



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

SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region "Concerted Arab Efforts to Confront Climate Threats"



February 2023

Background:

The Arab region is one of the most affected regions in the world, and despite the fact that it contributes very little to global climate change, it is the most affected by it. Therefore, there is an urgent need for cooperation between regional and international institutions concerned with combating climate changes, especially at the Arab level, in order to address the recurring climate dangers, as confirmed by the League of Arab States in February during the International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights.

Within the framework of its endeavors to protect human rights and promote sustainable societies in a way that preserve human life, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights releases its 14th issue of the **SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region** under the title "**Concerted Arab Efforts to Confront Climate Threats**" in order to track the good practices as well as the challenges that Arab countries face in achieving SDG13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

The Observatory is divided into two axes; the first discusses the country focus of this issue and reviews its achievements and failures in the climate change issue in light of the SDG 13 targets, whereas the second axis monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced by the rest of the Arab countries in this regard.

Monitoring Methodology:

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

The observatory also relies on information and data published by the Arab environment ministries on their official websites, and what was reported by electronic

newspapers and written media about the efforts of the governments of Arab countries in achieving 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 them. 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 State Focus of the Issue "Somalia"

First: An overview of Somalia's situation in light of climate changes

Somalia has an estimated population of 16 million, approximately 60 % of the population is nomadic and semi-nomadic herders and 60 % lives in rural areas. The country is among the poorest in the world with more than 69% of its population living below the international poverty line. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the State bears current responsibility for global climate change, but it suffers excessively from the climate crisis; droughts linked to climate change, intermittent floods, and the desert locust invasion resulted in the loss of livestock and agricultural production, which

accounts for more than 70% of the Gross domestic product (GDP), with millions directly and indirectly employed.

Destruction of communities' main livelihood bases continues to increase the number of internally displaced persons and the resulting humanitarian crises. Moreover, the effects and variability of climate change and conflicts are interrelated in Somalia and affect the most vulnerable (especially women and children) and resource-dependent communities.

The implementation of nationally defined contributions (NDCs) is in line with Somalia's national development agenda and reaffirms Somalia's commitment to play its role in addressing the threat of climate change in line with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement. Given these above-mentioned national circumstances and in line with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement, Somalia submits its updated Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Implementing the NDCs requires collaboration, support and investments from both national stakeholders and international partners¹.

1. Recurrent droughts in Somalia:

Somalia is highly susceptible to the sudden drought, irregular rainfall, high temperatures, hurricanes, sand storms and dust storms. Vast swaths of the Somali countryside have been turned into a barren land. Drought caused by climate change is causing crop failure, livestock dying, and children starving to death. Somalia is affected by a deep climate crisis that reflects a hazardous picture of what may happen elsewhere as a result of the warming of the planet, nowhere this phenomenon will be obvious than in Somalia, one of the world's most affected by climate change and suffering the worst drought more than 4 decades.

Nearly half of Somalia's 17 million people need urgent assistance, as more than a million people have abandoned their homes in search of food and grazing. In contrast, five consecutive failed rainy seasons have brought water shortage crisis in the early 1990s, which was more severe when famine claimed the lives of about 260,000 people².

Somalia has experienced more frequent and severe droughts in recent years as natural resource degradation and climate change continue to aggravate this problem. Rural communities especially bear the brunt of drought because their main livelihoods

¹ THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA UPDATED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) <https://bit.ly/3JLeRLO>

² <https://bit.ly/3vAKPEe> الطاقة، تغير المناخ يضرب الصومال بأزمته الجفاف وسوء التغذية (تقرير)، 12 ديسمبر 2023،

are closely linked to the weather and the environment. Women, girls, young children, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable due to their physical capabilities, roles in the household, and relatively limited access to vital resources and services.

Between 2007 and 2016, Somalia experienced severe drought in six of those years. In 2019, delayed rains led to another prolonged period of drought. This was followed by heavy rains and floods, displacing more than 370,000 people³.

Somalia ranks second (after Niger) in terms of exposure to the adverse effects of climate change, which is likely to cause increased droughts in Somalia, affecting a larger area of land, while reducing regular rainy seasons⁴.

2. Impact of climate change on the terrorist Al-Shabaab movement:

Climate change in Somalia has turned into a curse that has plagued al-Shabaab in killing after drought prompted tribes that were subject to al-Qaeda to rebel against it. These tribes refused to pay taxes after the wells dried up, the land became deserted, and large numbers of livestock died. Drought usually played a role in favor of terrorist groups, and helped them recruit more followers irritated at their governments, but the matter is different in Somalia.

Al-Shabaab movement tried to exploit the drought and climate change to its own, by recruiting more children, fighters, and supporters in exchange for food and money, which it collects from gathering taxes and royalties. But the Somalis are fed up with the high taxes that this movement takes from them, despite the famine hitting the country, which the UN described as one of the worst famines over the past 70 years, facing the Horn of Africa. Given Al-Shabaab's control of local trade routes between states and regions, it imposes taxes on merchandisers to allow them to cross and pass to their destination, which has pissed merchandisers and tribes off⁵.

While the Somali al-Shabaab movement, affiliated with Al-Qaeda, controlled many regions of Somalia for years and spread terror among the population, climate change came to deal a heavy knockback to this terrorist organization, which may be fatal to their activities in the country. Climate change is threatening the presence of the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, as encroaching sands and drought prompted thousands of residents to rebel against the authority of the armed movement after years of submission.

³ ICRC, Somali herders defenceless against the climate crisis, <https://bit.ly/3yBrUJp>

⁴ الشرق الأوسط، تغيّرات المناخ تقود الصومال لسيناريو مجاعة 2011، 20 أكتوبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3JB1duK>

⁵ سكاي نيوز عربية، التغير المناخي.. "سلاح مفاجئ" يوجه حركة الشباب بالصومال، 12 ديسمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3JAPE6P>

3. Somalia's position on international climate conventions:

Somalia submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) in November 2015 and remains committed to achieving the targets despite the national challenges and circumstances. Sustainable development, peacebuilding, and adaptation to climate change are Somalia's top priorities. In 2021, the government in Somalia submitted its NDCs plan to the UN, in accordance with international obligations and in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Somalia ratified the Paris Agreement in April 2016⁶. It also ratified the Quito Protocol on July 27, 2010⁷.

Second: Somalia's efforts to achieve the targets of SDG 13 and to promote climate action:

It has made efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources, and the climate is an essential part of the environment; Therefore, Sudan has taken many measures aimed at reducing climate change, which will naturally affect the reduction of air, water, and soil pollution. In that section, the focus will be on the government's efforts to achieve Target 13 during of February, as follows:

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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Salah Ahmed Jama, the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, stressed that the Somali people are paying the price of the climate emergency, calling on international partners to support efforts to save the lives of people affected by climate change and its repercussions such as drought and environmental degradation.

UN agencies and the federal government are seeking \$2.6 billion to help the millions affected in Somalia, and about 8 million people lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services. Conflict and insecurity in the country continue to impede humanitarian access to some of those affected⁸.

Target (2)	Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
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Over the past several years, more than 110,000 Somalis have arrived in the Dadaab camps in Kenya, driven by a deadly combination of conflict and drought, in search of food, water, and safety. The Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Somalia, and

⁶ <https://bit.ly/3ZSFdRW> الصومال اليوم، الصومال يقدم خطة تغير المناخ إلى الأمم المتحدة، 16 أغسطس 2021،

⁷ <https://bit.ly/3ZMKHgU>

⁸ <https://bit.ly/3yzUuef> الأسبوع، الصومال: نذرع ثمن حالة الطوارئ المناخية.. وعلى الشركاء الدوليين إنقاذ حياة المتضررين، 10 فبراير 2023،

Kenya, is facing its longest drought in 40 years. Five consecutive seasons without rain pushes millions of people towards the abyss of famine⁹.

The United Nations has emphasized the need for \$2.6 billion to help about 7.6 million people in Somalia to deal with the current humanitarian situation represented by the country's passage through the longest and most severe drought in its history after five consecutive dry seasons, and that nearly 8.25 million people, or half of the population, urgently need immediate life-saving assistance and protection.

The report warned of the possibility of a strong famine in the period from April to next June and beyond if humanitarian aid did not continue and the coming rains were not sufficient. In this regard, The United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia Adam Abdel Mawla, said, "The efforts of local communities and the expansion of humanitarian assistance have not succeeded in overcoming the famine in 2022, and millions of lives are still facing drought, which is also affecting parts of Kenya and Ethiopia, the worst in four decades"¹⁰.

For more than three years, Somalia has been plagued by the worst drought in decades that has left thousands of people dead living in camps for displaced persons in several different regions and in harsh humanitarian conditions. Perhaps one of these camps in the city of Dolo, in southern Somalia, provides a minor example of the great scene of all the camps. There are things in Dolo camp that look like children's toys, but are actually signs of the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in the country.

Here, children control their legs in cylindrical balls instead of soccer balls, which are yellow barrels that they roll on the ground with their bare feet, and gather in crowded points to fill them with water, where humanitarian organizations have installed taps that flow from the water that the sky has deprived them for a long time. They advance by short passages to their huts, made of dry twisted sticks and covered with tarpaulins, forming a vast patch of color in this flat and barren land, which is enlarged daily with great numbers of families fleeing deadly conditions¹¹.

Target (3)	Improving education, awareness- raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
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It should be noted that in Somalia there are no significant efforts in terms of raising awareness and human and institutional capacities to mitigate climate change

⁹ <https://bit.ly/3LnwDGB> المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة، مخيم داداب في كينيا يعج بالصوماليين الفارين من الجفاف والصراع، 28 فبراير 2023،

¹⁰ <https://bit.ly/3mRMpz6> اليوم السابع، الأمم المتحدة: الصومال بحاجة إلى 2.6 مليار دولار لمواجهة الجفاف ونقص الغذاء، 14 فبراير 2023،

¹¹ <https://bit.ly/3FfzUmX> القرن اليومية، التغيرات المناخية المتطرفة وهشاشة الوضع الأمني يفاقمان من حدة الجفاف مع احتمالية قرب الإعلان عن المجاعة في الصومال، 10 فبراير 2023،

over the past years This may be until the day the Somali government has not given the climate change file as much attention as possible. On the other hand, it's interested in other files such as terrorism and the political and economic situation in the country at the expense of the climate change file.

Axis II: The reality of achieving Target 13 in the Arab region

This axis reviews the reality of the target 13 in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that were made to enhance climate action during the month, by classifying those efforts according to the targets followed by the observatory as follows.

Target (1)	Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
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First: North Africa:

a. Egypt:

Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, held a meeting with Mrs. Mai Abul-Naga, Senior Deputy Governor of the Central Bank; Mr. Sherif Lokman, Deputy Governor for the Financial Inclusion and Sustainability Sector; and Mr. Walid Ali, General Manager – Sustainability department, to discuss cooperation mechanisms in promoting environmental sustainability, especially in the banking sector, in the presence of a number of leaders of the Ministry of Environment, to develop the basis of establishing a sustainable financing system for climate projects in Egypt with the participation of the banking sector, where the minister confirmed that the way to achieve environmental sustainability in Egypt has witnessed remarkable development over the past years, as it turned from focusing on reducing pollution only to thinking of conserving resources to achieve sustainability.

The Minister of Environment stated that the aim of the meeting is to set a basis for creating a supportive climate for the banking sector in Egypt to work in climate financing, in line with the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050 and the updated National Contributions Plan, by building a climate financing system in Egypt in cooperation with the Central Bank, banks, development partners and the private sector. She emphasized that the National Climate Investment Plan is one of the results of the COP27 Climate Conference, which sets out a roadmap for how to go ahead in preparing a supportive climate and building disciplined climate financing at the national level¹².

¹² <https://bit.ly/3ZIV5Ge>وزارة البيئة المصرية، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع البنك المركزي وضع نواة لتهيئة المناخ الداعم للقطاع المصرفي لتمويل مشروعات المناخ في مصر، 7 فبراير 2023،

Dr. Yasmine, Minister of the Environment, Ministerial Coordinator, and envoy to COP27, met with Lionel Rapaille, Director of the European Investment Bank in neighboring countries, and his accompanying delegation, to discuss ways of joint cooperation to promote environmental investment in Egypt, as the Minister praised the extended relations with the Bank in supporting environmental work in Egypt and complementing them with many new partnerships. To benefit from the technical support and expertise of the bank to enhance Egypt's efforts to involve the private sector in environmental and climate investment.

Both parties discussed means of cooperation in preparing packages of investment opportunities for the private sector in the fields of environment and climate, including building the capabilities of the banking sector in sustainable financing, investing in the areas of biodiversity and nature-based solutions, integrated waste management and converting it into energy¹³.

Fouad witnessed the inauguration of the first fully electric car by the Abou Ghali Motors Group, in the presence of Mrs. Rania Al Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation; Eng. Ahmed Samir, Minister of Trade and Industry; and Eng. Maher Abou Ghaly, Chairman of the Abou Ghali Motors Group. During her participation, Dr. Yasmine Fouad, expressed her happiness at participating and shedding light on the latest technologies in the field of sustainable transportation, which is electric mobility. Noting that the launch of the first electric car in Egypt appears to be a simple event, it represents an important step as one of the most important paths to green transformation. The electric car industry and sustainable transport in general, which are the most important priorities of the Egyptian Government, and are closely sponsored by His Excellency the President of the Republic.

The Minister of Environment added that the global event organized by Egypt at the end of last year, the COP27 Climate Conference, witnessed full participation from all state agencies, the private sector, civil society, youth, and women. Noting that two initiatives were launched during the conference, which are the initiative of new and renewable energy and the just transition of energy without prejudice to economic development. A gradual transformation of new and renewable energy from solar energy, wind and green hydrogen, as well as clean energy in electric cars, which is one of the axes of renewable energy¹⁴.

¹³ <https://bit.ly/3FicAVr>وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع مدير بنك الاستثمار الأوروبي التعاون المشترك في مجالات الاستثمار البيئي، 8 فبراير 2023،

¹⁴ <https://bit.ly/3JzL3Sa>وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشهد تنشيد أول سيارة كهربائية بالكامل لمجموعة أبو غالي موتورز،

Fouad, participated in the dialogue session of the Climate Technology Forum, as part of her participation in a high-level delegation at the World Government Summit 2023 in Dubai, where the Forum partnered with the Atlantic Council to present challenges and opportunities to government leaders and decision-makers to address issues of energy policies and technology Reducing the effects of climate change, with the participation of Mr. Landon Dernitz, Director of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council.

During the session, Yasmine Fouad talked about opportunities to build on the outcomes of the Climate Conference 27, ways to bridge the gaps between commitments and ambitions to reach real implementation, and highlighted the urgent issues that require inclusion on the agenda at the upcoming COP28, and how climate diplomacy in COP28 can provide real implementation, and how to take advantage of the funds available from the various development banks and development finance institutions to conclude the necessary deals to stimulate economic development and reduce emissions to help the global community raise ambition to support a fair and equitable energy transition¹⁵.

Fouad participated in the dialogue session that was held under the title "Women's Leadership towards Sustainability", which was held within the activities of the World Government Summit 2023 in Dubai. When addressing the presence of women on the frontlines of the climate change crisis, she emphasized that women uniquely understand the challenge, given that they are the most aware of the negative effects of climate change, but also provide solutions to address them on the real life, where women play a prominent role in the family, and the distribution of responsibilities at home gives women and men unique insights into opportunities to combat climate change¹⁶.

Fouad, met with Mr. Mohamed Salah Eissa, CEO of MLG Group of Companies; and Ms. Lubna Al-Sayegh, Managing Director of the Group, to discuss how to benefit from the green zone in Sharm El-Sheikh, received many categories during the Climate Conference period to support ecotourism projects and create a dialogue on climate change and sustainability, on the sidelines of its participation in the World Government Summit held in Dubai, in the presence of Major General Khaled Fouada, Governor of South Sinai; and Eng. Enas Samir, Deputy Governor of South Sinai.

¹⁵ <https://bit.ly/3mDDv80>وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في جلسة حوارية خلال منتدى تكنولوجيا المناخ، 13 فبراير 2023،

¹⁶ <https://bit.ly/3T8lidT>وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في جلسة حول "قيادة المرأة نحو الإستدامة"، 14 فبراير 2023،

The Minister of Environment confirmed that the meeting aims to discuss the new Egyptian-Emirati cooperation in the field of environmental sustainability and climate change by promoting the concept of eco-tourism, a promising area initiated by the Ministry of Environment through the "Eco Egypt" Nature Reserve Promotional Campaign, in which it promoted 13 ecotourism destinations within the nature reserves¹⁷.

Fouad participated in the panel discussion of the Green Economy and Environmental Affairs Committee of the Egyptian and African Businessmen Association, via video conference, under the title "Future Investments in Climate Adaptation Projects in Egypt and the Continent", in the presence of a group of experts and academics in the field of environment, energy, technology, education, and investment. The Minister stressed the importance of discussing the future of investment in adaptation in Egypt and the continent at this critical time in which various countries of the world suffer from the effects of climate change, whether on environmental systems and the availability of energy sources; or the impact on the lives of citizens, forcing them to move from one place to another, and also in light of global economic challenges¹⁸.

Fouad, met with the World Bank delegation at the Ministry of Environment's headquarters in the Administrative Capital, to discuss mechanisms for cooperation in implementing the development policy financing program, to support the implementation of the strategic steps that Egypt is taking in the file of climate change and integrating it into development sectors, and to support the implementation of the voluntary carbon market.

Fouad confirmed that over the past year, Egypt has taken significant steps in the strategic preparation of efforts to confront the challenge of climate change, at a critical time at the national level with all efforts devoted to preparing for the hosting of the COP27 and critical global political conditions. Where came to the light each of Egypt's National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050 and both the National Contributions Plan 2030 and the package of projects were updated under the "Novi" program; and the National Climate Investment Plan was launched and the preparation for a carbon certification market in Egypt. Which makes the Development Policy Financing Program an important role in supporting the state in implementing its strategic steps, reforming targeted policies in the environment and climate, and integrating the social dimension¹⁹.

¹⁷ <https://bit.ly/400DOYT> تعاون مصرى إماراتى فى مجال السياحة البيئية، 14 فبراير 2023، Cop28 إلى Cop27 ووزارة البيئة، من

¹⁸ <https://bit.ly/3ZGLnEA> ووزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تستعرض خطوات مصر فى تهيئة المناخ الداعم لمواجهة آثار تغير المناخ، 22 فبراير 2023،

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/3ZFWYUc> ووزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تناقش مع بعثة البنك الدولى دور برنامج تمويل سياسات التنمية فى تنفيذ أجندة مصر فى ملف المناخ، 23 فبراير 2023،

b. Morocco:

Moroccan King Mohammed VI said that the climate battle in the Sahel region can only be won by optimizing the self-resource mobilization of their countries, stressing the need to ensure that this is coupled with international financial support, which promotes the aspirations of the Sahel climate investment plan. In his message to the participants in the second session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region, which opened yesterday in Addis Ababa, explained that this basic requirement is based on "the historic step of the 27 Summit of the Conference of the Parties (COPE 27) to create a fund to compensate for the worsening losses and damage caused by the climate crisis."

King Mohammed VI indicated in the message, which was read by Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, that expectations indicate that severe climate fluctuations will pose a direct threat to the lives of about 118 million Africans from the poorest groups by 2030, adding that "the circle of poverty is expected to expand, including additional numbers by 2050, estimated at 13.5 million people, despite this staggering outcome, our continent has reached only 12 percent of international climate financing by 2020."²⁰

A team of Moroccan scholars is developing advanced technologies to combat the effects of drought and climate change, by relying on modern technology that seeks to move from traditional cultivation to new methods that are resistant to global warming and deadly diseases that lurk in different types of crops. From eggplant to wheat and corn, Moroccan scholars in the city of Nador, located on the northern coast of Morocco, launch initiatives that capture the latest trends in technology and scientific research to employ them in developing crops that do not fear climate change²¹.

Participants in the ministerial meeting on "The Intersecting Challenges of Climate Change and the Agenda for Women, Peace and Security in Africa" which Morocco is organizing in Addis Ababa, in cooperation with the African Union, on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Executive Council of the African Union, highly appreciated the pioneering role of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in mobilizing action, a joint venture to address the pressing challenges of climate change in Africa²².

A high-level session, organized within the framework of the World Government Summit in Dubai, highlighted the role of the public and private sectors and international

²⁰ <https://bit.ly/42l2rll> الشرق الأوسط، ملك المغرب يشدد على ضرورة التعبئة لكسب معركة المناخ في «الساحل»، 17 فبراير 2023،

²¹ <https://bit.ly/3ZJS60f> سكاى نيوز عربية، خبراء مغاربة يلجؤون إلى الذكاء الاصطناعي لتطوير الزراعة، 8 فبراير 2023،

²² وكالة المغرب العربي للأنباء، اجتماع وزاري حول تحديات تغير المناخ بإفريقيا يثمن عالياً الدور الريادي لجلالة الملك، 16 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3Jxxlzp>

institutions in mitigating the obstacles to climate finance. The Minister of Economy and Finance, Ms. Nadia Fattah, attended the session and discussed answers to the challenges and opportunities related to climate finance, especially in emerging markets and developing economies. Participants in the session organized by the UAE Ministry of State for Financial Affairs and the International Monetary Fund discussed the role of the public and private sectors and international institutions in setting an appropriate framework and renewing the financial structure to attract more climate-related private financing. Mrs. Nadia Fattah attended the seventh session of the Arab Public Finance Forum, organized under the theme “Fiscal Sustainability in the Arab World after the Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities;” During the course, Mrs. Nadia Fattah shed light on Morocco's experience in reducing the risks of climate change, reviewing the proactive strategies prepared by the Kingdom according to a forward-looking view based on the optimal utilization of available resources²³.

In Geneva, Minister of Justice Abdel Latif Wehbe reviewed in his speech during the parallel meeting of the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, on the topic "Bridging the Gap: Outcome of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties and the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment (Mainstreaming the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment)" the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco, which involved in international and regional initiatives aimed at reducing the effects of climate change, especially since the United Nations Conference on the Environment of 1972 and in all conferences of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change²⁴.

c. Tunisia:

The Minister of Environment, Mrs. Leila Chekhaoui El Mahdaoui, received at the Ministry's headquarters, Her Excellency the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Tunisia, Helen Winterton. The session focused on Tunisian-British relations and ways to support cooperation and partnership in the environmental field. This meeting was also reviewing the progress of a project related to the desalination of seawater, within the framework of reducing the effects of climate change and the exacerbation of water scarcity, by Tunisia's nationally determined directions and commitments in mitigation and adaptation to climate changes and strengthening the elements of sustainable

²³ 24 بالعربية، القمة العالمية للحكومات 2023: عرض تجربة المغرب في مكافحة التغير المناخي، 14 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3FhFxB6>

²⁴ العمق، جنيف.. وهي يستعرض تجربة المغرب في مجال الحد من انعكاسات التغيرات المناخية، 27 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3yzm3nS>

development, especially rationalizing water consumption and providing safe water to drink and to support the food security for present and future generations²⁵.

The Minister of Environment, Mrs. Leila Chekhaoui El Mahdaoui, met at the Ministry's headquarters a governmental and scientific delegation from Bavaria, Germany, which is on a visit to Tunisia during the period from 12 to 17 February 2023, in the framework of studying a project related to forests and water. The Minister noted the level of cooperation with the German side, appreciating the quality of crystallization and implementation of joint work programs. During the meeting, they discussed ways of cooperation in water treatment, afforestation, and combating climate change²⁶.

The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program in Tunisia, organized the closing ceremony to prepare the third national report on greenhouse gas emissions inventory under the supervision of the Minister of Environment, Ms. And frames of the Ministry of Environment, and the relevant ministries. In her remarks, the Minister of the Environment highlighted the importance of the findings included in this report, which provides an overview of progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helps assess progress in the Nationally Determined Contributions. It also enables Tunisia to present a clear picture of the support it needs and has received in climate change.

During this ceremony, the sectoral teams and structures concerned with inventorying greenhouse gas emissions, which oversaw the preparation of the various chapters of the report over a year, were honored. The document was supervised by about 40 participants representing the following sectors: energy, industry, waste management, agriculture, forestry, and other uses of land, especially in updating the periodic inventory of greenhouse gas emissions at the national level for the period from 2010-2021, and the inventory Sectoral, which includes the aforementioned sectors, according to the international methodology and reference lines of the International Panel of Climate Experts. These state-of-the-art national reports on reducing emissions are a national commitment for all states party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Tunisia submitted it to the Convention Secretariat in December 2022²⁷.

²⁵ وزارة البيئة تونس، استقبلت وزيرة البيئة السيدة ليلي الشبخاوي المهداوي يوم الثلاثاء 14 فيفري 2023 بمقر الوزارة سعادة سفيرة المملكة المتحدة بتونس

السيدة helen winterton، 15 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3LnpYMa>

²⁶ وزارة البيئة تونس، استقبلت وزيرة البيئة السيدة ليلي الشبخاوي المهداوي يوم الإثنين 13 فيفري 2023 بمقر الوزارة وفدا حكوميا وعلميا من مقاطعة بافاريا بألمانيا، 13 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3ZJkLTm>

²⁷ وزارة البيئة تونس، نظمت وزارة البيئة بالتعاون مع برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي في تونس، يوم 06 فيفري 2023، حفل اختتام إعداد التقرير الوطني الثالث في مجال جرد الانبعاثات غازات الدفيئة، 7 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3ZLF3LW>

d. Mauritania:

The President of the Republic, Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, participated in the work of the second session of the Conference of Heads of State of the Member States of the Climate Commission in the Sahel region, held on the sidelines of the 36th Summit of the African Union, accompanied by His Excellency the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mrs. Lalia Kamra. The works enabled the ratification of an additional protocol establishing the Climate Commission in the Sahel region, the agreement to establish the "Sahel Climate Fund" and the procedures for countries' contributions to financing the work and activity of the executive secretariat of the commission and the Sahel Climate Fund.

The Heads of State and Government appointed an Executive Secretary of the Climate Commission for the Sahel region and its ambassadors to advocate and allocate the necessary resources to finance the programmed activities. The former President of the Republic of Niger, Mr. Asoufou Mahamadou, has been tasked with revitalizing the Committee's Ambassadors team on developing an advocacy and fundraising roadmap. The conference called on the African Development Bank to strengthen its role in mobilizing the technical partners of the Climate Commission in the Sahel region through subsidized support to activate the Executive Secretariat and the Sahel Climate Fund.²⁸

e. Sudan:

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Dr. Mona Ali Mohamed Ahmed, received a letter from the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in appreciation of her active participation in the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention in December 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Simon Steel, Executive Secretary of the Climate Change Convention, expressed his appreciation for Dr. Mona's participation in the conference. He aspires to strengthen the partnership to ensure the achievement of the required transformations and work towards a sustainable, equitable, and climate-safe future for all.

Simon stressed that the Sharm el-Sheikh agenda and implementation plan based on the decisions of the Glasgow Conference is important to facilitate effective and rapid implementation and increase ambition for climate action. He referred to the historic achievement of the Sharm El-Sheikh Conference in establishing the Loss and Damage

²⁸ وزارة البيئة والتنمية المستدامة، شارك فخامة رئيس الجمهورية السيد محمد ولد الشيخ الغزواني في أعمال الدورة الثانية لمؤتمر رؤساء الدول الأعضاء في لجنة المناخ في منطقة الساحل، 19 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3ZYxBNe>

Support Fund, which will benefit countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change; he noted that there is still a great effort required towards fully achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, pointing to the importance of political momentum and urgency as essential to increasing efforts regarding mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation. He added that the opportunity is ripe this year to create conditions for global climate action²⁹.

Ms. Dalal Al-Haj Ibrahim from the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources during Sudan's participation in the capacity-building workshop of the focal points presented the Green Climate Fund in African countries on mechanisms for obtaining green climate financing; she presented Sudan's experience in obtaining financing from the Green Climate Fund³⁰.

Second: The Arab Gulf States:

A. Saudi Arabia:

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi Minister of Energy, discussed with Jennifer Morgan, Minister of State and Special Envoy for International Climate Action at the German Foreign Ministry, in Riyadh, issues of common interest between the two countries in climate action, which includes clean energy technologies to manage material emissions, hydrocarbons, renewables, and clean hydrogen; Saudi Arabia is working to be the largest exporter of it in the world. The two sides discussed qualitative initiatives of Riyadh in confronting climate change and reducing emissions, foremost of which are the "Saudi Green" and "Green Middle East" initiatives. It also discussed ways to enhance cooperation to achieve the aspirations and goals of both sides in dealing with emissions through carbon capture, use, recycling, and storage projects within the circular carbon economy approach³¹.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture confirmed that eliminating desertification provides an environment characterized by the biodiversity and achieves a better quality of life and a sustainable vegetation cover that achieves the goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. During the campaign it launched through social media platforms under the title (#Protecting_vegetation_cover), the Ministry noted the importance of preserving sites' Vegetation cover and control over it, the need to rehabilitate degraded sites, detect encroachments on them, and combat logging, in addition to the importance

²⁹ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية السودان، <https://bit.ly/3LgiXgf>
³⁰ وكالة الأخبار السودانية، السودان يقدم تجربته في الحصول على تمويل من صندوق المناخ، 28 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3ZPuPdG>
³¹ الشرق الأوسط، السعودية وألمانيا تناقشان الموضوعات المناخية، 12 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3Je5N0p>

of supervising the management and investment of rangelands, forests, and national parks, which promotes sustainable environmental development in the Kingdom.

During the campaign, the Ministry called for supporting community participation in spreading knowledge of the importance of sustainable afforestation, promoting positive practices to preserve and develop vegetation cover in order to achieve a quality of life for future generations, and contribute to the development of vegetation cover by encouraging afforestation initiatives and seed scattering to achieve the goals of the Saudi Green Initiative. The campaign aims to highlight the importance of developing and preserving vegetation cover and increasing its area, promoting positive behaviours to protect the environment and improve the quality of life, reducing the effects of violating activities and practices to preserve the Kingdom's vital resources and ensure their sustainability³².

B. UAE:

World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, Farid Belhaj, confirmed that the World Bank supports the efforts of UAE to host the activities of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) during the current year. He stressed that the current session constitutes a new impetus for the global system towards implementing pledges and commitments related to solutions to climate change issues. On the sidelines of his participation in the World Government Summit in Dubai, he said that climate change is one of the main challenges that the region faces. Therefore, the next conference session reinforces global demands regarding meeting the financing requirements necessary to confront climate change issues, whose effects extend to the region, which faces several challenges represented by desertification, coastal erosion, and air pollution in many cities. According to the official Emirates News Agency, they will discuss the deal with the challenges in the next conference session³³.

UAE will host the Cop28 Climate Summit in Dubai Expo City from November 30 to December 12, 2023. The Climate Conference "Cop 28" will be the first global assessment of the progress made in global climate efforts since the historic Paris Agreement in 2015 to reduce global warming. According to A report recently published on the World Economic Forum website, the UAE provided a model to the world in efforts to address climate change and support clean energy projects by moving quickly from the

³² وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة، "البيئة": القضاء على التصحر يُسهم في تحقيق جودة حياة أفضل وغطاء نباتي مستدام، <https://bit.ly/3FilcKW>

³³ سكاى نيوز عربية، البنك الدولي: الإمارات لها دور محوري في معالجة قضايا المناخ، 15 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3FilcKW>

stage of pledges and framework agreements to entering the implementation stage, which happened on many occasions, most notably the UAE's accession to the United Nations Convention in 1995, and later to the Kyoto Protocol in 2004, and then by signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, to be the first Arab country to ratify it, in addition to investing \$50 billion in renewable energy projects in 70 countries, and many other exceptional projects that support climate action trends and reduce carbon emissions.

Based on the succession of Emirati efforts, the General Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change chose the UAE to host the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties "COP28" at the end of this year to transfer its experience and expertise and strategies in dealing with climate change to the world and to be a forum for state leaders to intensify efforts global climate action. As part of the UAE's preparations for the conference, a road map for the national carbon sequestration project was prepared, which includes "planting 100 million mangroves by 2030" at the state level to achieve climate neutrality by 2050³⁴.

UAE Mission to the United Nations announced that the UAE informed members of the Group of Friends concerned with climate and security of its preparations to host the Conference of the Parties (COP28). The UAE continues its hard work to ensure energy security and promote sustainable economic and social development in conjunction with effective climate action based on achieving results and achievement. UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced in January 2023 the Year of Sustainability, in the culmination of the extensive efforts that the UAE is making locally, regionally, and internationally to protect the climate and diversify the economy with the aim of a sustainable future, ahead of its hosting of the Conference of the Parties next November. The mission added, "Climate change poses a major challenge, and climate action is the best opportunity for all to achieve inclusive growth and prosperity, and we will work to bring all stakeholders together in order to reactivate climate action and ensure a comprehensive approach to climate, peace, security, food systems, water, nature, health, and humanitarian relief³⁵."

UAE pledged to put a road map that includes all parties in combating global warming. Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber, Minister of Industry and President-designate of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 28), said that the world needs a "corrective path" to limit global warming and reduce emissions.

³⁴ الغد، الإمارات حليف عالمي في التصدي لتغير المناخ، 25 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3YLstel>
³⁵ CNN عربية، بعثة الإمارات تطلع مجموعة الأصدقاء المعنية بالمناخ والأمن على استعداداتها لمؤتمر "COP 28"، 28 فبراير 2023، <https://cnn.it/3FfO2gk>

Al-Jaber indicated during the "World Government Summit 2023" in Dubai that he will develop a comprehensive road map that is far from "business as usual," adding, "The bitter truth is that global emissions must decrease by 43 percent by 2030, there are only seven years left; We need a corrective course.

During a session entitled "The Path to the Conference of the Parties" COP28 within the work of the second day of the summit, the emirates minister reaffirmed that the UAE's approach as the host country of the conference would be the application of a positive mindset and the activation of the principle of partnership to ensure the achievement of tangible results in it. He touched on the speech of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President³⁶ of the UAE, during the summit³⁶.

C. Kuwait:

National efforts in Kuwait aim to reduce carbon emissions by 7.4% by 2035. There is no specific goal for renewable energy in Kuwait, but it seeks to increase its share of the energy mix in the future. Solar energy is very suitable for the Gulf countries, but the current capabilities of that energy are still low compared to other regions of the world. With the progress of clean energy projects in the Gulf, capital markets will benefit from financing them in the current decade. Despite their different circumstances, each one individually, all Gulf governments have announced zero carbon emission goals and their aspiration to deploy renewable energy to meet their commitments against climate change³⁷.

D. Sultanate of Oman:

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Omani Commission for Human Rights, participated in the International Conference on "Climate Change and Human Rights" in the State of Qatar, with a delegation headed by the Honorable Sheikh Abdullah bin Shuwain Al Hosani, Chairman of the Committee. More than 300 representatives of countries, international organizations, think tanks, universities, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and international experts participated in the conference to discuss climate change issues from a human rights perspective and to develop concrete recommendations for rights-based climate action for the benefit of all. The conference aimed to emphasize the importance of rights-based climate action, highlight good practices relevant to the State of Qatar and other actors and partners, governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations, and companies, and

³⁶ الشرق الأوسط، الإمارات لوضع خريطة طريق تشمل جميع الأطراف بمحادثات المناخ، 14 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3JKpUoN>

³⁷ القيس، الكويت تخطط لزيادة حصتها من الطاقة المتجددة اقتصاد ٢٨ فبراير ٢٠٢٣، 28 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3YDUPXL>

develop recommendations to enhance cooperation to support rights-based climate action worldwide, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa region³⁸.

Third: Levant countries:

A. Jordan:

The International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights concluded its work in the Qatari capital, Doha, which was organized by the National Human Rights Committee in Qatar in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Program, the League of Arab States, and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Jordan's representative at the conference, Reem Abu Dalbough, who manages the National Center for Human Rights work, said that the conference pushes global action at the level of policies and legislation and the introduction of human rights concepts in climatic conditions toward effectiveness in reality. In her statements after the conference, she stressed the importance of global solidarity to save the climate seeking to institutionalize dialogue and take the necessary measures to develop proactive solutions on "climate changes and human rights." For her part, the Chair of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Dr. Susan Jabbour, confirmed that the conference was held when the Arab region suffered from many problems related to climate change which affects vulnerable groups. She indicated that the conference recommendations are a means and tool for countries and institutions concerned with climate change³⁹.

The World Bank has transferred \$23.6 million to Jordan to finance part of a project that enhances the agricultural sector's ability to adapt to climate change, according to data seen by the Kingdom. According to World Bank data, the bank disbursed the first tranche of financing for the "Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Value Chain Development and Innovation (ARDI)" program, with a value of \$23.6 million out of the total project value of \$125 million⁴⁰.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, met with her Jordanian counterpart, Muawiya Khaled Al-Radaydah, Minister of Environment, during her visit to the State of Jordan, which comes in response to the invitation of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Hussein to lay the foundation for cooperation between the two countries in the field of nature protection, and to discuss investment opportunities in natural reserves

³⁸ عمان، سلطنة عمان تشارك في مؤتمر "التغيرات المناخية وحقوق الإنسان" بالدوحة، 25 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3LoNUyZ>

³⁹ الغد، الأردن يشارك بمؤتمر التغيرات المناخية وحقوق الإنسان في قطر، 26 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3LeZpJ7>

⁴⁰ المملكة، البنك الدولي يحوّل 23.6 مليون دولار للأردن لدعم قطاع الزراعة للتكيف مع تغير المناخ، 16 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/405uHGj>

in the presence of Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansari, Governor of Fayoum, and Dr. Mohamed Salem, Advisor to the Minister for Reserves. The Minister of Environment stated that the meeting discussed enhancing cooperation between the Egyptian and Jordanian sides to invest in and preserve natural reserves and biodiversity through exchanging and presenting experiences between the two countries⁴¹.

B. Lebanon:

The Minister of the Environment, Nasser Yassin, launched the "One Million Trees" campaign from Horsh Beirut. The campaign from February 2023 to the first of March 2024 aims to encourage all Lebanese to plant forest and fruit trees in all Lebanese regions to mitigate the climate change impact and to participate in commitments actively to the Paris Agreement on climate change. Trees mainly contribute to reducing carbon dioxide in the air and thus play a key role in mitigating global warming and the repercussions of climate change, which we have seen more in recent years, such as floods, forest fires, and the risk of desertification. Therefore, Minister Yassin called on all Lebanese to intensify efforts to plant trees in neglected lands, gardens, and commons⁴².

C. Iraq:

In serious and rapid procedures, the government of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani is moving from all directions to mitigate the effects of pollution and climate change through large projects with international support culminated in several images during the meetings of the Iraqi delegation with officials around the world, on the sidelines of the climate conference in the Egyptian city Sharm el-Sheikh, which was held last year. The government is preparing to hold the Iraq Climate Conference in Basra governorate next month, with wide Arab and international participation, to deliver a message to the international community about the dangers of climate change afflicting many countries.⁴³

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein stressed that facing the challenges of climate change is an absolute necessity for the Iraqi government. The ministry indicated in a statement that "Hussein, during his meeting with the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Affairs, John Kerry, reviewed Iraq's efforts in the field of environmental protection and climate change within Iraq's firm commitment to interaction and

⁴¹ اليوم السابع، وزيرة البيئة تلتقي نظيرها الأردني لبحث دعم الاستثمار في مجال حماية الطبيعة، 20 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3YKLAVZ>

⁴² النشرة، ياسين أطلق حملة "المليون شجرة" التزاماً بمساهمة لبنان حول تغير المناخ، 18 فبراير 2023، <https://bit.ly/3mQAQI8>

⁴³ Iraqi News Agency, Iraq Climate Conference...a transitional phase in environmental reform, February 24, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3l74mZT>

implementation of the outcomes of global conferences on climate change and combating desertification and other related requirements, which represent an absolute necessity for the Iraqi government to face the challenges of climate change. Hussein confirmed that "Iraq presented a draft memorandum of understanding with the US side in the field of environmental protection, as well as presenting special projects in the field of environment, climate change and combating desertification." For his part, Kerry stressed "the importance of the time factor, which is running out for the world to combat climate change, and the need to reach a low-carbon economy in a timely manner to avoid the worst effects."⁴⁴

Fourth: East Africa:

A. Djibouti:

Djiboutian Minister of Economy and Finance, in charge of industry, Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mohamed Abdelkader Moussa, participated in the second edition of the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Finance, which was held in the New Administrative Capital under the auspices of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The forum included a number of main axes within the context of mobilizing resources and financing for the climate change agenda and its repercussions, as well as reviewing national efforts and measures taken in this regard. The forum also aimed primarily at moving from the pledge stage to the implementation stage and transforming financial commitments into real opportunities.⁴⁵

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

A. Libya:

These environmental climate change threats have not received sufficient attention from local and international actors, because Libya's priorities have mainly centered around security issues in the absence of clear allocated government financial budgets and neglect of the issue of ratification by the House of Representatives of the relevant Paris

⁴⁴ An-Nahar, Iraqi Foreign Minister: Confronting the challenges of climate change is an absolute necessity for the government, February 10, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3JeMLXM>

⁴⁵ Century Newspaper, Djibouti participates in the Egypt Forum for International Cooperation and Development Financing, February 19, 2023, <https://bit.ly/423hDU1>

Agreement of 2016. Ratification of the agreement in 2021 did not lead Libya to pay its national contribution in the absence of its plans to mitigate or adapt to climate change.⁴⁶

B. Sudan:

In addition to the conflict that has displaced millions of people and prevalence of hunger and malnutrition, Sudan is among the countries in the world most affected by climate change. The United Nations said that about 349,000 people were affected by large-scale floods last year, which exacerbated diseases, contributed to an increase in displacement and pressure on the economy.⁴⁷

For the region along the southern border of the Sahara, Sudan's climate varies between desert and semi-desert in the north, and arid savanna forests throughout the country. In recent decades, the cumulative effects of conflict, economic sanctions imposed on the country, and political instability, as well as increased water consumption due to population growth and agricultural development, have led aid groups to warn of an impending water crisis. Climate change, often described as a “risk multiplier”, compounds the burden on people. Rainfall has become less regular, while floods and droughts have become more frequent. Given the higher temperatures, this means that the less water that falls on the ground evaporates more quickly, reducing soil moisture. This makes farming more dangerous for the nearly two-thirds of Sudan's rural population who are smallholder farmers or pastoralists who depend on rainfall.⁴⁸

Second: Arab Gulf States:

A. Yemen:

With the beginning of 2022, rainfall rates decreased than usual in a number of regions of the country, which exacerbated the dilemma for beekeepers during the Yemeni honey production season. Last year, Yemen lost 150 beehives, and lost 200 beehives this year due to drought; all what remained today is about 150 cells.

Climate changes in Yemen constituted a new crisis for beekeepers, within the major crisis the country is experiencing. The beekeepers suffered heavy losses due to the vagaries of the weather and the non-seasonal rainfall. Many lost their source of income as a result of the sudden floods that swept away thousands of beehives.

⁴⁶ Al-Marsad, Analytical Report: Political Uncertainty Caused Gaps between Libya and Confronting the Effects of Climate Change, February 23, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3JKdRrz>

⁴⁷ United Nations: More than a third of the population in Sudan will need humanitarian aid in 2023, February 27, 2023, <https://bbc.in/3YCJKA>

⁴⁸ United Nations Environment Programme, Water Crisis in Sudan and Ways for Women to Address It, February 2023, <https://bit.ly/3ZJTpML>

Moreover, the war hindered their usual movements in the areas of the western coast, in search of flowers.⁴⁹

At a time when the consequences of climate change constitute an additional heavy burden on millions of Yemenis afflicted by the aggression of the terrorist "Houthi" militia and its bloody coup against legitimacy, the terrorists of the "Al-Qaeda" organization do not hesitate to seek to exploit this phenomenon, to win over those affected by the phenomenon and to gain popularity.

"Al Qaeda" in Yemen, which is described as the most violent and bloody wing of that brutal group, has been keen over the past few years to fish in troubled waters and to lay terrorist plans in pursuit of gains at the expense of the suffering of Yemenis as a result of "climate change", whether from a scarcity of water supplies and high costs of obtaining food, or from hurricanes, torrential rains and floods at times, which in 2022 alone led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people, or the loss of their property.⁵⁰

Third: Levant:

A. Syria:

With the great crises that the agricultural sector is suffering from in the northeastern region of Syria, due to the repercussions of climate change, the two devastating earthquakes that struck the northwest and center of the country and southern Turkey, on February 6, and caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people, increased the suffering of farmers and livestock breeders in agricultural areas. Syria, since summer 2020, has witnessed a widespread drought and rainfall, which observers considered to be one of the most severe waves in the past 70 years, according to what was seen by the specialized energy platform. The rains stopped in winter 2020, and the precipitation rates decreased from October 2021 to May 2022, to less than 75% to 95% of the normal average rates in the governorates of Hasakah, Raqqa, and Deir ez-Zor in the north-east of the country, which is Syria's food basket.⁵¹

B. Iraq:

Iraq is among the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change in the world and the climate crisis is already becoming a reality. Extreme temperatures, drought, and the

⁴⁹ Carnegie, Yemeni Beekeepers Face Climate Threats, February 23, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3FiLnCm>.

⁵⁰ Al-Ittihad, Climate change exacerbates the suffering of Yemenis with water and food shortages, February 14, 2023 <https://bit.ly/3mLUg14>

⁵¹ Energy, climate change disasters and earthquakes deepen the wounds of agricultural areas in Syria (report), February 20, 2023, <https://bit.ly/407Fpwl>

prevalence of sand and dust storms have a significant impact not only on agriculture and food production or on the economy of Iraq, but also on cities and urban residents directly. Sand and dust storms have become a public health issue in Kuwait and Iraq with an increase in respiratory diseases and people dying from these extreme weather events.⁵²

Aerial photographs showed a decline in the levels of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in southern Iraq, as the bottom of the two rivers can now be seen. The water file is considered essential and thorny for Iraq, a semi-desert country of about 42 million people, as Baghdad repeatedly accuses its neighbors Turkey and Iran of causing a reduction in the quantities of water reaching its territories, especially because of their construction of dams on the two rivers. The Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources said in a statement on Sunday that "the decrease in water quotas in some southern governorates is due to the lack of water revenues coming to the Mosul Dam on the Tigris and the Haditha Dam on the Euphrates from neighboring Turkey." This led to a sharp decline in the country's water reserves", she said. Multiple reasons The wrong irrigation methods, according to the ministry, also led to an exacerbation of this shortage, noting that "farmers did not adhere to the agricultural areas determined according to the plan set by the authorities."⁵³

Target 3	Improving education, awareness- raising, human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
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First: North Africa:

A. Egypt:

Ayman Ashour, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, received Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment; to discuss ways to support cooperation between the two ministries in many joint files, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Higher Education. At the beginning of the meeting, Yasmine Fouad stressed the importance of preparing qualified human cadres to work in areas related to the environmental sector and climate change in Egypt through cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as the specializations supporting that sector are the most in demand during the coming period, which needs to prepare young people who support

⁵² United Nations Iraq, Combating cross-border sand and dust storms in southern Iraq and Kuwait, February 3, 2023, <https://bit.ly/400lazs>

⁵³ Significant decline in the levels of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in southern Iraq, February 28, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3Flrcnv>

this, whether at the level of postgraduate studies or specialized training courses, pointing to the importance of changing the climate supportive of the environmental sector, which varies between the development of legislation and regulations, the provision of technology and financing, and most importantly of that is the investment in people; to support the Egyptian market with human resources capable of working in climate finance departments in the banking sector in Egypt.

The Minister of Environment added that the Ministry has made many efforts to support the environmental sector and the climate change file in the previous period, praising the curricula on environmental issues in Egyptian universities, such as climate change and biological diversity, which the Ministry has prepared through a number of experts, in full cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for its approval.⁵⁴

Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister, reviewed a report prepared by Yasmine Fouad, Minister of the Environment, regarding the media measures taken regarding the media preparation for Egypt's international efforts to address the phenomenon of climate change, as well as the activities of the Ministry of Environment to raise awareness of the issue of climate change, and the procedures that are taken to complement the efforts of the ministry in increasing media momentum on the same issue. In terms of the activities that have been undertaken to raise awareness of the issue of climate change, Yasmine Fouad explained that the Ministry of Environment has implemented an integrated media campaign aimed at spreading environmental awareness of the issue of climate change, as part of the presidential initiative (Prepare for Green).

In this context, the national media campaign was launched to raise awareness of climate change and raise environmental awareness locally under the slogan "Return Nature to Normal". The campaign included the implementation of several activities in various visual, audio and print media, as well as social media, where 6 television advertisements were produced and displayed on various channels and social networking sites, starting from October 18 to November 10, 2022, and a number of television interviews were carried out with the Minister of Environment and experts on climate change issues on TV channels. In addition, a number of interviews and journalistic articles were prepared and implemented in various Egyptian and international

⁵⁴ Ministry of Environment, Ministers of Environment and Higher Education discuss supporting means of cooperation between the two ministries, February 9, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3LIHWPM>

newspapers and international news agencies. Radio advertisements were also produced and broadcasted on various Egyptian radio networks from October 18 to November 10.

Yasmine Fouad also pointed out, in the same context, that road signs were implemented to introduce COP27; including 35 billboards in Sharm El-Sheikh, the implementation of 15 digital screens at the level of the governorates of the Republic, and broadcasting short versions of the advertisements, starting from October 20 to November 20. On social media, a number of educational materials have been designed to be published on various such sites, such as (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube), in the context of preparations for the conference. Where about 53 “posts” were published, containing messages and videos, on the issue of climate change, and raising awareness of its dangers to human health.

The report also indicated that within the framework of the media campaign, advertisements were posted on the Ministry's pages and on social media to raise awareness of the issue of climate change and the state's efforts to confront, as well as the role of citizens and the behaviors that must be followed in their daily lives to limit the effects of climate change. In addition, awareness messages and videos were published about the dangers of using single-use plastic bags on citizen health and the marine environment, as well as messages to raise awareness of the danger of excessive consumption of energy sources in terms of increasing global warming.

In her report, the Minister of the Environment said that during the period from October 18 to November 21, a number of posts were published about the activities that took place during the COP 27 conference, which consisted of 33 videos about the most important events that took place during the conference, and 175 "posts" that were published on the COP27 ministry page; including 71 news published about the events that took place in the Green Zone, and 68 news about the events that took place in the Blue Zone. The results of the conference and the gains achieved during it were presented in all media, parliament, and international bodies and forums.

Fouad also explained in the report that, in addition to the aforementioned media campaign, the National Climate Change Dialogue was launched from Sharm El-Sheikh, and is currently being implemented in various governorates of the Republic to raise awareness of the issue, where the number of his meetings and seminars reached nearly 400, and the dialogue deals with the importance of Egypt hosting the Climate Conference, presenting the most important actions of the Egyptian state and the Ministry of Environment to address the phenomenon, presenting the national strategy

for climate change, discussions on mechanisms to address this phenomenon, and finally introducing the issue of climate change, climate and repercussions at the national and international levels and the role of citizens in addressing them.

In her report, the minister referred to the implementation of comprehensive media coverage of a number of events; which are: issuing the National Strategy for Climate Change 2050, which included 5 goals - Transforming Sharm El-Sheikh into a green city by relying on environmentally friendly means - signing a number of protocols with many parties within the framework of focusing on the issue of climate change.

This is in addition to direct awareness of the issue of climate change, which is implemented in cooperation with a number of agencies and civil society organizations, including the implementation of a number of environmental festivals and celebrations, participation in a number of exhibitions and conferences in different governorates, in addition to organizing a number of environmental convoys that aim to implement a group of environmental activities on climate change; including waste recycling, afforestation, cleaning campaigns, and technical and interactive workshops.

Through the report, the Minister of Environment stated that a number of environmental initiatives have been implemented with the aim of supporting positive behavior towards the environment, in addition to environmental competitions, including the Recycling Competition, the Our Health from the Health of Our Planet Competition, and the Environment and Development Writers Association Competition for the best journalistic work specializing in the environment and climate, as well as Smart Green Projects Competition in various governorates of the Republic, with the aim of emphasizing the importance of the environmental dimension and climate change in projects.

Fouad pointed out the cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to launch climate and environment clubs in youth centers nationwide, and to train environmental cadres of young people to raise awareness of the issue of climate change and how to address.

As for the procedures that are currently being taken to complement the ministry's efforts to increase media momentum on the issue of climate change, Dr. Yasmine Fouad explained in her report that the second phase of the national climate change dialogue is being launched with the parties that participated in the Climate Conference (COP27) in the Green Zone, by holding a number of consultation sessions to support the idea of climate action, and implementation is taking place with youth, civil society, schools,

universities and the private sector in various governorates of the Republic; with the aim of presenting the results of the climate conference and the gains that have been achieved at the local, regional and international levels.

The minister also confirmed that the media will be promoted in the coming period about the Ministry of Environment establishing a unit for environmental and climate investment, to support the investment climate in Egypt through the media promotion of integrating the private sector into environmental investment projects in the fields of waste and natural reserves, and to support the sustainable tourism market in Egypt. In addition to the media promotion of the announcement of the second phase of the smart green projects competition in the various governorates of the Republic, in coordination between the ministries: Planning, Environment, Communications and Climate Pioneer for the (COP27) conference, in March 2023.⁵⁵

B. Tunisia:

The Ministry of Environment (the National Coordinating Unit in the field of climate change), with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), organized a national workshop on strengthening legislation in the field of climate change. The workshop aims to provide an inventory and assessment of the compatibility of the legislative framework in Tunisia with the growing stakes of climate change and its repercussions, on the one hand, and Tunisia's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate, on the other hand. Many experts in the legislative field and representatives of several ministries, public institutions and non-governmental organizations in Tunisia contributed to this workshop. It should also be noted that this path will be complemented by the preparation of a draft law on climate, which contributes to enhancing the integration of climate change into development policies at the national, sectorial and territorial levels⁵⁶.

Second: Arab Gulf States:

A. Oman Sultanate

The Environment Agency organized a workshop on “Facilitating the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions to Climate Change in the Sultanate of Oman”, which aims to understand the current status of Nationally Determined Contributions

⁵⁵ Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister reviews a report by the Minister of Environment regarding the Ministry's activities to raise awareness of the issue of climate change within the presidential initiative (Prepare for Green), February 9, 2023, <https://bit.ly/425Kk2t>

⁵⁶ Ministry of the Environment of Tunisia, <https://bit.ly/3yS1seV>

and the impact of climate change on key economic sectors. The seminar seeks to understand the status of the current implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions "mitigation and adaptation" and to identify innovative local solutions to climate change.⁵⁷

Axis III: Efforts of the League of Arab States in Combating Climate Change

The 15th meeting of sectorial cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and their specialized agencies was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat under the title "Cooperation in the field of combating climate change". The meeting is held in implementation of the decision of the 158th session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level and the decision of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly with the participation of 29 representatives of Arab and international organizations, in addition to the various sectors of the two organizations and the United Nations Liaison Office to the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The meeting was held under the joint chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Affairs Sector, Ambassador Ali bin Ibrahim Al-Malki, and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Mounir Thabet. Participants also discussed a number of topics, including: the outputs of COP27 and the synergy between the three international agreements related to climate change, water and food security and energy, and their implications for the Arab region, disaster reduction and early warning, climate security and the sustainability of peace. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to develop programs for joint activities to be implemented in the Arab region during the coming period.⁵⁸

Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector of the League of Arab States, stressed the importance of cooperation between regional and international institutions to address the phenomenon of climate change, warning of the consequences of this phenomenon on human rights. In a speech addressed (via video) to the International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights, which began in Doha, she said that cooperation between human rights circles and regional and international institutions has become an

⁵⁷ Vision, Review of Omani Efforts to Confront Climate Change, February 16, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3l5tHn4>

⁵⁸ The seventh day, the Arab League holds a meeting for cooperation with the United Nations to combat climate change, February 28, 2023, <https://42mMUBw>

urgent matter to exchange experiences and build the capacities necessary to develop successful measures to address the issue of climate change.

She pointed to the challenges that humanity is experiencing as a result of the issue of climate change, which represents a threat to human existence itself, as these challenges exacerbate daily and become a common concern for humanity, noting the negative effects of the exacerbation of global warming and the increase in emissions.⁵⁹

Conclusion and recommendations:

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

During February, the Arab countries made many efforts to address climate change. However, despite these efforts, the Arab countries are still facing dire consequences of these climate changes, such as the case in Somalia, which suffers from the consequences of climate change, which has affected poverty and hunger rates and increased the activities of terrorist organizations around Somalia. However, such climatic changes affected the economic activities of hundreds of Somalis, especially agricultural activity.

In February, the first target related to the integration of measures related to climate change in policies, strategies and planning was the most achieved whereas the second target on enhancing resilience in the face of climate-related risks, given the fact that climate change has impacted various Arab countries during February, especially in the countries of Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Morocco, Sudan, and finally Somalia.

As for the least achieved targets, it was the third one related to improving education, raising awareness, and human and institutional capabilities to mitigate climate change. It is noted during February that there are few awareness activities that are carried out in order to mitigate climate change, and in general, awareness is limited to limited activities throughout the year, despite the pivotal importance of awareness and its impact on mitigating climate change in the Arab world.

b. Recommendations:

First: In light of the importance attached to early warning systems in predicting climate changes and thus preparing for them, limiting them and adapting to them, Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries, in parallel with achieving the targets of Goal 13 related to enhancing resilience and resilience in the face of climate-related risks, establish more devices early warning.

⁵⁹ Mersal, The Arab League stresses the importance of international cooperation to address climate change, February 21, 2023, <https://bit.ly/3JnxFzI>

Second: Confirming what was reached by the League of Arab States during its meeting in February, Maat believes that there is an urgent need for cooperation between regional and international institutions concerned with limiting climate changes, especially at the Arab level, in order to address recurring climate risks.

Third: Arab days and weeks are of great importance to Arab governments, and in light of that importance, Maat recommends the League of Arab States to launch an Arab week to address climate change in order to encourage Arab countries and their governments to launch and develop their policies related to climate action and follow up on the implementation of international agreements on climate change.

Fourth: In light of the Arab partnerships undertaken by Arab governments, Maat values these efforts and partnerships, and recommends that Arab governments share their successful experience in Arab partnerships for climate action with other Arab countries.

Fifth: Maat recommends that Arab governments change educational curricula and increase public awareness of climate change. It also recommends that Arab civil society organizations encourage and establish forums and workshops aimed at giving an opportunity for groups to propose solutions to the climate change crisis, and to submit those recommendations to the concerned decision-making authorities.