

# Accelerated Arab efforts in the race towards COP27 climate summit





# Introduction:

Since the upcoming 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was officially announced in November, national Arab efforts have been gathering together to protect the planet from extreme weather events. On the Arab level, accelerated efforts and proactive steps to the COP27 climate summit have been detected. It is worth noting that international and regional organizations have played a vital role in supporting the efforts of their member governments in addressing the major crises they face, such as the climate change crisis and its repercussions. Undoubtedly, the absence of support of these organizations may hinder national efforts to combat climate change. Speaking of the Arab region and the role of the League of Arab States, the Arab League can provide technical assistance and advisory services to Arab countries on the issue of climate change. Therefore, any absence from Arab countries may complicate their handling of serious issues, especially the issue of climate change.

Given the Syrian situation, specifically since its membership in the Arab League was suspended in 2011, the Syrian people suffer from multiple challenges such as mainly widespread insecurity, lack of political stability, and "severe climate" crisis, represented by water scarcity and drought, causing millions of casualties especially among the most vulnerable groups, who fall in the clutches of hunger and poverty. This reflects the need for urgent and immediate support from the Arab League and the return of Syria as a member of the Arab League.

In the context of its keenness 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 the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the "The SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region", under the title "Accelerated Arab Efforts in the Race to COP27 Climate Summit", to track good practices as well as the challenges facing Arab countries in achieving the SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Observatory** focuses on the actions and measures taken by the Arab countries to address climate change and its repercussions, knowing 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 analyzes the successes and failures in implementing the targets of SDG13, whereas the second axis monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced by **the rest of the Arab countries** in implementing the Targets of the SDG13.

# **Monitoring Methodology:**

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

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

# Targets of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

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

It is noteworthy that the observatory included monitoring the extent of the success of the Arab countries in achieving these goals in particular, in order to focus on the indicators that can be measured in the short term, and then measure the extent of the success of the countries in achieving them. Given the observatory's one-month time scope,

the measure of some indicators of achieving the objectives of SDG 13 requires a relatively long-time span, one year or more.

# **Legal frameworks of SDG 13: Climate Action**

The SDG 13 Observatory depends on an international legal reference, which is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1993 (UNFCCC), and the extent of the commitment of Arab countries to this agreement in addition to the Arab strategies developed by the governments that come in light of this agreement, and finally, the national initiatives and programs carried out by the national organizations concerned with climate change issues.

# Axis I: The Country focus of the issue "Syrian Arab Republic"

# First: Overview of the situation of climate change in Syria:

In addition to the deteriorating political and security situation in Syria for more than a decade, climatic turmoil has become an additional factor and a cause of exacerbating the political crisis in Syria. The crisis in the country was worsened by the scarcity of water and sectarian and ethnic tensions in the country, as is the case between the Kurds, Arabs, Alawites, and Sunnis. In addition, the position of many international organizations towards Syria, the most important of which is the suspension of membership since 2011, has affected support for projects related to combating climate change, which increased the Syrian crisis, which changed from the framework of the political crisis into a climate crisis.

With the entry of regional powers, especially Iran and Saudi Arabia, who are sworn enemies, the situation worsened, as the population no longer had access to water or food, as happened in Homs and Aleppo. Over the years, rainfall rates decreased significantly in Syria, and this coincided with a significant rise in temperatures, which led to desertification and significant damage to agricultural lands, especially in the east of the country. This situation has caused 800,000 residents in Syria to lose their livelihood, and 85 percent of Syria's livestock resources have died.<sup>1</sup>

Syria is a country that **relies mainly on agriculture**, but climate change factors and outstanding security issues combined to harm Syria's production of grain in 2022, leaving

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the majority of farms in a precarious situation. The wheat crop in Syria in 2022 reached only one million tons, which is 75% less than it was before the crisis, as it reached 4 million tons annually before the war, and that amount before was enough to feed its people and exported the rest to neighboring countries, but after the war in Syria, however, farmers continued to face harsh conditions and security problems as they try to adapt to changing weather.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, another 1.8 million are at risk of **hunger**.

There have **been fires and disasters** that damaged forests and plantations of citrus and olive trees, causing the Syrian government to eventually resort to Moscow to import the crops. According to statistics from the World Food Program, **12 million Syrians are at risk of famine**. Syria was also classified among the nine countries at high risk from climatic events, and has the third highest rate of drought risk, and 40 percent of the irrigated agricultural areas no longer have the ability to rely on irrigation. The drought areas are based on the Jazira region in Syria, such as Al-Hasakeh, Al-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor, where climate change has caused the dryness of those islands, which led to the displacement of many people.

# **Second: Targets of SDGs in Syria**

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

With regard to the integration of measures related to climate change in national plans and strategies, so far the Syrian government has not implemented any strategies that achieve goal 13 (climate action) of the Sustainable Development Goals, nor has the government launched national initiatives that would reduce the effects of climate change, although the government signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1997. Also in 2017, Syria signed the Paris Climate Agreement, and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on January 27, 2006.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> سكاي نيوز عربية، انخفاض محصول القمح في سوريا بسبب تغير المناخ، 20 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/BBgzI5H مصطفى رستم، التغير المناخى يهدد بمجاعة تحدق بـ 12 مليون سوري، اندبندنت عربية، 28 أكتوبر 2021، https://bit.ly/3Mr1wbd

It is worth noting that Syria submitted its first national communication on climate changes in 2010, and was unable to prepare the second national communication due to the cessation of support and funding required so far for this communication by donors and relevant international and regional organizations due to the unjust unilateral measures imposed on Syria, which comes on top of the suspension of Syria's membership in the League of Arab States.<sup>4</sup>

Target 2 Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-rela	
	and natural disasters in all countries

Syria must **strengthen flexibility to the shocks of climate change**, due to Syria's suffering from harsh conditions as a result of the war that was imposed t in the past ten years and its negative effects on the environment with all its components, which led to impeding the development process and a decline in the ability to address climate threats. The situation also deteriorated due to the suspension of the implementation of many international and regional projects aimed at protecting the environment and sustainable development, especially projects related to combating the effects of climate change, which exacerbated the crisis.<sup>5</sup>

Although carbon emissions in Syria are not a real reason for the increase in climate change in the world, the low rates of carbon emissions in Syria do not cancel their impact on the Syrians significantly. There is oil in Homs and another in Baniyas on the coast, which is one of the worst sources of environmental pollution that has accumulated over decades, causing noticeable climatic effects. The second reason is due to the oil refinery and the thermal plant, which run on fossil fuels and both were built with technologies that did not address the problems of carbon emissions.<sup>6</sup>

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

https://cutt.ly/7BgnLG5 (2022) بالشروق، زيارة الرئيس السيسي للدوحة، 13 سبتمبر 2022 (https://bit.ly/3EHWgFO عبيان وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية، جلاسكو، نوفمبر 2021 (https://bit.ly/3EHWgFO عبيان وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية المساوية المساوية

العربي السفير، تغيرات المناخ في سوريا، 22 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/XBgvWbG

In the context of seeking to improve education and raise awareness to improve human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change, a workshop was held in the building of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment on climate change and its impact on the environment, with the aim of benefiting from the experiences of **Syria and Iraq** and developing the vision of the two countries. During the workshop, the Iraqi delegation provided an idea about the projects carried out by his country to confront climate changes and the vision of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment in the field of regional cooperation and how to deal with those changes that threaten the vital field of the environment, **while the Syrian side presented a project of dust storms** that hit the region and suggestions to reduce them and mitigate their negative effects on the soil and the environment.<sup>7</sup>

The two sides agreed on the need to sign a memorandum of understanding to frame joint action in this regard and to benefit from the Iraqi experiences to get rid of oil pollution and the Syrian experience in the field of renewable energies, calling for organizing work and motivating the citizens of the two countries to be partners in addressing environmental protection. During the workshop, a joint working group was formed to develop efforts and propose projects that will have a significant impact and added value for adapting to climate changes and absolute coordination in international, regional and national conferences, with the aim of reaching a positive result in this framework for both parties<sup>8</sup>.

# Axis II: achieving SDG 13 in the Arab region

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> الوكالة العربية السورية لأنباء، إعداد مشاريع للحفاظ على البيئة من أولويات العمل المشترك السوري العراقي، 17 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.lv/tBgm60k

<sup>\*</sup> لوكالة العربية السورية لأنباء، إعداد مشاريع للحفاظ على البيئة من أولويات العمل المشترك السوري العراقي، 17 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/tBgm60k

## a. North African countries:

# 1. Egypt:

Yasmine Fouad, the Minister of Environment and the US presidential envoy on climate affairs, met to discuss aspects of joint cooperation between Egypt and America, in light of Egypt's preparations to host the COP27 climate conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, on the sidelines of her participation in the G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting. The meeting also discussed the possibility of the American side participating in supporting the agriculture initiative that Egypt is scheduled to launch at the next climate conference, they also discussed the expected outputs from the climate conference.<sup>9</sup>

The Ministers of Environment, Agriculture and Development met to discuss the plan to confront acute air pollution attacks 2022, known in the media (the Black Cloud), and to define the tasks and responsibilities of all participating parties in the system. The Minister of Environment stressed that the plan to confront acute air pollution attacks 2022 represents a new challenge that reflects the country's efforts to confront climate changes. At the beginning of the meeting, Yasmine Fouad praised the success achieved by the system to confront acute air pollution attacks during the past year, thanks to the integration and joint coordination between all ministries and concerned authorities, noting that these efforts contributed to transforming the great challenge into an economic opportunity, and transforming the crisis into an economic product that generates a financial return instead of burning it, causing air pollution emissions.

During the meeting, Ali Abu Sunna, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, reviewed the results of the efforts of the system to combat acute air pollution attacks for the past year 2021, which clarified the most important sources of pollution that cause the phenomenon, such as burning municipal and agricultural waste, car exhaust, industrial emissions. Studies indicated a marked improvement in the level of air quality over the past year. He reviewed the joint plan to confront acute episodes of air pollution 2022, which was developed in coordination with the Ministries of Agriculture and Local Development and the concerned authorities, in preparation for presenting to the Prime Minister, which is based on a set of different axes, where the first axis is to collect, press and chop the largest amount of rice straw by increasing the collection quantities with the continuation

<sup>9</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، 1 سبتمبر 2022، على هامش المشاركة بأجتماع وزراء البيئة، https://cutt.ly/aBtFwJB

of financing mechanisms for contractors, increasing the number of sites and inspection axes, encouraging farmers to recycle.

The second axis is also represented in reducing emissions and fumes from various sources by controlling public and random dumps and inspecting factories, the third axis is based on tight control and monitoring through the use of the latest technological means such as satellites, early warning, vehicle tracking system, air quality monitoring stations in real time and factory emissions, the increase and diversity of means of receiving notifications from a hotline, WhatsApp, Facebook and a website. The fourth axis is also represented in increasing in the number of environmental awareness campaigns and the provision of information to various media.<sup>10</sup>

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, met with representatives of the Rabbit team to discuss participation in the activities of the Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, by providing and operating environmentally friendly means of transportation represented in the provision of 150-200 electric scooters or electric bicycles to contribute to transporting participants during the conference to move inside Sharm El-Sheikh.<sup>11</sup>

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, received Dr. Khaleda, Director of the Regional Office for Arab States, at the United Nations Development Program, to discuss aspects of cooperation in preparing for the climate conference and the role of the United Nations Development Program. Yasmine Fouad stated that the success of the conference depends on the extent to which the multilateral ecosystem is able to implement the obligations of the environmental agreements, especially the climate agreement, as well as the compatibility of all the states parties to the agreement and the implementation of the agreed commitments. She explained the need to work to show solutions to the problems of climate change that meet the purpose of meeting basic needs<sup>12</sup>

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly met with the CEO of the Climate Investment Funds. During the meeting, the Prime Minister expressed the government's intention to enhance cooperation with climate investment funds during the next period, especially

<sup>10</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، 2 سبتمبر 2022، اجتماع الوزراء لمناقشة خطة مواجهة نوبات تلوث الهواء الحاد، <u>https://cutt.ly/JBtDGWU</u>

<sup>11</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، 5 سبتمبر 2022، تسهيل التنقل عبر وسائل مواصلات حديثة، https://cutt.ly/gBtLeBP

<sup>12</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، مناقشة أوجه التعاون للتحضير لمؤتمر المناخ، 6 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/cBtZCly

within the framework of the "National Investment Platform for Green Projects and Climate Action", which is known In the name of "NWFE", as a national program to link international climate and development issues, with the mobilization of concessional development financing for a package of green development projects in the food, water and energy sectors, within the framework of Egypt's comprehensive national climate strategy 2050.<sup>13</sup>

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, participated in the second edition of the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Finance and the meeting of African Ministers of Finance and Environment, which was held from 7-9 September in the New Administrative Capital. Over the three days, the Minister of Environment participated in a number of round tables on the national platform for green projects "NWFE Program" for projects of Energy, Food and Water Association, the way to the COP27 climate conference and the initiatives to be launched during the conference, and empowering women to accelerate the pace of climate action, in addition to a series of side meetings with development partners from representatives of the international community, international institutions, banking agencies and donors such as the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund to discuss joint cooperation mechanisms to support climate action, and drive the climate finance agenda to start the actual implementation of measures to confront the effects of climate change.

The Minister of Environment stressed that the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Finance and the meeting of African Ministers of Economy, Finance and Environment are an important step on the way to the COP27 climate conference to drive the efforts of the international community to move from pledges to implementation, by enhancing the ability to access funds in order to accelerate the climate action agenda, implementation of the Paris Agreement, and stimulating private sector participation in climate finance, especially in Africa.

She also pointed to the importance of the forum's constructive ideas and experiences in the areas of innovation to stimulate climate action, food security and agriculture in light of climate changes, sustainable public budget mechanisms for climate finance, green economy and enhancing climate adaptation efforts. She also drew attention to opportunities to create partnerships with climate investment funds, with the aim of

<sup>13</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، تعزيز التعاون مع صناديق الاستثمار في المناخ، 6 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/MBtBdUk

stimulating the participation of the private sector in projects and activities to adapt to climate changes in the countries of the South, in the areas of agriculture, water and energy, and mechanisms for integrating adaptation to climate changes in international development policies, by enhancing capacity building in African countries in the field of development cooperation, which is more resilient and aware of the risks posed by climate change, especially in Africa<sup>14</sup>.

The Minister of Environment participated in the round table meeting on the sidelines of the second edition of the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Finance, and stressed that dealing with climate change requires a comprehensive containment approach that generates solutions compatible with the three pillars of "adaptation, mitigation, resilience and losses and damages," explaining that it is important to present the journey of Egypt in the field of turning green, which was not an easy journey, but rather was full of internal and external challenges, especially in light of the economic crises and the Coronavirus pandemic. Yasmine Fouad explained that Egypt has realized over the past years, in light of environmental developments and repercussions, and their negative repercussions on fragile systems such as food, energy and water, the urgent need to deal with climate change with a comprehensive inclusive approach.<sup>15</sup>

Yasmine Fouad participated in the discussion session on the role of African governments in defining their own climate agenda. She explained that the session aims to highlight the technical and financial needs of African countries to develop and align their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with long-term national development and investment plans, as the plans of the national contributions of each country are among the most important requirements for advancing climate action globally and implementing the transition to a green economy based on the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities.

The Minister pointed out three things that must be taken into account at the international, regional and national levels, the first of which is to fulfill the commitments that Egypt made long ago in 1992 with shared responsibilities, and secondly, to work on

<sup>14</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، **وزيرة البيئة تطرح ملف تمويل المناخ**، 7 سبتمبر 2022، <a hracket https://cutt.ly/4BtMM4m من البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في اجتماع المائدة المستديرة، 7 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/4BtMM4m من المستديرة، 7 سبتمبر 2022 من البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في اجتماع المائدة المستديرة، 7 سبتمبر 2022 من المستديرة المستديرة

obtaining the necessary funding to implement adaptation packages in Africa, to start work on a risk assessment of agriculture, explaining that there is a large base of multilateral development banks that can contribute to reducing the risks of climate change, as well as the private sector.<sup>16</sup>

The Ministry of Environment held a series of bilateral meetings with development partners to discuss advancing the climate finance file, the mechanisms for benefiting from the organization's annual report on green growth policy in the discussions of the COP 27 climate conference, and the organization's participation in the substantive days of the conference. The Minister of Environment stressed that the COP27 climate conference is an implementation conference on which the world relies on advancing the climate action agenda, achieving the commitments and pledges resulting from the Glasgow Climate Conference, and working for a just transition, pointing out that Egypt during the past period has taken important steps in the course of climate action, starting with announcing the National Climate Change Strategy 2050 and the updated National Contributions Plan and the emanating NWFE Program, within the framework of the national priorities for providing water and food in a country that has a great opportunity to expand renewable energy.

Yasmine Fouad met with representatives of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to discuss ways to support the COP27 climate conference. The meeting addressed the role of the NWFE program in providing a pioneering model for implementing green projects based on the basic needs of people, and the role of the fund's investment platform in supporting climate financing. The Minister of Environment explained that the NWFE program is a national program that can be considered a pioneering model to be replicated and built on globally, as the program brings facing the effects of climate change closer to people and at the center of the development process, by providing the basic needs of humans of food, water and energy in a world wracked by crises and challenges, the program also solves the problem of linking adaptation and mitigation measures and works on optimizing natural resources.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، "دور حكومات الدول الإفريقية في تحديد أجندة المناخ"، 8 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/1Bt0gfl<sup>17</sup> <sup>17</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تعقد سلسلة من اللقاءات الثنائية لمناقشة ملف تمويل المناخ، 8 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/ZBt2HZp

The Minister of Environment announced four water-related initiatives that will be launched at the COP27 climate conference, stressing that water scarcity is one of the most important challenges facing the Middle East, explaining that the issue has two axes, the first related to the impact of climate change on water scarcity, and the second axis related to raising awareness on the issue of climate change and the need to redouble the efforts made by the government and expand the scope to include youth and women, especially in the Middle East and Africa, not only in the field of water scarcity, but in the field of sustainable practices for us and for future generations and how to raise awareness of the reuse of water in agriculture or industry<sup>18</sup>.

On the sidelines of participating in the second edition of the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Finance, the Minister of Environment discussed climate projects and their priorities in the global banking sector in a number of bilateral meetings. She stressed the role of the banking sector in supporting and financing development, climate action, and innovative investments that are necessary to help people address the effects of climate change.

The Minister of Environment stressed the role of the European Investment Bank as one of the largest climate financiers in the world in supporting and financing development and climate action, to help peoples to address the effects of changes. Representatives of the European Investment Bank expressed Egypt's support during its presidency of the COP27 climate conference as an implementation conference to push the pace of environmental and climate action globally, as the bank will support projects addressing the effects of climate change and study financing climate and biodiversity projects to support the protection of natural resources for presentation during the Conference of Parties and the involvement of the private sector<sup>19</sup>.

The head of the Environmental Affairs Agency participated in the opening session of the "Environment and Development Forum", the way to the climate conference, which aims to exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of climate change and its effects on water resources, food and energy, and to review the efforts and policies of the Egyptian state to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، أ**ربع مبادرات دولية تطلق في مؤتمر المناخ**، 9 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/yBt8Msv موتمر المناخ مع القطاع المصرفي، 9 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/0Bt45mg

He stressed that climatic changes contribute to the redistribution of the water map on the surface of the globe, in addition to their impact on the quality of water in the various water basins, which necessitates the need for concerted efforts at the regional and international levels, especially among our Arab countries, to implement timely and highly efficient action plans, to alleviate the possible negative effects of these changes. He also clarified the need to work on improving the level of awareness in all its forms in the field of negative effects of climate change at the governmental and popular levels, with the participation of governmental and civil bodies concerned with research, planning, economy and finance<sup>20</sup>.

Yasmine Fouad met with the Coordinating Minister of National Security of Singapore too discuss ways of cooperation to support Egypt's hosting of the COP27 climate conference, where the Minister of Environment praised the efforts of Singapore in advancing the climate agenda, and Egypt looked forward to sharing the experiences of the Singaporean country in the Climate Conference to support climate action in light of the successive crises facing the world and affecting efforts to address the effects of change the climate. Yasmine Fouad confirmed that the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Conference will depend on what was reached at the Glasgow Conference to complete all the terms of the Paris Agreement.

The Singaporean Prime Minister suggested implementing a bilateral memorandum of understanding on carbon credits to benefit from them in promoting investments in the climate. This promotion should be away from the political discussions related to meeting the \$100 billion amount by creating vital investment projects through blended financing, activating the private sector role, and involving it in the carbon reduction process in the region. He also expressed his aspiration for cooperation in food security<sup>21</sup>.

Yasmine Fouad announced Egypt's participation in the methane alliance during the breakfast ceremony held on the sidelines of the 18th African Ministers of Environment Conference (AMCEN) session in the Senegalese capital, Dakar. This conference addresses the vital role of methane in maintaining access to a secure climate future. The Minister of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، **الجلسة الافتتاحية لمنتدى البيئة والتنمية،** 12 سبتمبر 2022، <a href="https://cutt.ly/wByyyHT">https://cutt.ly/BByu04</a>; 2022 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/BByu04</a>

Environment stressed that Egypt pays attention to the role of the gas and oil sector in the field of emissions and facing the effects of climate change<sup>22</sup>.

The Minister of Environment, Yasmine Fouad, met with the Minister of Tourism and Environment of the State of the Congo. They discuss ways of cooperation in supporting Egypt's hosting of the COP27 climate conference and ensuring effective and distinguished African participation on the sidelines in the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of the Environment in Senegal. During the meeting, Dr. Yasmine Fouad stressed Egypt's keenness on the participation of African countries in the COP27 climate conference.

The Congolese Minister of Tourism and Environment praised Egypt's efforts in supporting the environment and climate, especially in Africa. She praised the pioneering program launched by Egypt regarding the Energy, Food and Water Association "Nofi". This program links addressing climate change with meeting basic human needs. She referred to Congo's keenness to actively participate in the COP27 climate conference and invited it to participate in the side event that the Congo will organize in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program during the conference's activities.

# 2. Libya:

Libya has been affected by climate change, but no national strategies or plans for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have been developed and implemented. Ongoing environmental degradation threatens to further degrade terrestrial and marine environments and ecosystems without meaningful action. It necessitates taking proactive measures against the potential consequences of Libya's vulnerability to climate change and environmental degradation. The national policies and strategies development and implementation for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation can help mitigate the effects of climate change. The climate change effects include desertification and the protection of coastal urban centers from rising sea levels (which is likely to increase soil salinity, further affecting agriculture).

Libya signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015 and ratified the Paris Climate Agreement in 2021, but it has not submitted the required policies, plans, or reports, such as the National Determined Contribution, National Adaptation Plans, or National Communications<sup>23</sup>.

22 وزارة البيئة المصرية، مصر تشارك في تحالف الميثان، 15 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/eBiN7OC ، 11 sep 2022، Environment and Climate Change، UNDP Libya<sup>23</sup>

## 3. Morocco:

The World Bank provided a record \$1.83 billion in financing to Morocco in the 2022 fiscal year, which ended last June, this strong financial support fits the country's priorities related to health and climate shocks. The World Bank is committed to supporting Morocco in priority areas.

Climate finance is now a priority for the partnership between the World Bank and Morocco. They have already conducted a study entitled "Climate and Development" and shared its main findings with the government. The study aims to better understand the complexity of the interactions between climate change phenomena in Morocco and the development path, both in terms of risks and opportunities. The study is based on axes, the intersection points between climate change and development in the Kingdom: 1. Water scarcity and drought, 2. Exposure to floods that are increasing in frequency in Morocco, 3. De carbonization of the economy<sup>24</sup>.

The EIB support mission for CAM lasts for 18 months. It aims to help the Moroccan group improve its methodology for assessing physical, transitional climate-related risks and establishing a reporting and dissemination system in line with international best practices. The technical assistance is due to the partnership signed between the two institutions in September 2020, which involves financing 200 million euros for Moroccan companies in the agricultural and bio-economy sectors<sup>25</sup>.

A study was conducted to assess the impact of climate change on the availability and use of groundwater resources in Morocco, specifically the extraction of water from the aquifer system in the Tadla complex. The pilot study was based on the projections of the regional initiative to assess the impact of climate change on water resources and the vulnerability of social and economic sectors in the Arab region. The study revealed that the Arab region witness an increase in temperatures, a significant decrease in precipitation, and changes in river flow and nutrition. The main results of this study proved that the water resources in the aquifer system in Tadla will be affected by climate change due to the reduction of natural recharge caused by the decrease in the rate of precipitation and the increase in evaporation caused in part by higher temperatures<sup>26</sup>.

## 4. Mauritania:

https://cutt.ly/4BsZaX5 ، 2022 سبتمبر twenty-nine ، البنك الدولي يساند المغرب في عملية التحول المناخي twenty-nine ، البنك الدولي يساند المغرب في عملية التحول المناخي L`Observateur، La banque européenne d'investissement assistera du Marocour mieux intégrer les risques climatiques، fourteen september 2022، https://cutt.ly/GBsX1rh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> الأسكوا، تقييم أثر المناخ على المياه الجوفية، 22 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/JBsVuzU

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ms. Laleh Camra, participated in the virtual roundtable on climate and development in the Sahel countries, organized by the World Bank, with the participation of the five environment ministers of the G5 Sahel. The agenda of the table focuses on the presentation of a report on climate and development in the Sahel countries<sup>27</sup>.

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development visited the National Agency for the Great Green Wall. It was an opportunity for the Agency's Director General he reviews the achievements of his institution with the Minister, who was briefed on the progress of implementing programs and projects aimed at the sustainable management of lands and natural resources to enhance the resilience of the population against the climate change effects<sup>28</sup>.

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Lalia Camra, participated in the work of the 18th session of the African Ministers Conference on the Environment, held in the Senegalese capital. The conference participants studied the measures to be taken in preparation for the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 7 to 18 November. On the first day of the ministerial meeting, a declaration was issued by the ministers of the least-developed countries on climate change and approved<sup>29</sup>.

# 5. Algeria

Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra called for a common and unified African position in preparation for the climate summit to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh next November, during his participation in the summit meeting of the Committee of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Climate Change on the sidelines of the high-level meeting of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Algerian minister stressed the need for African countries to unite to call for

https://cutt.ly/LBsNwBj (2022 سبتمبر 2022 سبتمبر 2022) مبتمبر 2022 مبتمبر 4 https://cutt.ly/dBsMYTq (2022 مبتمبر 2022) https://cutt.ly/dBsMYTq (2022 وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، زيارة الوكالة الوطنية للسور الأخضر، 20 سبتمبر 2022) https://cutt.ly/xBs1f6k
وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، تحضيرات لمؤتمر المناخ، 15 سبتمبر 2022)

the adoption of an effective climate stance that takes into accounts Africa's priorities and concerns.<sup>30</sup>

#### a. Levant countries:

## 1. Jordan

The American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, in cooperation with the Edama Association for Energy, Water, and Environment, organized a panel discussion entitled "Progress towards the Global Climate Change Conference". The attendees discussed possible solutions to meet the challenges of climate change, especially regarding water and the environment, the role of the private sector in linking economic growth and environmental protection, and ways to benefit from the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The discussion aimed to identify the technical and material assistance needed to assist the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region.

Environment Minister Muawiya al-Radaydah said during the session that experts indicate that Jordan and the surrounding region will face 20 percent more climate challenges than the rest of the world. The minister pointed out that Jordan has witnessed a decrease in rainfall rates since the 1970s and an increase in the population over the past ten years. Jordan has become one of the five poorest countries in the world with water.

The minister added that Jordan is heading towards a green economy, through green plans for projects worth more than \$9 billion, despite limited resources. The minister stressed that the government is continuing to take steps to open the market for clean energy production in Jordan because it is necessary at all levels and in various fields<sup>31</sup>.

The Minister of Environment and members of the National Institute for Security Studies delegation, which is visiting the Kingdom, met with the aim of learning and benefiting from the Jordanian expertise and experience in many fields. The delegation's visit to the Ministry of Environment was one of the meetings held by many Jordanian officials. These meetings aim at coordination and joint action between the Jordanian and Nigerian sides on the issue of climate change.

The Minister of Environment gave a detailed explanation of the most important achievements of the Jordanian state, represented by the Ministry of Environment, in the field of environmental protection at all national and international levels, specifically about

30 اليوم السابع، الجزائر تدعو إلى موقف إفريقي مشترك، 22 سبنمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/zBdtmdD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، تنظيم الأردن جلسة حوارية حول تغير المناخ، 25 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/SBdptNq

the measures taken to confront the phenomenon of climate change and the preparations currently underway for the Sharm el-Sheikh conference in the Arab Republic of Egypt<sup>32</sup>.

# 2. Iraq

The Minister of Environment received the Deputy Resident Representative from the United Nations Development Program. The Minister welcomed the distinguished partner in climate action from the representatives of the organization and their distinguished role in supporting the ministry's efforts in facing the challenges of the impact of climate change. He also welcomed the discussion of the preparations of the Iraqi delegation participating in the Conference of the Parties to Sharm El-Sheikh and the unified vision that will be presented during the conference. He also discussed what has been implemented from the national contributions document submitted to the Paris Agreement, which includes reducing emissions and gradual transformation of energies based on natural solutions, and alternative energies that are environmentally friendly and achieving sustainable development goals<sup>33</sup>.

The Minister of Environment received the head of the United Nations Migration Mission to strengthen relations and support the ministry's efforts to impact the challenges of climate change on internal displacement in Iraq (the environmental displaced). The Minister of Environment outlined the most important environmental challenges facing the ministry, especially climatic changes and their effects, including drought, desertification, dust storms, water scarcity, and lack of rainfall. These changes led to mass internal displacement due to the lack of natural resources, which affected the infrastructure and led to the formation of an unstable environment for living<sup>34</sup>.

The Minister of Environment met with water experts at the United Nations Development Program to discuss the preparation of a project that contributes to addressing water scarcity with international funding, within a group of projects that contribute to confronting the effects of climate change. He also discussed finding solutions to address drought, desertification, and water scarcity and achieving water security<sup>35</sup>.

The Minister of Environment met with the international expert in the United Nations Development Program specialized in preparing for the Conference of the States

<sup>32</sup> وزارة البيئة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، وزير البيئة يلتقي وفدا من المعهد الوطني، 18 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/IBdaydq

<sup>33</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة يستقبل نائب الممثل المقيم DRR، 28 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/vBdTIxi

<sup>44</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة يستقبل رئيس بعثة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة، 28 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/kBdY9CB

<sup>35</sup> وزارة البيئة، اجتمع وزير البيئة مع خبراء المياه، 24 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/FBdlhYO

Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The objective of this meeting was to discuss Iraq's approach and orientations in the upcoming conference to face the challenges of climate change in the region in general.<sup>36</sup>

On behalf of the Minister of Environment, the Administrative Undersecretary of the Ministry, Kameran Ali Hassan, is participating in the celebration of World Ozone Day for 2022 under the slogan of the Montreal Protocol, in coordination with the United Nations Environment Program. The administrative agent indicated in his speech that opened the celebration that the Montreal Protocol succeeded in gradually getting rid of the gases that deplete the ozone layer. He also said that the ozone layer is currently recovering; it may protect humanity from harmful ultraviolet rays coming from the sun to protect millions of humans from skin cancer<sup>37</sup>.

The Minister of Environment visited the Arab Center for Studies of Arid Zones and Arid Lands in Damascus, which is affiliated with the League of Arab States. The Minister met with the Director General of the Center to discuss the cooperation between the Center and the Ministry of Environment, enhancing and developing them. He listened to a brief presentation on the plans and programs to support the efforts of Arab countries in sustainable Arab development, and a green economy, and confront the impact of climate change on the most fragile countries, especially in the Republic of Iraq, drought, water scarcity, desertification, land degradation, dust storms, and the mechanisms for their rational management. The presentation also included the development of livestock and water security, the possibilities of establishing new development activities, and projects in the service of the programs and projects of the Ministry of Environment to meet its aspirations and plans for the development of the environmental and agricultural sector in the Republic of Iraq<sup>38</sup>.

The Minister of Environment received the Director of the Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the World to enhance cooperation and follow up on the implementation of programs. The Minister of Environment praised the prominent role of the organization in contributing to the stability of many environmental aspects in Iraq, despite the magnitude of the challenges facing workers in the environmental sector. These challenges were the result of climatic changes, food security challenges, closely related to water security, and the repercussions of seasons of low rainfall, decreasing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> وزارة البيئة، اجتمع وزير البيئة مع الخبيرة الدولية في برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، 24 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/RBdO6t5</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> وزارة البيئة، الاحتفال باليوم العالمي للاوزون لعام 2022، 19 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/NBdPAvX من وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة يزور المركز العربي لدراسات المناطق الجافة، 19 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/fBdAbp5 من البيئة يزور المركز العربي لدراسات المناطق الجافة، 19 سبتمبر 2022 ما المركز العربي العربي المركز العربي العربي المركز العربي العربي المركز العربي المركز العربي المركز العربي العربي المركز العربي العربي المركز العربي الع

water revenues, rising temperatures, and increasing dust storms. He also praised their role in developing urgent solutions to any impact of climate change and its repercussions on the food and water security of the citizen in cooperation with the Ministry to achieve the goal of protecting and improving the environment.<sup>39</sup>

The Minister of Environment chaired the national initiative to support energy efficiency and reduce emissions. The minister indicated that the initiative accompanied Iraq's encouragement to integrate the concepts of a sustainable green economy in Iraq. This is a difficult task at the level of Iraq and the world, which coincides with Iraq's accession to the Paris Climate Agreement. This also coincides with the presentation of the Iraqi contribution document, which focused on the use of renewable energies and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change<sup>40</sup>.

## b. East African countries:

#### 1. Sudan:

Sudan participated in the eighteenth meeting of the Council of African Ministers of Environment. From within the conference, a member of the Sudanese delegation participating in the expert meetings, Ali Mohamed Ahmed, warned that Sudan's participation in the conference as Vice-President of the Council of African Ministers of Environment and representative of East African countries. He explained that the conference discussed issues of plastic and chemical pollution, the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity and desertification conventions, and the preparations for the conference of the parties to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh next November<sup>41</sup>.

Sudan chaired the high-level ministerial meeting of the IGAD on the approval of the Regional Strategy for Climate Change, which was held on August 26 in the Kenyan city of Mombasa. The sessions were chaired by the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources. She stressed the strategic importance of the countries of the region that suffer from fragility and climatic changes that have affected the economic and development sectors, especially agriculture, water, and health. She stressed the need to support the strategy and find the necessary funding.

The keenness of Sudan to ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change was emphasized because Sudan is affected by the phenomenon. Its multiple repercussions on most development sectors; low crop productivity, the spread of diseases, droughts,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> وزارة البيئة، يستقبل وزير البيئة مدير مكتب منظمة الأغذية والزراعة العالمية، 14 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/gBdFmYC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزير البيئة يترأس المبادرة الوطنية لدعم كفاءة الطاقة، 12 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/mBdF7Tn</u>

<sup>41</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعة، مشاركة السودان لمجلس وزراء البيئة الأفارقة بالسنغال، 17 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/nBdjowx

frequent floods, resource-based conflict, and subsequent migration and displacement. Sudan is also fulfilling its obligations to implement the agreement effectively and distinctively, as the national adaptation plan to climate change and the national strategy for adaptation to the effects of climate change have been prepared, the national communication reports for the climate change agreement have been prepared, and the report on determining national contributions has been prepared through a participatory approach with the concerned authorities at the national and state levels, and integrating considerations Climate change in development and strategic planning and project implementation to enhance resilience and adapt to the effects of climate change<sup>42</sup>.

#### 2. Somalia:

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change in the Federal Government of Somalia, Khadija Mohamed Makhzoumi, received a delegation from the International Organization for Migration of the United Nations headed by the Deputy Director-General of the organization, Amy Pope. The purpose of this meeting was to enhance cooperation and develop projects related to environmental issues and climate change. The Minister spoke about the priority activities of the Ministry. She also spoke to the delegation about how the Ministry and the International Organization for Migration are working together to reduce the risks of drought, the threat of climate change, the problem of displaced people, climate change, and desertification<sup>43</sup>.

## c. The Arabian Gulf:

#### 1. Saudi Arabia:

The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture and the Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence announced the launch of the scientific program to foresee the Earth to meet the environmental, water, and agricultural challenges caused by climate change and to establish the first center for research and development related to sustainability, during the work of the World Summit on Artificial Intelligence in its second edition. The program relies on terrestrial data processing techniques and artificial intelligence to provide sustainable solutions to address climate change risks and enhance environmental protection at the level of the Kingdom. The program focused on five aspects to secure a more sustainable environment, to be dealt with in stages, including environmental

<sup>42</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، دول الإيقاد تجيز الإستراتيجية الإقليمية لتغير المناخ، 3 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/qBdbb74 مناسبتمبر 2022 https://cutt.ly/qBdbb74 من المنطمة الدولية للهجرة، 12 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/qBdbb74 مناسبتمبر 2022

preservation, pollution control, sustainable agriculture, climate and nature protection, and water and food security<sup>44</sup>.

#### 2. Emirates:

During the participation of the Minister of Environment in a series of dialogue sessions and specialized meetings in the work of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, she reviewed the model of the UAE and its future directions in dealing with challenges, including climate change, efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to the repercussions at the local and global levels, and the environmental system. Its work to enhance food security, its voluntary commitments and efforts to reduce plastic pollution, and what its efforts represent in addressing these three challenges as pillars of the UAE's forward-looking vision and its quest to create a better sustainable future.

During her participation in a high-level working dinner on "Addressing Barriers to Ambition on Food, Nature and Climate" organized by the Food and Land Use Alliance, the United Nations, and Climate Works, she stressed the importance of integrating food systems into efforts and mechanisms to combat climate change. She highlighted the "Agri-Climate Innovation" initiative launched by the UAE and the United States of America, which aims to promote, increase and accelerate investment in climate-smart agricultural innovation and research and development globally. The initiative has set a goal to raise \$8 billion by the date of the COP27 Conference next November in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During her meeting with Dr. Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and CEO of Together Agriculture and Education, she engaged in a conversation with senior Citibank officials on advancing the finance movement into green, sustainable and climate-resilient projects<sup>45</sup>.

The Cabinet approved the updated version of the second report of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions, which was drawn up under the Paris Climate Agreement as part of the UAE's strategic efforts to achieve climate neutrality by (2050). The updated version of the report supports raising the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as part of the country's efforts to combat climate change, to reach 31% by 2030, compared to the usual situation, in which emissions are recorded about 301 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. According to the report, the new emissions reduction target is equivalent to avoiding emissions of up to 93.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

<sup>44</sup> عكاظ، برنامج علمي للحد من تأثير المناخ، 16 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/mBgReH1

The report approved by the Council of Ministers, records an increase in emissions reduction targets from 23.5% to 31% by 2030, by enhancing the participation of the sectors of electricity generation, industry, transportation, carbon capture and storage, and integrated waste management, according to what the Specialized Energy Platform has seen.

The goals of raising ambition include preserving coastal ecosystems and the Blue Carbon Project by planting millions of trees, including 100 million mangrove seedlings by 2030. The Dubai Waste Treatment Center is part of the UAE's efforts to combat climate change, as it is one of the most important projects of Infrastructure that serves to preserve the environment by increasing reliance on clean and renewable energy in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>46</sup>.

During Climate Week in New York, the UAE announced the establishment of the "UAE Climate Accelerators Project" – an independent and neutral entity for climate action that will bring together members of the public and private sectors, academic institutions, and NGOs to advance the UAE's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

This project will facilitate international business, innovation, and technology partnerships working toward the common goal of tackling climate change. In addition to its role as a catalyst for a green knowledge-based economy and attracting the best international talent in the sustainability sector to the UAE. Key focus sectors will include electric transport, sustainable fuels, energy efficiency, green buildings, smart cities, carbon capture and storage, nature-based solutions, and the growing sectors in climate technology and agricultural technology. <sup>47</sup>

#### 3. Sultanate of Oman:

The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Economy participated in the work of the 8th World Green Economy Summit 2022, which focuses on major themes such as energy, finance, food security, youth empowerment and other sustainable development-related topics for the green economy, in preparation for the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27), which will be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the COP 28, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> الطاقة، الإمارات تُحدِّث تقرير الإسهامات المحددة وطنيًا،12 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/zBgSl5V

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> المكتب الإعلامي لحكومة أبو ظبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة تستعد لإطلاق أول مشروع مستقل في المنطقة لتفادي تغير المناخ، 20 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/sBgDSmR

As part of the implementation efforts of the National Initiative to Plant 10 Million Trees, the Environment Agency launched a campaign to plant (Samar, Sidr and Ghaf) trees in a number of governorate valleys in the Sultanate of Oman. The Environment Administration in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate launched a campaign to plant wild saplings in Wadi al Abyad in the wilayat of Nizwa<sup>48</sup>.

The Environment Administration in Al Batinah North Governorate implemented an interactive event on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer in order to promote environmental education among female students of Al-Jawahir School for Basic Education in the Wilayat of Suwaiq<sup>49</sup>.

The Environment Agency participated in the Arab Regional Forum "Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and Sustainable Development Goals" held in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, during which the Sultanate's delegation presented a number of projects to protect against floods and sewage, in addition to planting one million mangrove seedlings<sup>50</sup>.

The Environment Agency organized a workshop on drafting the Green Alliance Agreement with the participation of a number of private sector institutions and companies, with the aim of supporting tree planting initiatives and implementing national goals to protect the environment and the sustainability of its natural resources, and to achieve the goals of sustainable development 2030<sup>51</sup>.

Under the slogan, The Air\_We\_Share, the Sultanate of Oman joins the countries of the world in celebrating the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The Environment Agency works to reduce the sources of emissions in 35 emissions monitoring stations and 300 field inspection visits annually<sup>52</sup>.

## 4. Qatar:

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change chaired a preparatory meeting for the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held next November in the Arab Republic of Egypt in Sharm El-Sheikh<sup>53</sup>. With joint efforts between the Ministry of Environment, Climate

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> هيئة البيئة، حملة لزراعة أشجار في عدد من الاودية، 20 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/dBgHKS6</u>

<sup>49</sup> هيئة البيئة، فعالية تفاعلية عن اليوم العالمي لحماية طبقة الأوزون، 19 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/8BgJpzX

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> هيئة البيئة، المنتدى الإقليمي العربي، 16سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/PBgJJtl

<sup>51</sup> هيئة البيئة، ورشة عمل حول صياغة اتفاقية التحالف الأخضر ، 14 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/hBgKiu8

<sup>52</sup> هيئة البيئة، سلطنة عمان تشارك دول العالم الاحتفال باليوم الدولي لنقاوة الهواء، 7 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/bBgK3KB

<sup>53</sup> وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي، اجتماع تحضيري للدورة أل 27 من مؤتمر الأطراف، https://cutt.ly/6BgXodh

Change, and the Global Green Growth Institute, the climate leadership event was organized in the State of Qatar and the way to the 27th Conference of Parties. This event comes as part of the ongoing efforts to engage in global discussions on climate change policies and actions taken in this regard, and the State of Qatar's preparations to participate in the 27th Conference of Parties and to affirm commitment to sustainable development goals of the United Nations<sup>54</sup>.

The Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change 2022 was attended by the public and private sectors, as the efforts of the State of Qatar in addressing climate change and enhancing international cooperation in this field were discussed. The Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change aims to assist the industrial, commercial sectors and policymakers in addressing the challenges of climate change by discussing a number of international visions, studies, policies, industrial solutions and academic research and considering the possibility of benefiting from and applying them in the State of Qatar. It also counts on the outcomes of the dialogue to support the participation of the State of Qatar in the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Egypt next November<sup>55</sup>.

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

#### a. North Africa:

# 1. Egypt:

Egypt launched green projects based on its Nexus on Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Programme, which was launched by the Ministries of International Cooperation and Environment last July, in light of the implementation of Egypt National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050, in addition to stimulating innovative and mixed financing within the preparations for the climate conference<sup>56</sup>.

The Egyptian state decided to seize the momentum of the COP27 climate conference and benefit from the presence of more than 180 countries to undertake voluntary participation at the international level for Africa to launch a global initiative on waste management, Yasmin Fouad, Minister of Environment, confirmed as the initiative

<sup>54</sup> وزارة البيئة والتغير المناخي، تنظيم فعالية الريادة المناخية، 4 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/rBgxLRe

<sup>55</sup> لوسيل، حوار قطر الوطني حول تغير المناخ، 19 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/cBgVfPq

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> وزارة البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تطرح ملف تمويل المناخ، 7 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/8BtNOUy

sets the ambition to treat and recycle at least 50% of solid waste generated in Africa by 2050, which will contribute to reducing the generation of greenhouse gases resulting from this waste and thus mitigating its impact on climate change<sup>57</sup>.

# 2. Libya:

Climate change, land degradation, unsustainable energy production, air and water pollution, and biodiversity loss are areas of global concern. In Libya, as elsewhere, these environmental problems are hampering efforts to achieve sustainable development with proper management of the country's natural resources.

Approximately 95 percent of Libya is desert. Coastal regions, low mountains, and oases scattered in the desert, are the country's most densely populated regions, with the highest levels of land degradation and the least protection of their biodiversity ecosystems and habitats. Desertification is one of the most pressing environmental threats in Libya that poses risks for further loss of already limited arable land, and thus the potential impact on food security. Desertification is caused by a combination of factors, including high rates of urbanization and overexploitation of water resources and natural vegetation.

Libya is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Projected increases in temperature, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather, reduced precipitation, and rising sea levels threaten the sustainability of water supplies and pose an existential risk to coastal population centers. Climate change is exacerbating water scarcity, which reduces the availability of water for agricultural and domestic consumption. Libya is also one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. The country needs to ensure equitable access to water for domestic and economic purposes.

The effects of climate change are exacerbating water scarcity, including droughts, floods, extreme weather events and heat, which can damage critical water and sanitation infrastructure and services in homes, schools, health care facilities, and the food supply<sup>58</sup>.

Climate projections estimate that the Near East and North Africa region will become hotter, drier and more vulnerable to extreme events. Higher temperatures and lower precipitation will increase the incidence of drought. The low-lying, highly populated

https://cutt.ly/ZByfmGv ،2022، موتمر المناخ، 15 سبتمبر 1502، البيئة المصرية، بحث تقديم النماذج الأفريقية الرائدة في مؤتمر المناخ، 15 سبتمبر 2022، Environment and Climate Change، 11 sep 2022، https://cutt.ly/eBiN7OC

coastal areas of Libya are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and salt water intrusion into agricultural land<sup>59</sup>.

#### 3. Morocco

Many of the wells in Morocco have dried up and the rest of them suffer from a severe lack of filling, forcing some to deepen drilling to levels not seen by the residents of the village. The reality of life has changed within the villages that were teeming with springs and streams, which no longer exist today, and there is an expectation that about 13 million people in North Africa will be forced to migrate internally by 2050.

The dry season, which Morocco has not witnessed for 30 years, with the decline in the availability of water in a number of rural areas in the Kingdom, impacted on economic activities, which are a source of livelihood for a large proportion of the population in the rural area.<sup>60</sup>

The droughts are more frequent. The palm trees surrounding the oasis are dying one after the other and the oases are shrinking every year. Hundreds of brittle palm trees now border M'hamid el Ghizlane. Part of the village is buried under sand, and once-rich agricultural lands have been abandoned. Drought exacerbated by climate change has destroyed powerful ecosystems.<sup>61</sup>

# 4. Algeria

The Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, Samia Mwalfi, announced that her sector, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program, will start preparing the national plan to adapt to the phenomenon of climate change affecting the entire world. In addition to the initiation of the preparation of this plan, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program, the preparation of the third national communication and the first report aimed at supporting and building the capacities of national frameworks with regard to transparency mechanisms emanating from the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement has begun. In this regard, she said, the Paris Agreement represents the framework that governs countries' policies, including those related to the economy and development, with the urgent need to integrate the climate aspect into these policies.

<sup>59</sup> https://cutt.ly/EBsRDv1 Food regional office Climate change in agrifood system 15 september 2022

<sup>60</sup> https://cutt.ly/EBsRDv1 Food regional office. Climate change in agrifood system.15 september 2022

<sup>61</sup> سكاي نيوز عربية، تغير المناخ يدفع سكان البوادي للهجرة، 1 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/cBsDs2n

The Ministry has formulated the energy model for the post 2030 that depends on the development of renewable energies and the adoption of the rehabilitation and expansion of the Green Dam, which was completed in the seventies of the last century by raising the area of this vegetation cover to 47 million hectares to confront the phenomenon of desertification.

Among the measures, there is also the adoption of a national program for afforestation through the "A Tree for Every Citizen" initiative, the adoption of a program to convert 150,000 cars to GPL, and the creation of national structures to embody strategic projects for the production of clean energy such as green hydrogen<sup>62</sup>.

A solar power plant was put into service at the headquarters of the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council in Algiers, in the presence of the Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, and the President of the Council. This plant, consisting of 282 solar cells, covering an area of 800 square meters was inaugurated, with a production capacity of 106 kilowatt-hours, at the level of the car park of the Council's headquarters, in the presence of representatives of several ministerial sectors and public institutions<sup>63</sup>.

During an information day on the occasion of the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Algeria's international commitments in this regard, the Minister explained that the efforts made by Algeria "resulted in the disposal of about 3,200 tons of substances that deplete the ozone layer, which positively affects the climate due to the fact that many products harmful to the ozone are considered among the most powerful greenhouse gases<sup>64</sup>.

Algeria is increasingly facing extreme (severe) climatic events that are gradually increasing its vulnerability. In addition, the recurring periods of drought, which became longer, exacerbated the phenomenon of desertification. In fact, more than 50 million hectares are currently suffering from a very advanced level of desertification, as the rural population, consisting mainly of farmers and herders, is forced to migrate to large cities to ensure their survival. This situation is a direct result of soil degradation and the scarcity of water resources in those areas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> وزارة البيئة والطاقات المتجددة، إ**عداد مخطط وطني للتكيف مع تغيرات المناخ**، 29 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/6BdqVPl</u> <sup>63</sup> وزارة البيئة والطاقة المتجددة، **المجلس الوطني يتزود بمحطة لتوليد الطاقة الشمسية**، 27 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/rBdwlyE</u>

<sup>64</sup> وزارة البيئة والطاقات المتجددة، تخلص الجزائر من 3200 طن من المواد المضرة بطبقة الأوزون، 13 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/OBdeyLQ

Climate change has affected the agricultural sector in general and has become increasingly felt and worrying, especially through the decrease in the amount of rain, the deterioration of soil quality and coastal erosion. The numbers have clearly shown the danger of this, as more than 13 million hectares of land are subject to erosion, in addition to that Algeria loses nearly 400 thousand hectares annually due to this phenomenon<sup>65</sup>.

## A. Levant Countries

#### 1. Jordan:

Within the framework of the national and international efforts made by the Ministry of Environment and in cooperation with partners and stakeholders in Jordanian state institutions and a number of foreign embassies there, in facing the challenges posed by the phenomenon of climate change, and with the aim of raising awareness among all segments of society, and the importance of working to confront climate change and reduce its gravity, the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with a number of foreign embassies and other international companies and organizations, will launch the "Environment and Climate" week in October 2022, during which many activities and events will be implemented in all governorates of the Kingdom, in the context of emphasizing the commitment of the Jordanian state represented by the Ministry of Environment, International agreements aimed at promoting joint action to face the urgent challenges resulting from climate change.<sup>66</sup>

#### B. East of Africa:

## 1. Sudan:

Sudanese experts say that Sudan has entered the heavy rain belt that has caused major floods for 3 decades, but the rates of rain increased to an unprecedented level during 2021 and 2022, which caused huge human and material losses due to climate change and poor infrastructure that could not withstand the floods.

Since the end of last June, large areas in the north, center and west of the country have been experiencing a humanitarian tragedy due to the torrential rains that swept over

65 العربي السفير، تطور المناخ في الجزائر وأثارة، 27 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/MBdrCBC ملايئة والمناخ، 28 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/kBdogUf ملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، تنظيم أسبوع البيئة والمناخ، 28 سبتمبر 2022 https://cutt.ly/kBdogUf

250 villages, killing 115 people and injuring 115 others, according to recent data issued by the National Council for Civil Defense in Sudan.

The torrential rains have fully destroyed 38,857 houses and partially destroyed 54,345 others, in addition to 342 facilities and 108 stores. Moreover, 2406 heads of livestock were killed, and 123,000 acres of agricultural lands were damaged, the Council indicated.<sup>67</sup>

#### 2. Somalia:

Somalia is caught in a hard place between floods and droughts every year, due to climate change and poor infrastructure. Our people, who have always been living in harmony with nature and barely contribute to the toxic emissions that lead to global warming, are paying the price today with their lives. The Somali President called for collective action in the long term to mitigate the accelerating pace of the climate crisis by fulfilling the commitment to invest in appropriate financing to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the most affected and vulnerable regions of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>68</sup>

Somalia is facing the threat of severe famine that threatens the lives of millions in villages and suburbs of cities. Severe drought affected agricultural crops and water levels, caused the death of livestock and reduced the purchasing power of many Somalis. Although the government sent urgent calls for help, the latest of which was from the Somali president's special envoy to the United Nations, who warned of a humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia, calling on civil society to pay attention to the "magnitude of the crisis" in a country on the verge of famine. The aid provided so far is not enough to meet the huge demands for basic needs and nutrition. Experts expected the situation to deteriorate during the fall and winter seasons, and suggested that these conditions would continue until at least March 2023. According to the latest reports, more than seven million people in Somalia suffer from severe food shortages, while 4.5 million Somalis face severe water shortages.<sup>69</sup>

## 3. Comoros:

<sup>67</sup> ارابيك نيوز، التغير المناخي يهدد السودان، 11 سبتمبر 2022، <u>https://cutt.ly/uBdxEcu</u>

<sup>68</sup> أخبار الأمم المتحدة، يعرب الرئيس الصومالي عن أوضاع الصومال، 22 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/bBdc6xm

During his speech in the general debate of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, Othman Ghazali, President of the Republic of the United Comoro Islands, expressed deep concern about climate change, which particularly affects small developing islands such as Comoros that faces a series of dangerous phenomena. Ghazali referred in particular to piracy, pollution, illegal fishing, looting of marine resources, human trafficking, and drug smuggling that his country is facing, and calling for maximum attention to these issues.<sup>70</sup>

## C. The Arabian Gulf:

#### 1. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change through artificial intelligence, which is a valuable asset and powerful tool in combating this phenomenon. The Kingdom is trying to integrate artificial intelligence to track and reduce its carbon footprint.

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

## A. North African countries

# 1. Egypt

As part of Egypt's ongoing preparations to host the COP27 climate conference, and in cooperation with civil society and the private sector, the Minister of Environment is participating in the Wadi Degla Marathon in support of youth participation, holding events, and enjoying protected areas. Yasmine Fouad emphasized that this event comes within the framework of the Ministry of Environment initiatives to encourage citizens and civil society to engage in environmental work and consider it among life practices and lifestyle based on taking into account the environmental dimension considering it among life practices and a lifestyle based on taking into account the environmental dimension and facing environmental challenges to ensure a better future for coming generations, and within the activities of the National Climate Dialogue, which aims to involve all groups and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> أخبار الأمم المتحدة، جزر القمر: الإحباط الذي يعيشه الشباب هو ما يغذي الجماعات الإرهابية، 22 سبتمبر 2022، https://bit.ly/3CBubWA

segments of society in climate action, especially with Egypt hosting the COP 27 climate conference next November in Sharm El-Sheikh.<sup>71</sup>

The Minister of Environment witnesses the signing of a cooperation protocol between the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in the field of environment and climate change. By hosting the Climate Conference, Egypt is keen to enhance the role of scientific research in facing the effects of climate change, Fouad stressed. Moreover, Egypt's pilot project to restore Red Sea coral reefs will be showcased at COP27 as a success story in adapting to the effects of climate change.

Fouad explained that within the framework of the protocol, the Ministry of Environment provides capabilities and expertise to be used in the outputs of scientific research, provides the necessary human cadres to reach technological solutions to the challenges faced, presents environmental and industrial challenges to the research community for study, offers the required consultations and technical expertise, and establishes joint workshops and conferences in the areas of environmental preservation and climate change to serve scientific research and provide solutions to some challenges in relevant fields.<sup>72</sup>

The Minister of Environment indicated that the government began to prioritize adaptation and mitigation efforts, focusing on youth. The first-ever **national media campaign "Back to Nature"** was launched in Egypt with the aim of raising awareness of the public on climate change, and accelerating the work to preserve nature, adding that a climate-change customized curriculum was developed to be studied in schools and teachers are getting training in it.<sup>73</sup>

The head of the EEAA participated in a simulation model of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) run by Cairo University. The simulation model can contribute to preparing a generation and qualified elements to lead Egypt's efforts in promoting climate action and development. Climate change is one of the main threats to societies'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> أخبار الأمم المتحدة، جزر القمر: الإحباط الذي يعيشه الشباب هو ما يغذي الجماعات الإرهابية، 22 سبتمبر 2022، https://bit.ly/3CBubWA

https://cutt.ly/GBgTH2e ، 2022 سبتمبر 2022 والذكاء الاصطناعي، 16 سبتمبر 2022، أمواطن، جهود السعودية في قضية تغير المناخ والذكاء الاصطناعي، 16 سبتمبر 2022، وزيرة البيئة تشارك بمارثون دعما لمشاركة الشباب، 8ttps://cutt.ly/xBtGB9f

economic development and undermines sustainable development efforts, and youth participation in climate action is vital, stressed Dr. Ali Abu Sunna, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, who further pointed out that the students were introduced to a program that shared with them the biggest challenges we face in the field of climate change, and they also received training in basic skills such as effective negotiation and communication, noting that all of these efforts help prepare a generation of young people to become leaders in our efforts to combat climate change.<sup>74</sup>

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, participated in the sixth webinar organized by the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies under the title "African Youth", as part of efforts to prepare for Egypt's hosting of the COP27 climate conference.

Fouad stressed that African youth are the future of the African continent. They can come up with innovative ideas, and adopt initiatives that accelerate the transition to a green economy, such as effective tools to achieve sustainable development, explaining that Africa's Agenda 2063 highlights the role that youth must play in leading transformation in all areas and their ability to lead African development, making it imperative to implement the African Youth Charter.

The minister pointed out that Egypt is aware of the important role of youth in development and advancing environmental and climate action. 3 years ago we began to integrate the environmental dimension into the process of reforming the educational system in schools, by integrating it into educational curricula, especially the concepts of climate change and biodiversity, in coordination between the Ministries of Environment and Education. A climate-change customized curriculum was developed to raise the awareness of students about this issue, through interactive activities integrated within school courses such as science, geography, history and mathematics in proportion to the nature of each subject.<sup>75</sup>

#### 2. Morocco

https://cutt.ly/iBtJPt4 وزارة البيئة المصرية، 4 سبتمبر 2022، توقيع بروتوكول في مجال البيئة والتغير المناخي،  $^{75}$  وزارة البيئة المصرية، "دور حكومات الدول الإفريقية في تحديد أجندة المناخ"، 8 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/1Bt0gfl

Researchers at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University are engaged in a scientific project aimed at obtaining seeds that are resistant to drought and harmful insects. It is an experimental farm and one of the university's live laboratories, opened in 2017, is a collection of lands that aim to provide recommendations and smart solutions for agriculture to address climatic fluctuations witnessed by Morocco, the scarcity of rain and the succession of dry seasons.<sup>76</sup>

## 3. Tunisia

The conclusion of the Arab workshop to support capacities to access climate finance mechanisms, which was organized in Tunisia, from 18 to 20 September 2022, in cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat and the League of Arab States. The workshop aims at providing further training on the frameworks and contact points of the climate finance funds and developing their capabilities in the field of developing programs and projects related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the consequences of climate change.<sup>77</sup>

On 12 and 13 September 2022, the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME) and Tunisia's United Nations Development Program UNDP, launched a workshop aimed at presenting the progress made in the various chapters of the third national report in the field of greenhouse gas emissions inventory BUR3 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>78</sup>

#### **B.** East African countries:

# 1. Sudan:

The Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves (SCENR) concluded at Al-Salam Hotel the training workshop for the young environmental media, under the supervision of Dr. Mona Mohamed Ali Ahmed, Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, the National Director of the Environmental Capacity Enhancement Project, the trained teachers, and a number of parents of the trainee

children. The Secretary-General stressed her great happiness with the implementation and success of the workshop and its contribution to increasing interest and awareness of environmental issues and related problems and instilling correct environmental and behavioral values among young people in order to prepare an interactive generation that leads environmental action in Sudan. She pledged to continue the activities of environmental education and awareness<sup>79</sup>

The Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources stressed the importance of environmental education in preparing a person capable of understanding the environment, regulating his behavior and instilling positive values in dealing with the elements and resources of the environment. She explained the role of education in addressing climate changes, highlighting the events organized by the SCENR in cooperation with the National Center for Curriculum and Educational Research. She explained that environmental education is a cumulative process and noted the need to prepare educational curricula, characterized by simplicity, suspense and passion for benefiting from traditional knowledge and the country's multiple and diverse environments in an effort to prepare a successful student who interacts with the environment and contributes to finding solutions to its problems.<sup>80</sup>

The Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources organized a panel discussion on gender and climatic changes under the slogan "Woman is a Homeland." The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council stressed the role of women as a basic pillar in building the family, securing life requirements, being an active element in society, and contributing to the wheel of development.<sup>81</sup>

## C. Levant countries

## 1. Iraq:

The Minister of Environment received the President of the **University of Diyala** to enhance cooperation and prepare for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry and the University with a future vision to build a sustainable green. During the meeting, the minister indicated that university cadres and research experiences are the

<sup>9&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> وزارة البيئة، اختتام الورشة العربية لدعم القدرات للنفاذ إلى الآيات التمويل المناخي، 21 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/bBgBLCQ بهوترارة البيئة، ورشة عمل تهدف إلى عرض التقدم المحرز في مجال جرد الانبعاثات، 14 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/7Bdkxu3 بهلايئة والموارد الطبيعية، ختام رائع لورشة البيئي الصغير، 14 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/7Bdkxu3

main driver of sustainable development goals and the goal is to enhance cooperation between professors and researchers and at a high level, which is a qualitative step to reduce the challenges of climate change, especially since Iraq, according to the NDC, is moving towards reducing emissions and gradual transformation of nature-based solutions and alternative energies that are environmentally friendly, which requires more research and studies in all technological scenarios that are used in renewable energies and green construction.<sup>82</sup>

The Minister of Environment visited the University of Technology in Baghdad and met the President of the University to enhance cooperation and prepare for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry and the University with a future vision to build a sustainable green. During the meeting, the minister indicated that university cadres and research experiences are the main driver of sustainable development goals and the goal is to enhance cooperation between professors and researchers and at a high level, which is a qualitative step to reduce the challenges of climate change.<sup>83</sup>

The Minister of Environment participated in a workshop prepared by the UNDP, where he indicated that the ministry is working to take serious measures to confront the biggest challenge facing Iraq, which is the climate challenge, and to take serious measures to mitigate its negative effects on people's lives and health.<sup>84</sup>

# **Suggestions & Recommendations:**

In light of what was included in this observatory of good practices carried out by the governments of Arab countries, especially with regard to promoting the main targets of Goal 13, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents a set of recommendations as follows, in the hope of completing Arab development efforts in the field of climate action and facing most of the challenges that obstruct its path.

**First**: In light of the recent escalating repercussions of climate change on the Syrian people, Maat calls on the League of Arab States to urgently and **immediately lift** 

https://cutt.ly/iBdlsug

<sup>82</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، أمين عام البيئة تعلن الالتزام بطباعة دليل التربية البيئية، 11 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/ABdl2Su منتمبر 2022، المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، حلقة نقاش حول النوع الاجتماعي والتغيرات المناخية، 18 سبتمبر 2022،

<sup>84</sup> وزارة البيئة، يستقبل وزير البيئة رئيس جامعة ديالي، 26 سبتمبر 2022، https://cutt.ly/kBdU4SC

**restrictions on Syria's membership**, and to unite Arab efforts to work to save the Syrian people from the repercussions of climate change, through raising joint Arab initiatives aimed at providing relief to Arab peoples affected by the repercussions of climate change in war zones.

**Second**: Believing in the role of international and regional organizations in supporting the efforts of governments, especially Arab governments, in addressing the repercussions of climate change, Maat recommends that these organizations launch more joint programs and initiatives that work to achieve Target 13.1 on "Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters".

**Third**: Maat recommends the League of Arab States to direct the Regional Climate Security Initiative towards conflict countries, to strengthen the initiative's work on the efforts of Arab countries regarding climate change, and to work on preparing annual reports on the efforts and challenges of Arab countries to be submitted to the League on a regular basis.

**Fourth**: Youth play a prominent role in supporting climate action. In this context, Maat recommends the governments of Arab countries to **shed light on emerging youth initiatives with the aim of reducing the repercussions of climate change**, as well as to support and implement these initiatives launched by youth.

**Fifth**: In order to resist climate fluctuations, countries that have not yet started to launch afforestation initiatives must quickly increase **the spread of plants and green areas** in all cities, which will help absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the effects of negative climate changes.

**Sixth**: Within the framework of the opportunities enjoyed by the countries of the Arab region getting solar radiation, Maat for Peace recommends that these Arab countries should unite in order to exchange experiences in the field of harnessing the solar energy - one of the renewable resources - with the aim of shifting to clean, environmentally friendly energy