



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

Amidst Crises

The Situation of Human Rights in the Arab Region during 2022

Maat's Sixth Annual Report

March 2023



Contents

3.....	Introduction	
5.....	Chapter I: Arab Countries' Situation on International Human Rights Mechanisms	
5.....	Arab countries' situation on the Human Rights Council:	1.
7.....	Position of the Arab Countries on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism	2.
8.....	Arab Countries' Situation on the Special Procedures	3.
12.....	Israeli occupation forces	
	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel	
12.....	since 1967	
13.....	Situation of the Arab countries regarding the Bodies Established under Human Rights Treaties	4.
14.....	The Arab countries' situation on basic human rights treaties	1.
15	The situation of the Arab countries on the treaty committees in 2022	2.
19.....	Chapter II: Arab Countries' Situation on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals	
19.....	The reality of achieving the development goals in the Arab region between 2021-2022	.1
24	International and Arab Mechanisms towards Achieving Sustainable Development ... What is the Point?	2.
26	Regional mechanisms concerned with following up the implementation of the sustainable development goals:	
27.....	Analytical View of the Reality of Achieving Goals of Interest in the Arab Region	3.
31.....	Chapter III: A Glance at the Human Rights Situation in the Arab Region	
32.....	Chapter IV: Climate Change & Human Rights in the Arab Region	
35.....	Conclusions & Recommendations	

Introduction

Within the framework of **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights** interest with the situation of human rights in the Arab region, it released the sixth annual report, which monitors and analyses the human rights situation in the Arab region during 2022, indicating the changes and developments that occurred in the human rights situation in all relevant fields, including legislation, laws, policies, practices, and decisions that have an impact on the reality of human rights, whatever that effect may be.

The year 2022 began with hopes and promises, as everyone had hopes and aspirations that life would return to normal after vaccines succeeded in stopping the devastation caused by the Covid-19 epidemic. The start of 2022 coincided with promises by governments and economic blocs to rebuild better after the Corona pandemic devastated the global economy. However, these hopes were quickly dissipated and these promises were completely disappeared. The effects of the Russian-Ukrainian war that erupted at the dawn of February 24, 2022 on the global level exceeded all expectations, and it was never taken into account, as if the world was lacking in this global crisis that has ravaged its economy and undermined food security levels for most of its countries, so two successive global crises converged on it, destroying decades of progress made in development and global human and food security.

Because the Arab countries are part of the global economic and political system, they were affected like other countries in the world, during the year 2022, by the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, however, the impact on most Arab countries of this crisis is even more severe. Where food insecurity levels have worsened, development projects and efforts have been disrupted, and living standards have decreased in most Arab countries during 2022 due to the crises left by the Russian war on the economies of these countries, which cast a negative shadow on the entire human rights of the Arab citizen, especially the economic, social, and cultural rights that were severely affected by this war.

Maat presents its sixth annual report, which reviews the conditions of human rights and sustainable development in the Arab countries in 2022, and it looks with concern at the negative repercussions left by the Russian-Ukrainian war on the path of sustainable development and the conditions of economic, social, and cultural rights in most Arab countries, in particular the right to food, an adequate standard of living and education, and the tragic losses caused by the escalating armed conflicts and wars

in several Arab States, including Yemen and Syria, among civilians, including children and women. As well as the decline of civil judiciary in most Arab countries as a result of the strict restrictions imposed by the authorities fundamental rights and freedoms, especially the right to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and association.

As usual in previous reports, chapter I of this report deals with the position of Arab countries on international human rights mechanisms during the year 2022. This chapter provides an overview and detailed observations on the international conventions to which the Arab States are parties and the extent of cooperation of these countries with international mechanisms, human rights, including the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review mechanism, treaty committees, and special procedures. This chapter also sought to highlight the challenges facing Arab States in cooperating with human rights mechanisms and provided an in-depth analysis of the efforts of Arab States in addressing these challenges.

In its second chapter, the report discusses the position of Arab countries in achieving the goals of sustainable development, provided a comprehensive analysis of the commitments of the Arab States to the goals of sustainable development and the challenges they face in achieving them. It also sought to highlight the efforts made by Arab countries to integrate sustainable development into their policies, programs, and initiatives. In its third chapter, the report deals with the human rights situation in the Arab countries, provides an overview of the human rights violations that occurred in the Arab countries in 2022, examines the efforts made by the Arab countries to address these violations and makes recommendations to improve the human rights situation in the Arab countries. In the fourth and final chapter, the report focused on climate change and human rights in the Arab region, and provided an in-depth analysis of the impact of climate change on human rights in Arab countries, including the rights to life, health, water, food, and housing, sought to clarify the efforts made by Arab countries in 2022 to mitigate the effects of climate change and the challenges faced in doing so.

The methodology for the preparation of the report was based on the monitoring of policies, legislation, and practices from a human rights perspective based on each State's constitutions and national laws, as well as international human rights standards adhered to at the international and regional levels, which as in previous reports, would be one of the tools for the assessments of human rights. The importance of the annual human rights report issued by Maat lies in the objective

diagnosis of the reality of human rights in the Arab region by highlighting the defects and violations on the one hand, and the progress made on the other hand, leading to the submission of viable recommendations that contribute to the collective advancement of human rights in the Arab States.

Chapter I: Arab Countries' Situation on International Human Rights Mechanisms

In this chapter, the report reviews Arab countries' situation on the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights during the year 2022, and the extent to which there was cooperation and communication with these mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, treaty committees, special procedures, and the universal periodic review mechanism, e In particular, the Arab region is attracting the attention of these mechanisms because of their challenges and violations of human rights, whether committed by local governments or by regional and international parties involved in their existing conflicts. During this axis, the position of the Arab countries during the year 2022 was analyzed regarding the various international mechanisms concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.

1. Arab countries' situation on the Human Rights Council:

During 2022, the Human Rights Council adopted 97 decisions over the course of the three sessions held by the Council, with 35 decisions in the forty-ninth session, about 23 decisions in the fiftieth session, and about 39 decisions in the fifty-first session of the Human Rights Council. The Arab countries co-sponsored or presented about 29 resolutions in the Council in 2022, in addition to three resolutions that were not approved, which is 29.9% of the total resolutions that were adopted in the Council in 2022.

Some Arab countries were part of some of the resolutions that were adopted, especially those related to the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, technical support to Libya, Yemen and Somalia in the field of human rights, and violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan.

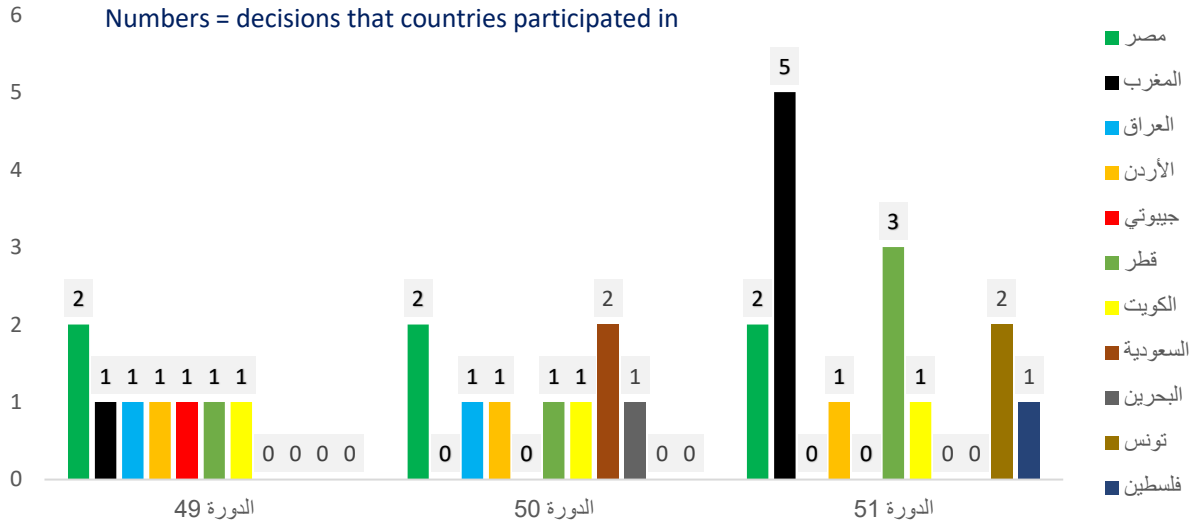


Figure 1 Participation of Arab Countries in sponsoring resolutions within the Human Rights Council

As seen in the figure and the table below, the 51 session witnessed the largest number of Arab countries' participation in sponsoring decisions within the Human Rights Council with fifteen decisions, followed by the 50 session of the Human Rights Council with nine decisions, and finally the 49 session with eight decisions.

Table 1: Participation of Arab States in sponsoring resolutions according to each regular session

Country	49 Session	50 Session	51 st Session
Egypt	2	2	2
Morocco	1	0	5
Iraq	1	1	0
Jordan	1	1	1
Djibouti	1	0	0
Qatar	1	1	3
Kuwait	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	2	0
Bahrain	0	1	0
Tunisia	0	0	2
Palestine	0	0	1

Note: These resolutions include the ones that have been rejected and the ones that have not been adopted.

Another note: It is not obligatory for the State to be a member of the Council to co-sponsor the decisions

Regarding the issues of resolutions that the Arab countries co-sponsored along with other countries in the Human Rights Council in 2022, the majority of them related to specific topics, as about 27 resolutions dealt with topics such as health, youth, human rights, terrorism, protection of journalists, and the right to work. This represents 84% (Figure 2) of the total decisions in which the Arab countries participated. While the Arab countries participated in five resolutions related to countries, including three resolutions related to the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, divided over each session of the Human Rights Council in 2022.

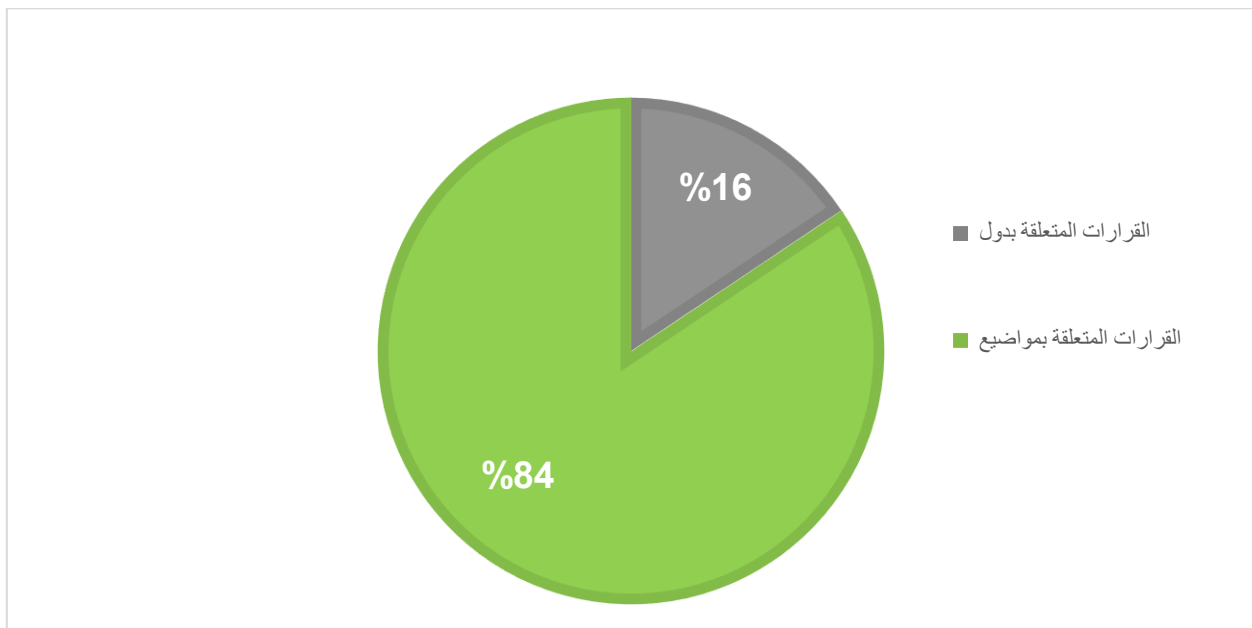


Figure 2: Content of the resolutions in which the Arab States participated

While it remained a priority for the rest of the States to introduce and sponsor draft resolutions on economic, social, and cultural rights such as the right to work, the rights of young people, access to medicines and vaccines, and the protection of cultural heritage while civil and political rights had space in such resolutions as those on the protection of journalists and transitional justice

2. Position of the Arab Countries on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

6 Arab countries were subject to review within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (UPR) during the year 2022, and they are: the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Bahrain. The review of the six States referred to took place during the 40 session and 41 session sessions of the UPR Working Group. During the human rights review process that took place for these countries referred to, these countries presented their national efforts that they had

taken since their last review session in order to enhance human rights conditions within them and eliminate various human rights violations.

International and local human rights organizations also presented their visions on the human rights situation in the countries concerned, and various State delegations commented on the human rights situations within each State and made recommendations to the States under review. It is noted that during the 50th session of the Council in 2022, the results of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Syrian Arab Republic and Sudan were adopted, while Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Bahrain announced that their final situation on the recommendations submitted to them will be announced during the work of the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council from March 27 to February 4, 2023.

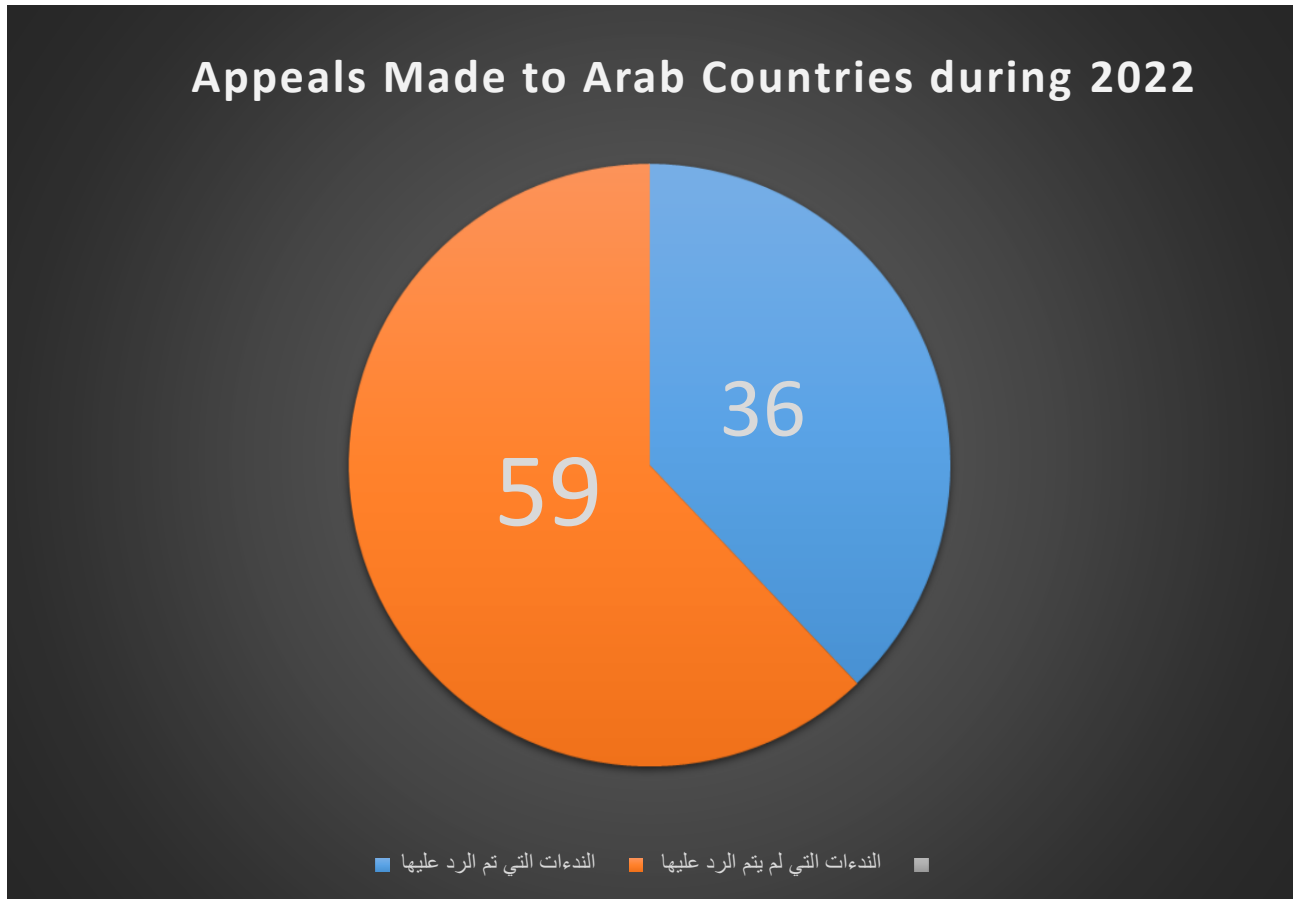
3. Arab Countries' Situation on the Special Procedures

The report emphasized that the special procedures mechanism of the Human Rights Council plays an important role in improving and strengthening the human rights situation in many States around the world through its tools for monitoring and reporting human rights violations, while providing advice and consultations to the United Nations and Member States on how to protect and promote these rights, The system of special procedures is an essential element of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and covers all human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It consists of a group of independent experts in the field of human rights, and the tools of special procedures include country visits to Member States, records human rights violations within them and works to resolve them, and communicates with various stakeholders during visits, especially civil society organizations, to overcome the human rights problems involved in their discussion or special appeals and communications sent to States with a view to monitoring and resolving human rights issues within them.

During 2022, special procedures intervened to improve and promote the human rights situation in the Arab States. The group of human rights experts sent 95 urgent appeals to the Arab countries to attract their attention to the human rights violations that occurred during the past year, and the Arab countries responded to only 36 of the appeals submitted. The Kingdom of Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, and Qatar were the most cooperative Arab countries with the Mechanism. Three urgent appeals were submitted to Bahrain and Morocco, and they responded to all of

them; Jordan and Qatar also made one appeal and responded; and Syria responded to two appeals¹.

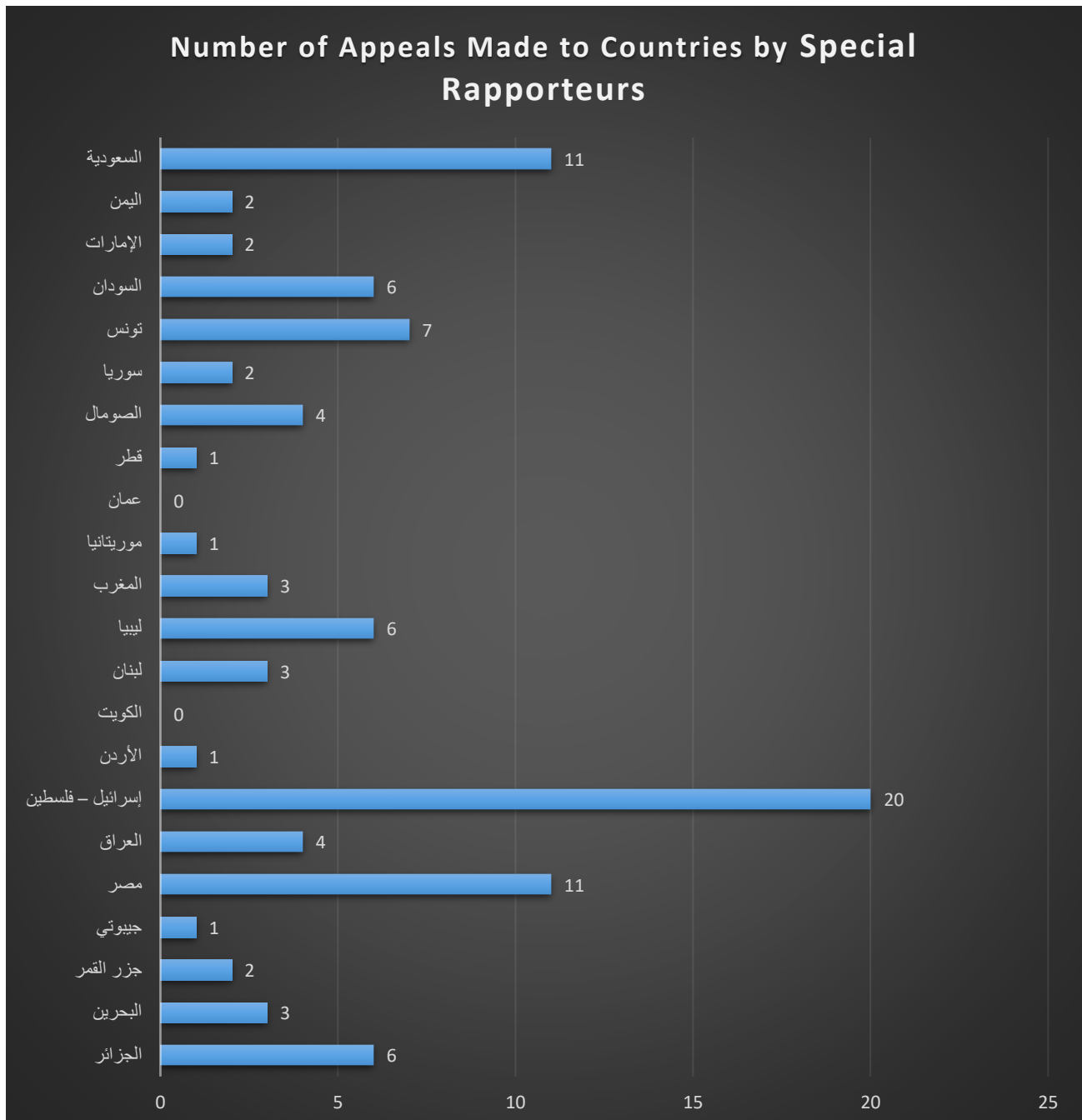
On the other hand, the Comoros, Djibouti, the Israeli occupation forces, Somalia, Yemen, and Libya ignored the appeals made to them, while many States have cooperated with the special procedures mechanism with regard to the partial submission of appeals, as they responded to some of them, but they ignored others. Algeria replied to 5 of its 6 appeals and ignored one appeal, Egypt ignored the response to 7 of the 11 appeals sent to it, Iraq also responded to two of the 4 appeals sent to it, Lebanon responded to one of the 3 appeals submitted to it, Tunisia replied to 2 of the original 7 appeals submitted to it by the special mechanisms, Sudan interacted with one of the 6 appeals received, the United Arab Emirates responded to one of two appeals received, and Saudi Arabia responded to all but except one².



¹ تحليل مؤسسة ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان بالاعتماد على قاعدة بيانات المقررين الخواص عن الدول العربية المتاحة على الرابطة <https://bit.ly/3KCM6SD>

² تحليل مؤسسة ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان بالاعتماد على قاعدة بيانات المقررين الخواص عن الدول العربية المتاحة على الرابطة <https://bit.ly/3KCM6SD>

In the midst of this, the Israeli occupation forces and the Palestinian authorities received the largest number of appeals and communications amounting to 20, while Egypt and Saudi Arabia each received 11 appeals for each country; Tunisia received 7 appeals; Sudan, Algeria, and Libya each received 6 appeals separately; Somalia had 4 appeals; Lebanon, Bahrain, and Morocco received 3 appeals for each of them; and Yemen, the Emirates, the Comoros Islands, and Syria received two appeals for each of them; Qatar, Mauritania, Jordan, and Djibouti received an appeal for each of them, and Oman and Kuwait did not receive any appeals from the special rapporteurs mechanism.



On the topics of these appeals the majority concerned political and civil rights, especially allegations of violations against human rights defenders, violations related to torture, arbitrary arrests, forced detention, the right to fair trials, the lack of independence of the judiciary with impunity for the perpetrators of violations. A number of appeals also include the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Few appeals were concerned with the rights to water and sanitation, health and cultural and educational rights.

The following table shows the situation of the special rapporteurs from the Arab countries in terms of the number of appeals they sent, taking into account that more than one rapporteur sent one appeal to the same country.

Rapporteur	No. of Appeals	Countries received the appeal
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	32	Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, the Israeli occupation forces, Algeria, Syria and Iraq
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	4	Yemen and the Israeli occupation forces
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	17	UAE, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia and Libya
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	2	Yemen and the Israeli occupation forces
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	32	Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, the Israeli occupation forces, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Morocco, Syria and Palestine
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	1	Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	34	Bahrain, Tunisia, the Emirates, Egypt, Morocco, the Israeli occupation forces, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Qatar
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	26	Bahrain, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Sudan, Algeria, the Israeli occupation forces, Egypt and Qatar
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	17	Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Comoros, Sudan, the Israeli occupation forces, Libya, Bahrain, the Israeli occupation forces and Palestine

Rapporteur	No. of Appeals	Countries received the appeal
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living	3	The Israeli occupation forces
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	33	Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, the Israeli occupation forces, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq and the Emirates
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	14	Iraq, the Israeli occupation forces, Comoros, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	1	Libya
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	9	Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	8	Somalia, Iraq, Egypt, the Israeli occupation forces and Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967	18	Israeli occupation forces
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	3	Israeli occupation forces, Libya and Qatar
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism	5	Morocco, Algeria and the Israeli occupation forces
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	7	Yemen, Somalia, Egypt, the Israeli occupation forces and Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1	Saudi Arabia
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia	3	Somalia
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism	24	Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Bahrain, Qatar and the Emirates

Rapporteur	No. of Appeals	Countries received the appeal
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	15	UAE, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	2	Sudan and Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	3	Iraq, Sudan and Syria
Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences	5	Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	9	Libya, Somalia, the Israeli occupation forces, Comoros, Mauritania, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Djibouti
Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls	11	Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya, the Israeli occupation forces and Sudan

4. Situation of the Arab countries regarding the Bodies Established under Human Rights Treaties

The year 2022 witnessed a number of Arab countries undergoing review before the United Nations treaty committees, in the framework of discussing the national reports submitted by these countries, or within the framework of participation in the pre-sessional working group, or during the review in light of the list of issues, whether before submitting the national reports of the countries or after. This part of the report sought to clarify the position of the Arab countries regarding the United Nations human rights treaty committees during 2022, which necessarily requires a preliminary clarification of the position of these countries regarding the basic international human rights treaties, which will be dealt with as follows:

1. The Arab countries' situation on basic human rights treaties

Country Committee	Bahrain	Iraq	Somalia	Sudan	Syria	Oman	Palestine	Yemen	Oatar	UAE	KSA	Kuwait	Comoros	Djibouti	Mauritania	Jordan	Algeria	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia	Lebanon	Egypt
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Convention Against Torture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convention on the Rights of the Child	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X

Countries party to the agreement: ✓

Countries not party to the agreement: X

2. The situation of the Arab countries on the treaty committees in 2022

Committee	Session and Date	Kind of Review	Country
Committee against Torture	The 73 rd session, from April 19 to May 13, 2022	Consider state reports	Iraq
	The 74 th session, from 12 to 29 July, 2022	Consider state reports	Palestine
			UAE
	The 75 th session, from October 31 to November 25, 2022	Consider state reports Consider the list of issues prior to submitting the report	Somalia
Tunisia			
Human Rights Committee	The 134 th session, from February 28 to March 25, 2022	Consider state reports Consider the list of issues related to the report	Iraq
			Qatar
	The 135 th session, from June 27 to July 27, 2022	Consider the list of issues related to the report	Egypt
			Palestine
			Kuwait
The 136 th session, from October 10 to November 4, 2022	Consider the list of issues related to the report		
Committee on Enforced Disappearances	The 23 rd session, from September 12 to 23, 2022	Consider the list of issues related to the report	Morocco
Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	The 81 st session, from February 7 to February 25, 2022	Consider state reports	Lebanon
	The 82 nd session, from June 13 to July 1, 2022	Consider state reports	Morocco
			UAE
Pre-sessional working group from October 31 to November 4, 2022	Consider the list of issues prior to submitting the report	Palestine	
Committee on Economic,	The 71 st session, from February 14 to March 4, 2022	Consider state reports	Bahrain

Committee	Session and Date	Kind of Review	Country
Social and Cultural Rights	Pre-sessional working group from March 7 to March 11, 2022	Consider the list of issues related to the report	Iraq
Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers	The 35 th session, from September 19 to 30, 2022	Consider state reports	Syria
Committee on the Rights of the Child	The 90 th session, from May 3 to June 3, 2022	Consider state reports	Djibouti
	The 91 st session, from August 29 to September 23, 2022		Somalia
Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	The 108 th session, from November 14 to December 2, 2022	Consider state reports	Kuwait
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Pre-sessional working group from September 12 to September 16, 2022	Consider the list of issues prior to submitting the report	Bahrain
			UAE

Committee against Torture

5 Arab countries were subject to review before the Committee against Torture during 2022, where the national reports submitted by Iraq, Palestine, the Emirates and Somalia were considered and approved during the work of sessions No. 73, 74 and 75 of the Committee against Torture, in addition to examining the list of issues submitted to the state Tunisia before submitting its fourth periodic report, during the 75th session.

Human Rights Committee

5 Arab countries were subject to review before the Human Rights Committee during 2022, where the national reports submitted by the State of Iraq and Qatar were considered during the 134th session of the Human Rights Committee, in addition to

examining the list of issues related to the periodic reports of the State of Egypt, Palestine and Kuwait during the work of sessions No. 134, 135 and 136.

Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Only one Arab country was subject to review before the Committee on Enforced Disappearances during 2022, as Morocco was subject to review within the framework of the list of issues related to its initial report during the work of the 23rd session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. In light of the review process, the Committee submitted a series of issues in which it requested the Moroccan government to provide updated statistical information, disaggregated by sex, gender identity, sexual orientation and age, on the number of missing persons and on the number of alleged enforced disappearances prosecuted under Articles 436 to 440 of the Moroccan sanctions Code, and on measures taken to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement enshrined in Article 16 of the Convention.

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

4 Arab countries were subject to review before the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women during 2022, where the national reports submitted by Lebanon, Morocco and UAE were considered and approved during the work of sessions No. 81 and 82 of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in addition to considering the list of issues submitted to Palestine before submitting its second periodic report, during the pre-session working group No. 85.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Two Arab countries were subject to review before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during 2022, where the national report submitted by Bahrain was considered and approved during the work of the 71st session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in addition to examining the list of issues related to the 5th periodic report of Iraq during the 70th session (pre-session working group).

Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Only one Arab country was subject to review before the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families during 2022, as the Committee considered the combined report of the second and third

periodic reports of the **Syrian Arab Republic** on September 22, 23 and 26, 2022 during the work of the session (35). In its concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Syria, the Committee acknowledged the severe impact of the armed conflict and political, economic and social instability on migrant workers and members of their families in Syria and abroad, and expressed concern about information it received regarding the exacerbation of human rights violations and acts of violence against migrants in Syria, including unlawful killings, torture and other ill-treatment.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

3 Arab countries were subject to review before the Committee on the Rights of the Child during 2022, as the national reports submitted by Djibouti, Somalia and Kuwait were considered and approved during the work of the 90th and 91st sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Only one Arab country was subject to review before the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination during 2022, as the Committee considered the combined report of the 8th to 14th periodic reports of **Bahrain** on November 17 and 18, 2022 during the work of the 108th session. In its concluding observations on the combined report of the 8th to 14th periodic reports of Bahrain, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed its regret that the submission of the report of Bahrain was twelve years late, the absence of comprehensive statistics on the ethnic composition of the population in Bahrain, and the lack of information on how to settle potential conflicts between local laws and the convention.

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Only one Arab country was subject to review before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during 2022, as **UAE** was subject to review before the Committee, within the framework of the list of issues prior to submission of its combined second and third periodic reports during the pre-session working group (16). In light of the review process, the committee submitted a set of questions or issues to the UAE government related to the conditions of persons with disabilities and the efforts it has taken to implement and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the UAE.

Chapter II: Arab Countries' Situation on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

In this chapter, the report clarified that during 2022, the Arab countries made great efforts to promote the achievement of sustainable development goals in the Arab region, especially achieving the goals that were reviewed in the high-level political forum in 2022, which are the goals; 4, 5, 14, 15, 17. Almost 5 Arab countries participated in presenting their voluntary reports during the forum in July 2022, including actively participating in ministerial meetings and regional weeks before the forum.

Despite the efforts made, some challenges have hindered achieving these goals, which the Arab countries have tried to unite to eliminate them. The Arab Gulf region is the most Arab region that has achieved the relevant goals, except Yemen; in second place is the North African region due to the measures taken and the policies applied by Arab governments.

This part of the report reviewed the reality of the goals concerned in all Arab countries, including highlighting the efforts and challenges facing Arab governments in achieving the goals and objectives of sustainable development. It also included a look at the role of the international and regional mechanisms concerned with following up the implementation of the sustainable development goals, such as the high-level political forum in the Arab countries that participate annually, the Arab committee concerned and following up the implementation of the sustainable development goals under the League of Arab States. The section concludes with a comprehensive analytical vision of the reality of sustainable development in the Arab region.

1. The reality of achieving the development goals in the Arab region between 2021-2022

The report emphasized that the Arab region faces development challenges at multiple levels. The current “first decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” began with the social and economic shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also disrupted the path of development in many countries of the Arab region, some of which are already experiencing violent conflicts or internal political unrest.

- **Quality education in the Arab region ... Obstacles to inequity and inclusiveness for all**

Despite national trends toward increasing investment in and enrollment in education, progress has been made in accessing schools. Education does not live up to its transformative potential in the Arab region; the Arab region has suffered from many challenges in achieving the fourth goal of sustainable development related to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Long-standing challenges, including outdated teaching and learning methods, disparities in education quality, and unequal access and infrastructure, continue to hinder progress in Arab countries.

Regarding the fourth goal, the report dealt with narration and analysis goals. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys enjoy free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to adequate and effective education outcomes, and by 2030, ensure that all young people and a significant proportion of adults, both men and women, are literate and numerate 2022 A decline in enrolment rates in primary and secondary education in the Arab region compared to previous years, and an increase in youth literacy rates during the same year.

- **The reality of women in the Arab region in light of the fluctuating rates of equality between the sexes.**

No country in the world has achieved the goal of gender equality. In Arab contexts, women cannot participate equally in social, economic, and political life.

Conservative ideologies and entrenched patriarchal systems make it difficult for women to advance, especially in public life. Among the obstacles are discriminatory laws, gender-based violence, and lack of alternative childcare options, unfair wages, and shrinking space for civil society.

The report monitored and analysed the indicators of the fifth goal related to gender equality and the achievements and failures of the Arab countries in 2022. This section focused on two goals that achieve the goal, which is to ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities available to them for leadership on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, and the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including human trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.

The selection of these goals is because, during 2022, large disparities were observed between the rates of women's participation in Arab national parliaments; only two Arab countries achieved high rates, while more than half of those countries did not achieve those average rates. The rates of violence against women clearly increased in the Arab region; it was important to pay attention to those goals rather than others.

- **Life under Water... A Look in the Mirror of Arab Laws and Procedures**

The oceans, seas, and coastal areas constitute an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are important to achieving sustainability. They also cover more than two-thirds of the Earth's surface and contain 97% of the water on the planet. However, the pollution of the seas resulting from human practices impedes the utilization and conservation that water.

In the Arab region, many countries suffer from marine pollution, which comes on top of single-consumer plastic and plastic waste, which is a challenge due to its negative impact on fish and marine organisms.

When analyzing the fourteenth goal related to life underwater, highlighted goal was Prevent and significantly reduce, by 2025, marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution, as measured by the proportion of plastic debris and plastic waste in the seas, and the target to promote the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing International law as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

The reasons for focusing on these goals are that until 2022, despite the efforts made, the rates of plastic consumption in the Arab region rise. Indeed, some countries have doubled their production of single-use plastic, which is thrown as waste directly into the waters of the seas and oceans, in connection with the existence of national laws commensurate with what was stated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. A limited number of Arab countries have launched national laws to protect life underwater, so it is necessary to focus on these two goals.

- **High rates of land degradation in the Arab region impede the protection of wildlife:**

Forests cover 30% of the Earth's surface, and providing food security and shelter, they are an important component of combating climate change and protecting ecological diversity and the homelands of indigenous peoples. Annually 13 million hectares of forest are lost, while the permanent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares. Deforestation, human-induced desertification, and climate change are challenges to sustainable development and wildlife protection on Earth, they affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty, and efforts are being made to manage forests and combat desertification.

Until 2022, the percentage of decertified and degraded lands in the Arab region increased; at the same time, the policies to combat this increasing deterioration were reduced, and also, although the goal of preserving biological diversity should have been implemented by 2020, it continued until 2022, and even the loss of Many types of animals, including birds, in the countries of the Arab region, despite the efforts of Arab governments to limit this loss.

So the report focuses on my goal; Combat desertification, restore degraded lands and soils, including lands affected by desertification, drought, and floods, strive to achieve a land degradation-free world by 2030, and take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt biodiversity loss, by 2020 Protecting and preventing the extinction of threatened species, as measured by the Red List Index.

- **Prominent Arab partnerships toward achieving goals in the Arab region:**

During the year 2022, Arab governments carried out many activities related to establishing partnerships to achieve the goals, including partnerships with the private sector, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations, as well as partnerships with Arab governments themselves. In that part, the focus was placed on three main goals, which highlight Arab partnerships during the year 2022; Enhance international support for effective and targeted implementation of capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, and strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by stakeholder partnerships the multi-stakeholder community for all knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources and their sharing, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, especially developing countries, and encouraging and strengthening public, private-public and civil society partnerships by building on

the experiences gained from the partnerships and their strategies for resource mobilization, data, monitoring, and accountability.

The main reason for selecting the three goals is the need to focus on the good and strong partnerships that Arab governments achieved significantly during the year 2022 with many stakeholders and private sector companies, as well as with companies between Arab governments about implementing the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

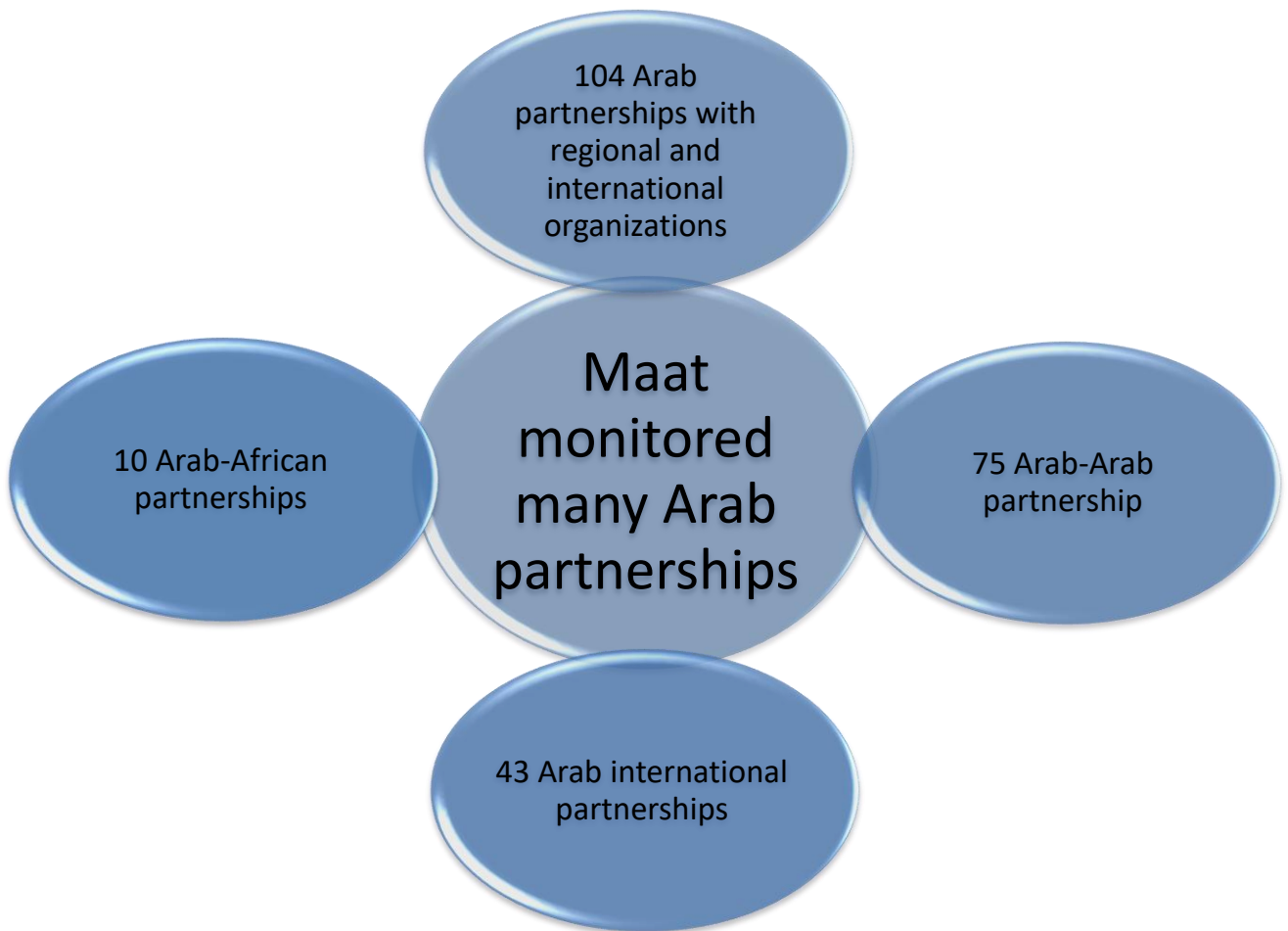


Figure 3 Graphic showing Arab partnerships to achieve the seventeenth goal

2. International and Arab Mechanisms towards Achieving Sustainable Development ... What is the Point?

- **International mechanisms concerned with reviewing the sustainable development goals:**

The High-Level Political Forum is the international mechanism concerned with following up on the implementation of the seventeenth sustainable development goals. The forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including the ministerial segment for three days, and every four years at the level of heads of state and government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days, where held under a theme Specific and focused on a set of specific goals.

The sessions of the High-Level Political Forum ran from July 5 to July 7 and from July 11 to July 15, 2022. The ministerial part of the forum included a period of three days from July 13 to July 15, 2022, before concluding on July 18, 2022, after highlighting its 2022 theme of “Building back better from COVID-19 while promoting full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and its revision of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 14 on life below water, and Goal 15 on life below Earth, and Goal 17 on Partnerships for the Goals.

Since its inception, the voluntary review process has witnessed wide participation by Arab countries. As all the Arab countries submitted their voluntary review report, except Yemen, at various times, the following table presents the position of the Arab countries regarding the voluntary review processes:

N	Country	Voluntary review times	review years
1.	Egypt	3	2016- 2018- 2021
2.	Libya	1	2020
3.	Algeria	1	2019
4.	Tunisia	2	2019- 2021
5.	Morocco	2	2016- 2020
6.	Mauritania	1	2019
7.	Sudan	2	2018- 2022
8.	Somalia	1	2022
9.	Djibouti	1	2022
10.	Comoros	2	2020-2023
11.	Oman	2	2018-2023
12.	Saudi Arabia	2	2019- 2023
13.	The UAE	2	2018-2022
14.	Kuwait	2	2019-2023
15.	the two seas	2	2018-2023
16.	Qatar	3	2017-2018-2021
17.	Yemen	NA	NA
18.	Iraq	2	2019-2021
19.	Lebanon	1	2018
20.	Syria	2	2020-2023
21.	Jordan	2	2017-2022
22.	Palestine	1	2018

Table showing the voluntary national reviews of Arab countries

Regional mechanisms concerned with following up the implementation of the sustainable development goals:

1. Arab Committee for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals:

The Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States, in its (99th) session, issued Resolution No. (2134- Dr.99- 16/2/2017), which stipulates the approval of the establishment of the "Arab Committee to follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region," according to to submit its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and inviting member states to participate at a high and specialized level in the work of the Arab Committee to follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region.

The committee consists of focal points concerned with sustainable development in the Arab countries to follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals plan in the Arab region. Discuss related topics. At its fifth meeting in November 2018, the Committee approved the proposal to "establish the Arab Network for Science and Technology in the Arab Region". The Arab Week for Sustainable Development was also launched.

1. The Arab Week for Sustainable Development:

The Arab Week mainly aims to provide a platform for dialogue to discuss issues of sustainable development in the Arab region, to launch partnerships towards action to achieve the most important goals related to the future of Arab societies, and to meet the UN plan in its programs to deal with issues of sustainable development in the Arab region. The Arab Week targets attendees concerned with sustainable development files at the level of the Arab region, representatives of civil society, scientific and technological institutions and innovators, senior officials and decision-makers, representatives of the private sector and business institutions, and international experts.

2. The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development:

The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development is the main regional mechanism for following up and reviewing the implementation of the sustainable development plan in the Arab region. The Forum is organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the League of Arab States and United Nations bodies operating in the Arab region. The theme of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development for 2022 was "Recovery and Resilience" during which the participants reviewed Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15, and 17. It is

organized in the framework of a close partnership with the League of Arab States and United Nations organizations operating in the Arab region. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presided over the forum this year, and the president presented the final report to the 2022 High-level Political Forum.

3. Analytical View of the Reality of Achieving Goals of Interest in the Arab Region

- Effectiveness of Arab efforts to achieve the Goals of Interest

☛ Arab efforts to achieve quality education.. What do the numbers indicate?

Arab governments have made remarkable efforts in recent years to implement all the goals of sustainable development, despite the challenges they have faced. With regard **providing quality education to all groups without discrimination**, the statistics presented in the report show that the Arab region has wide differences in achieving SDG4 of quality education. There are some regions and countries that have achieved remarkable successes through strong educational programs as well as the eradication of illiteracy. On the contrary, the numbers indicate that some countries faced challenges that prevented them from achieving SDG 4 and its targets. The region of the Arab Gulf states comes first in terms of achieving the fourth goal, compared to other regions.

The report highlighted two main targets that contributed to achieving SDG4. As previously mentioned, the countries of the Arab Gulf region topped the list of Arab countries in terms of achieved progress. The United Arab Emirates came first in terms of achieving the SDG4 in general, and Target 4.1 in particular. Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman came second in terms of enrollment in primary and secondary education and achieving high rates of reading and writing.

Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Libya, Mauritania and the Comoros Islands ranked at the top of the list of countries that did not achieve all the targets of Goal 4, whether in terms of enrollment in primary and secondary education, as well as eradicating illiteracy and raising literacy rates.

Compared to the global figures for achieving the Goal 4, the Arab countries have made remarkable progress in the field of education despite the serious challenges they face so far. However, most countries in the Arab region have reached 99% of literacy rates, especially in the Arab Gulf countries, but war-torn countries and those suffering from the repercussions of the Covid-19 virus on educational systems, have faced difficulties in terms of fully recover so far.

Gender Equality Faces Serious Obstacles... What is the Reality?

As for achieving gender equality in the Arab region, the implementation of the fifth goal faces many challenges in the Arab region, topped by the weak political participation, especially participation in decision-making and representation in parliament and national councils, as well as the rise in violence and discrimination against women.

With regard to the participation of Arab women in parliaments, **according to the rates of their participation in the Arab region, they are less than the average**, and the UAE tops the countries where the percentage of women's participation in parliament rises by 50%, and no Arab country has yet achieved that percentage. Sudan comes next with a rate of 31%. However, this percentage does not reflect the reality, despite the fact that this percentage is considered one of the best indicators because it is close to achieving the targets of the index. However, the challenge also lies in the static percentages of the index and their lack of appropriate progress.

Egypt comes in third place with a rate of 27.41%, and that percentage increased in Parliament 2021 after the recent constitutional amendments in 2019 that raised the quota rate. Djibouti comes in fourth place with a rate of 26.2%, and Morocco comes in fifth place with a rate of 24.3%. **As for the countries that achieved the lowest rates of women's participation in Parliament**, Yemen tops the list with a rate of 0.3%, followed by Kuwait with 4%, and Qatar comes in third place with a rate of 4.4%.

As for the Arab regions with highest rates of women representation in national parliament, North Africa is number one. The percentage of women's participation in the Arab countries in North Africa is high compared to other countries in the neighboring regions, despite the fact that the reality of these percentages relative to the world is low.

With regard to violence against women, according to the statistics monitored in the report, until 2022 violence continued at a high rate, especially in Arab countries suffering from conflicts such as Yemen, Syria and Somalia. More than 3,000 violations against girls and women were recorded in those countries, topped by Somalia, which has recorded nearly 2,000 cases of violations, including physical violence, sexual violence, domestic violence, and assault.

It is unfortunate that the number of women victims of violence is on the rise in conjunction with the issuance of laws related to reducing violence against women in most Arab countries, such as in Jordan, despite the fact the Penal Code, the Law on Combating Cybercrime, and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence criminalize violence against women. Nevertheless, Jordan Population and Family Health Survey (JPFHS) indicate that 25.9% of wives have been subjected to physical, sexual or emotional violence by their husbands.

The same is true in East Africa, Djibouti. The Penal Code criminalizes violence, but it does not provide specific legal protection against domestic violence, and the percentage of women who are subjected to violence in society exceeds 64.6%. In the Sultanate of Oman, Article 44 of the Omani Penal Code justifies and permits violence against children if it is with the intent of disciplinary action. In the case of violence against women, it is also justified and permissible by a society that accepts violence against children and women. Therefore, violence is taken from a legal point of view in Oman as a justification of discipline, contrary to what is included in SDG5.

✦ **High Marine Pollution and Limited Measures... Repercussions of this on Reality?**

Regarding the feasibility of measures to reduce marine pollution in the Arab region, the governments of Arab countries have made many efforts within the framework of preserving the marine environment. **In the framework of the efforts to combat plastic waste dumped in the seas and oceans** on the Arab countries, the UAE came first in terms of maintaining life under water in general, and the "Dubai Can" initiative was launched to reduce dependence on single use plastic bottles. Both Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman banned the use of single use plastic in 2022, in addition to replacing them with environmentally friendly and lightweight bags.

Fragile Terrestrial Ecosystems... Feasibility of the Measures Taken?

With regard to **the promotion and protection of wildlife in the Arab national agendas**, Arab countries face many challenges in order to promote and protect wildlife related to desertification and degraded lands. It should be noted that the entire Arab region suffers from high rates of desertification, and the Arab countries fall within the circle that has achieved limited results with regard to the implementation of that goal, and this is mainly due to many reasons, topped by the Arab Gulf countries and East African countries, which are located near the equator and therefore are most affected by

climate changes and global warming, in addition to the poor Arab policies to combat desertification and land degradation, especially with regard to the Arab countries that are located in East Africa.

As for the regions that most achieve this target, **in fact, no region in the Arab region has achieved remarkable results so far with regard to reducing desertification rates**, and the percentage of desertification in most Arab regions ranged between 85% and 95% of the total area of the country, which are high rates, compared to other regions outside the Arab area.

Due to wrong human practices and environmental factors that come in second place among the causes that led to the extinction of many wild species, and until 2022, the proportions of birds and animals threatened with extinction have increased in the Arab region, led by the Arabian Oryx and various species of falcons, especially in East Africa and the Arabian Gulf region, where they are full of many rare animals, and this is directly related to the indiscriminate hunting of these animals, especially in the Arab desert regions, where hunting animals is one of the recreational activities.

✦ **Positive Indicators towards the Future of Arab Companies in order to Achieve the Goals:**

With regard to the feasibility of **cooperation in order to achieve the goals in the Arab region**, some countries were keen to cooperate in the context of implementing all sustainable development goals, especially at the level of the Arab countries. Many Arab governments cooperated in the field of achieving sustainable growth and the areas of electrical and energy cooperation in the areas of providing technical aid, advisory service and research studies to developing countries.

It should be noted that all Arab regions have made remarkable progress in order to achieve Target 17.9. Therefore, no region is more advanced than the other in efforts to hold companies and enhance international support and cooperation.

With regard to target 16.17 related to strengthening the global partnership for the achievement of sustainable development and complementing it with partnerships between multiple stakeholders for all knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources and sharing them with the aim of supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, especially developing countries, which is the clearest and most embodied model for the policies of Arab countries, especially

In the Arab Gulf, which revolves around strengthening global development partnerships, specifically with stakeholders.

The partnerships established by Arab governments with international stakeholders concerned with sustainable development reflect the efforts of those governments in achieving Goal 16, and among the most prominent forms of cooperation is the partnership with the UNHCR, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Food Organization, the United Nations Development Program, the European Union and UNESCO, who have provided outstanding support to Arab countries in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

Finally, with regard to Goal 17, which revolves around encouraging and strengthening public partnerships between the private sector, the public sector, and civil society partnerships by benefiting from the experiences gained from partnerships and their strategies for resource mobilization, gathering data, monitoring, and accountability. Arab countries have also made remarkable gains in achieving this target.

At the level of the countries of the Arab Gulf region, which is one of the most prominent Arab regions, in order to achieve Goal 17 in general, many events have been held that work to strengthen partnership with the private sector. For example, in Kuwait, private sector leaders launched a platform for women’s economic empowerment in cooperation with the Kuwaiti government, and Qatar Development, a memorandum of understanding with the Amazing Generation initiative and Qatar Charity to support sports-led projects in addition to the role of the private sector in financing government development initiatives.

In general, the countries of North Africa, East Africa, and the Levant have also made remarkable progress in terms of strengthening partnership with the private sector. Arab countries have been able to expand their partnerships in order to achieve the development goals. However, there are a number of Arab countries that suffer from a lack of financing capabilities for these partnerships to achieve the relevant development goals, especially in the contexts of the Arab countries most affected by security complexities, such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.

Chapter III: A Glance at the Human Rights Situation in the Arab Region

This chapter addresses the situation of human rights in 22 Arab countries during 2022, whether at the legislative level as well as civil and political rights, the

economic, social and cultural rights, in addition to the rights of the most vulnerable groups. The report also examined the efforts made by Arab countries to address these violations and made recommendations to improve the human rights situation in Arab countries.

Chapter IV: Climate Change & Human Rights in the Arab Region

In this section, the report stresses that the Arab region is the most vulnerable in the world to the effects of climate change due to the arid and semi-arid climate it enjoys. The region is already witnessing high temperatures, water scarcity, desertification, sea level rise, and erosion of agricultural land. According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is likely that the Arab region will witness an influx of intense and frequent heat waves, droughts, floods and storms in the coming years. This could lead to enormous social, economic and environmental consequences for the region. In order to face these climate challenges, many Arab countries have developed national strategies and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

However, more steps need to be taken at the national and international levels to reduce emissions, support the most vulnerable groups in adapting to climate change, and include all stakeholders while working towards adopting national measures to address climate change. In particular, only 72% of Arab countries have a strategy for implementing the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions. The reality of climate change in the Arab region reveals that fragile states that engage in armed conflicts with an armed group outside the state are particularly affected by climate change, such as the case in Somalia, Yemen and Libya, which limits the ability of these countries to adapt to climate change or mitigate its effects. It is also important to mention that despite the entry into force of the Paris Framework Agreement on climate change in November 2016, two out of the only four countries that have not ratified the agreement, are Arab countries; namely Yemen and Libya, which have not yet acceded to the agreement. The two countries signed the agreement, but did not ratify it until the end of 2022.³

In the period from 6 to 19 November, Egypt hosted in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh the twenty-seventh conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change "COP 27", under the theme "the Implementation Summit". Among the outcomes of the conference was the

³ Paris Agreement, <https://bit.ly/3I5UCyW>

establishment of a fund to compensate for losses and damages to the least developed countries, including some Arab countries. The United Arab Emirates will host COP 28 in 2023, which indicates the pivotal importance that Arab countries allocate to the issue of climate change in light of the grave challenges this issue poses to human rights and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Nevertheless, despite the successive measures that Arab countries embark on to adapt to climate change, such as adopting strategies that take into account this issue, allocating items in the general budget to confront climate change in some countries, and declaring ministerial portfolios for climate change, in addition to the initiatives undertaken by some countries in partnership with either the private sector or civil society, there is a long way to go to adapt to climate change in the Arab region. Perhaps the growing population density in the Arab region constitutes another pressure on the already limited resources in the Arab region, which delays efforts to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.

This chapter of the Arab Human Development Report focused on the effects of climate change on human rights, especially economic and social rights, such as the right to adequate housing, the right to food, the right to fresh water, health and the right to development. The report also includes the main challenges facing the Arab region while trying to adapt and mitigate climate change. The effects of climate change, and proposed solutions to combat climate change.

The report indicated that climate change has serious repercussions on human rights, and it undermines the ability of governments in the Arab region to promote development and achieve their sustainable goals, which threatens to leave more people behind these goals. Climate change is a key reason behind waves of migration and displacement in Iraq and Somalia, but there remain major challenges facing most Arab countries in adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects. They are: the financing gap - the lack of technology - the lack of awareness of the dangers of climate change - the inflexibility of the electricity networks.

The report has proposed solutions to reduce the effects of climate change, namely:

Clean Energy: Expanding the use of clean energy sources in the Arab region would reduce the effects of climate change. Wind power, for example, is an indispensable element in reaching zero emissions of greenhouse gases. But this must

be accompanied by the availability of affordable renewable energy sources, to replace traditional oil and coal burning systems at an accelerated and more sustainable pace.

Building Sea Walls: Building barriers and sea walls to stop flooding caused by rising sea levels is another example of *adapting* to climate changes that may occur, especially in coastal areas, which are more threatened by drowning as a result of *flood waters and torrents*.

Re-planning Coastal Cities: by developing those in a way that makes them able to withstand floods by containing drainage channels and flood ditches, and early warning systems for forecasting and monitoring floods, which prepares coastal and developing communities to prepare for the risks of these floods.

Sustainable Transportation: by switching to the use of cars and public transportation that are powered by electricity, as an alternative to traditional fuel, to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming, the main driver of climate change. About 72% of carbon dioxide emissions come from road transport. Expanding the application of sustainable transportation solutions in the Arab countries would help combat climate change and air pollution, and live in a clean environment.

Conclusions & Recommendations

During 2022, many Arab countries began to adopt policies, strategies, and laws to address the situation of human rights. It is noteworthy that policies related to economic and social rights and social protection programs had priority in 2022 in the Arab region, due to the consequent rise in the Russian-Ukrainian war. Waves of inflation, price increases and disruption of supply chains have pushed more people in the Arab region into poverty. In 2022, the involvement of Arab countries with the special procedures remained limited, which requires more cooperation with these procedures, and some Arab countries remained late in submitting their periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies at the United Nations. The situation of human rights in the Arab region continues to require more efforts, bearing in mind that human rights are interdependent and indivisible, which means that caring for one right over the other may delay the advancement of human rights in general, and slow down the realization of the promise contained in the 2030 Agenda not to Nobody gets left behind.

In 2023, the United Nations celebration of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this occasion, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights calls for the need to make more efforts in raising awareness, spreading and promoting a culture of human rights, as well as raising awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a blueprint to guide practical actions to defend human rights and address pressing global issues in our world today.

During its celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations will focus on three main goals: "education" by increasing global knowledge and awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its enduring importance for our time and for the future; and show how the Declaration guided the work of the United Nations on human rights. The second goal is to "promote attitude change" by countering and reversing growing skepticism about human rights, emphasizing that human rights are never relative and must always be upheld as uniting all of humanity. The third goal is to "empower" by providing knowledge and concrete tools to help people better fight for their rights.

Maat hopes for a broader respect for the values established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and later inspired by conventions, protocols, and other declarations related to human rights, stressing that the realization of human rights is not a luxury, but rather a basis for building democratic societies, and a basis for

achieving development in all fields. It is the most important way to combat the forces of violent extremism.

Finally, Maat hopes on this occasion that governments and other actors in the field of human rights will exert greater efforts in spreading awareness of the values and rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in order to enable everyone to respect the values of human rights since protecting and promoting human rights begins with awareness and will.

Accordingly, Maat recommends the following.

- Consider issuing standing invitations for UN Special Procedures;
- Consider joining the rest of the international treaties on basic human rights;
- Arab countries should submit their Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC Secretariat;
- Rapid submission of periodic reports to the United Nations Treaty Committees and effective engagement with these committees;
- The need for climate change to be at the heart of public policies, especially health policies adopted by Arab countries;
- The need for Yemen and Libya to consider ratifying the Paris Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- Taking a human rights-based approach in addressing economic and social rights in Arab countries;
- Harmonizing national legislation in the Arab region with the provisions of international conventions on human rights.