interested in the topic<sup>56</sup>.

The workshop discussed the Chronovia Framework for Action for the Agricultural Sector, adaptation actions, and financing needs of this vital sector which is linked to global food security. This workshop was part of the plan of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to prepare for the United Nations Conference on the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), which is being held for the second consecutive year in an Arab

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<sup>55</sup> ورشة عمل بعنوان " التغيرات المناخية والانتقال العادل في الأردن" في المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي، المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي الأردني،

<http://bitly.ws/SuUT>

<sup>56</sup> الأمانة العامة تنظم ورشة عمل بعنوان "نحو نظم زراعية غذائية مقاومة للتغيرات المناخية"، جامعة الدول العربية، <http://bitly.ws/SzIW>

State; this demonstrates the Arab States' active and prominent role in this important subject<sup>57</sup>.

## **Second: Organization of the sixteenth workshop to train Arab negotiators on climate change**

The League of Arab States held its sixteenth workshop to train Arab climate change negotiators at the headquarters of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and jointly organized by the Department of Environment and Meteorology of the League of Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA A) and the United Nations Environment Programme. The three-day workshop discussed the topics of mathematical modeling to assess the impact of Paris Convention response measures on various economic sectors, Article VI mechanisms, and the new global adaptation goal<sup>58</sup>.

More than 50 negotiators from Arab countries participated in the workshop with the participation of speakers from the secretariat of the United Nations Climate Change Convention. The 34th meeting of Arab negotiators was held in the margins of the workshop, where the Arab Negotiating Group's action plan was discussed in the coming period, and the Arab negotiating position was prepared during the COP28 meetings. Ambassador Ali bin Ibrahim, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Affairs Sector, stated that the workshop and the meeting held on its margins were part of the efforts of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to contribute actively to supporting the efforts of Arab States by developing the capacities of Arab negotiators in the field of climate change by the latest advanced scientific curricula<sup>59</sup>.

### **Axis IV: Analysis of Climate Action in July and Proposals for its Enhancement**

#### **First: Analysis of the climate action in the Arab region during July in numbers**

Since the beginning of this year, most Arab governments have shifted their focus on **the role of youth in facing climate change**, especially the UAE Government, being a President of COP 28, believing that success is based on the effective inclusion of all categories. Indeed, the proportion of young negotiators under 35 in the COP28 team has reached about 70%. In

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<sup>57</sup> المرجع السابق ذكره  
<sup>58</sup> تنظيم ورشة العمل السادسة عشر لتدريب المفاوضين العرب في مجال التغيرات المناخية، جامعة الدول العربية، <http://bitly.ws/SzMV>  
<sup>59</sup> المرجع السابق ذكره

addition to the first group of participants in the 100 International Youth Climate Delegates' Programme, representing least developed countries, small island developing States, indigenous peoples, and minority groups. **COP28 will be the first climate conference to raise the voices of the world's youth**, incorporate their proposals and perspectives into global climate policymaking, and is expected to open the way for enhanced youth participation in all future conferences of the parties.

**The target least achieved is the third target seeking to improve education**, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change. During July, there were few awareness-raising activities to mitigate the effects of climate change. The target has not been achieved for more than a month in many countries, topped by the Arab conflict areas.

**The countries that came first in terms of achievements in July** were the UAE and Egypt. To achieve the third target, they adopted policies and activities that reduce carbon emissions over the long term. But this does not necessarily mean that they have been able to reduce the damage of climate change, and both countries remain in the circle of Africa's most vulnerable countries. Many countries disappeared in July without mentioning efforts to curb climate change, perhaps most notably the State of Iraq, despite Iraq's ranking as the fifth most vulnerable to climate change. Sudan and Eritrea are also States that are greatly affected by the negative consequences of climate change. But in these States' armed conflict, State efforts to promote climate action are disappearing. In Lebanon, where the country's vulnerability to climate change continues to escalate without such change being a clear priority in the interest of the authorities, the Lebanese authorities appear, for the most part, insufficient to care about climate change and are unable to deal with it properly.

**As for this month's State, Djibouti** continues to face serious environmental problems, ranking 130 out of 185 on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index, which assesses vulnerability and readiness to adapt to climate change. Despite the Government's efforts and considerable attention to climate action, the State continues to suffer from the negative consequences of climate change; more than 70% of the population still lives in rural areas, which rely heavily on climate-sensitive rain-fed agriculture. Regional climate impacts combined with rapid urbanization are expected to threaten high poverty, low agricultural productivity, food security and livelihoods, water resource stress, the geographical expansion of diseases, land degradation, and infrastructure destruction if the State does not accelerate the implementation of its climate change strategic plan.

Given the efforts of the League of Arab States during July, it has intensified its entire focus towards achieving the third target, "improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change." During July, the university held two workshops, one on raising awareness of the importance of climate-resistant agricultural food systems and the other on training Arab negotiators in climate change. The youth group attended the workshop. The university did not lose sight of the importance of their participation in preparation for the COP28 climate conference.

## Second: Recommendations

- First: To mitigate the effects of climate and reduce climate risks, **Maat urges the League of Arab States to build a partnership with the Government of Djibouti to launch programs to prepare for the consequences of climate change**, including the pre-storage of supplies, food, water and other essential needs for which the State is in urgent need.
- Second: Concerning the integration of young people into climate action, Maat appreciates UAE's efforts to prioritize youth in COP 28. In this regard, **Maat recommends the Governments of the Arab States strengthen youth engagement in the implementation of national strategies to reduce climate change** and encourage youth projects and organizations working to adapt to climate change.
- Third: Given the importance of grants and financial assistance needed to mitigate losses and damage resulting from climate change, **Maat calls on international and regional financial donors to intensify their financial assistance to the Arab States, particularly those most vulnerable to climate risks**, notably Iraq and those in conflict, which lack strong institutions capable of financing the damage.
- Fourth: Maat recommends the **League of Arab States to prioritize Arab youth in the next period, whether through guidance, material, or technical support, to encourage innovation and technological solutions to reduce environmental problems**, as well as their activation and promotion in society.
- Fifth: In the context of the exchange of experiences between Arab countries, **Maat urges the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the Arab Emirates to organize workshops and panel discussions for UAE youth** to integrate and encourage them to participate in the exchange of experiences between Arab ministries of the environment to support the efforts of less active governments.