

# The SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

## Financing climate change crisis... the road to sustainable Arab economies



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Maat for Peace, Development  
and Human Rights



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

## Background:

Climate change is inflicting heavy losses on all Arab countries. However, the poor and conflict-plagued areas are the most vulnerable to and affected by the impacts of high temperatures and extreme weather events. Climate disasters have claimed the lives of at least 2,600 people, affected the lives of 7 million others, and caused US\$2 billion in damage. Hence, climate adaptation policies have become an urgent priority. On top of those policies, the need to fund Arab climate adaptation measures. In April, many Arab governments stressed the need to pay double attention to the issue of climate funding and called for Arab solidarity in this regard.

As part of its keenness to promote the establishment of sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and good manner, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights released the **fourth** issue of the **SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region... "Financing Climate Action: The Way Towards Building Sustainable Arab Economies"** in order to track good practices as well as the challenges faced by Arab countries in achieving Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The observatory focuses on the actions and measures taken by Arab countries to address climate change and its effects, knowing that the observatory 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 deals with the country focus of this issue, which has achieved the majority of the targets of SDG 13, whereas the second monitors the most prominent practices and challenges faced in February by the rest of the Arab countries in achieving the targets of the aforementioned goal.

## Monitoring Methodology:

**SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region** relies on the methodology of direct monitoring of what has been published 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 the SDG 13 as well as the challenges they faced in order to highlight them.

### **Objectives of the SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region**

The goals and indicators of the SDG 13 observatory varied according to the scientific agenda, but given the monthly nature of the observatory, it selectively addresses these goals. Therefore, **the observatory shed light on the main objectives of the thirteenth goal, which revolve around**; 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 for SDG 13: Climate Action**

The SDG 13 observatory leans to 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 one: "Kingdom of Morocco"**

#### **First: An overview of the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco to limit climate change:**

Like many countries in the world, Morocco is highly dependent on natural resources and is therefore highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Accordingly, in the past decades, Morocco has suffered from water scarcity, food insecurity, desertification and marine erosion, which has led to far-reaching consequences such as large-scale human migration due to climate change and people's movement to densely populated urban

areas, thus depleting resources. **Within this framework, the Moroccan government has undertaken many efforts to combat climate change, including:**

### 1. The climate change-related agreements signed by Morocco:

Morocco embarked on the path of sustainable development and environmental protection, in order to enhance adaptive capacity and mitigate the effects of climate change, and this included the ratification of the three Rio conventions in 1995, and most of the multilateral agreements that followed, including the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. In November 2016, Morocco organized the COP22 Climate Summit with the aim of implementing the new global climate agreement COP21.

### 2. National laws and legislations related to the mitigation of climate change:

Morocco has developed several laws, policies and plans on climate change and the importance of protecting the environment in order to improve environmental conditions for current and future generations such as the constitution (2011); Law No. 11.03 on the Protection and Reclamation of the Environment (2003); The Green Morocco Plan (2008); Law No. 28.00 on Waste Management and Disposal (2006); Law 77.15 (commonly known as the Zero Mica Law (2016); Morocco's Climate Change Policy (2014); National Sustainable Development Strategy (2017); National Climate Plan 2030 (2019).

In 2018, Morocco ranked first in Africa in terms of efforts to combat climate change, according to the Climate Change Performance Index, confirming the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Action.

### 3. Morocco allocates part of its spending to combat climate change:

The Moroccan government allocated 64% of total spending to measures related to mitigating climate change, which represented 9% of total investment expenditures during the period 2005-2010. The government is trying to allocate a larger proportion of total investment budgets to adapting to climate change in the future. Other current adaptation policies include the national strategy for sustainable development and the national plan to combat global warming.

In the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), Morocco announced the urgent need to take measures in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need to **bring about a systematic change in decisions related to financing**, which is considered to have the most impact on limiting climate change.

These measures must be new, innovative, adequate, and predictable, taking into account major challenges and giving way to more ambitious national plans.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. 2030 National Climate Plan:

The Moroccan government launched the “**2030 National Climate Plan**” in 2019, to coordinate and develop a medium and long-term climate policy that allows for a proactive and ambitious response to the challenges posed by climate change in Morocco.

As part of the implementation of the climate policy, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment is working on developing regional climate plans (PCR) for all regions of the Kingdom, taking advantage of the advanced regional advantages. Within this framework, studies were launched to prepare 7 regional climate plans in 2020 by the government.

The national climate plan should provide a concrete response to Morocco's national and international commitments. The national climate plan works to achieve the following strategic goals:

1. Achieving 52% of installed electric energy from renewable sources by 2030.
2. Reduce energy consumption by 15% by 2030.
3. Significantly reduce government subsidies for fossil fuels.
4. Increasing the volume of water resources mobilization.
5. Supporting rate of reforestation and reforestation.
6. Improving irrigation techniques.
7. Increasing the solid and liquid waste recovery rate.
8. Promoting vehicle-renewal programs.
9. Ensuring that efficient and effective equipment is installed in the premises.
10. Ensuring the implementation and effectiveness of the national biomonitoring program.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Second: Moroccan efforts to achieve the objectives of the SDG13 and to promote climate action:**

The Kingdom of Morocco has made efforts to ensure its contribution to the protection of the environment and its resources. Climate is an essential part of the environment;

<sup>1</sup> المعهد المغربي، لتحليل السياسات المغربية، سياسات مكافحة تغير المناخ في المغرب: الآفاق المستقبلية، 4 فبراير 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3kUkIkI>

<sup>2</sup> Plan Climat National À horizon 2030, <https://bit.ly/38h5zY7>

therefore, the Kingdom has taken many moves aimed at reducing climate change, which will naturally affect the reduction of air pollution, reduce water pollution and reduce soil pollution. In this section, the focus will be placed on the government's efforts to achieve the objectives of SDG 13 during April, and the most prominent of those challenges, as follows:

### **Objective (1) Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning**

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**In relation to climate change-related measures and in light of Morocco's interest in the issue of financing measures to combat climate change**, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Morocco launched a Moroccan financing line for the green economy "the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) in Morocco", with an estimated financial envelope of 163 million euros. The "Green Economy Financing Facility Morocco" is a sustainable energy financing line dedicated to Moroccan businesses, developed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development with the support of the European Union and the Green Climate Fund, with the aim of providing additional financing for green investments for private businesses, especially in the fields of sustainable energy, and preserving Water, waste minimization, green technologies and climate change adaptation.<sup>3</sup>

Complementing measures related to climate change, the ministers responsible for environmental affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries discussed the implementation of cooperation projects in the environmental field and the mitigation of climate change with a number of countries, including Morocco. In their 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, chaired by the Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, the ministers also discussed steps to implement the decisions of the Supreme Council related to the environmental trends of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council 2020, in addition to developments in the progress of work in the projects of the green Gulf initiative, and the relevant international agreements, linking Morocco with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and cooperation agreements and programs in the field of environment, renewable energies and natural resources, included in the detailed plan for cooperation signed between the two sides in this field. This detailed plan also includes the exchange of information and experiences on studies and research in the field of sustainable environmental management, coastal zone management,

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<sup>3</sup> البوابة الوطنية للملكة المغربية، البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الإعمار والتنمية يطلق خطا لتمويل الاقتصاد الأخضر بالمغرب، <https://bit.ly/3wipgXx>

environmental emergency and environmental crisis management as well as the exchange of information and experiences between the two sides in the field of environmental legislation, laws and regulations, environmental planning, as well as in the field of climate change mitigation.<sup>4</sup>

<b>Objective (2)</b>	<b>Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</b>
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In the context of enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in Morocco; in April, the Moroccan authorities withdrew more than 300 agricultural pesticides from the local market, after the office in 2018, re-evaluated 56 active substances, which led to the banning of 42 of them, which play a prominent role in preserving the environment and affecting the climate.<sup>5</sup>

But in terms of challenges, the oases of the south are still being devoured by fires and negatively affect the basic crops and human health. In April, a fire broke out in Ksar Maadid due to severe climatic changes. Despite awareness and structural projects aimed at preserving this intangible cultural heritage, are still breaking out from time to time.<sup>6</sup>

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

As the Moroccan government seeks to improve awareness of climate change mitigation, the Observatory for the Protection of the Environment and Historic Monuments of Tangier (OPEMH) organized a symposium for the launch of the “Right of Access to Environmental Information” project. The project aims to contribute to spreading the culture of obtaining information through citizen participation, as well as strengthening the capacities of collective actors, especially young people, in obtaining environmental information related to climate change, and encouraging a culture of accountability.

The symposium discussed a set of points related to the mechanisms of downloading the law on the right to access information and the interventions of the environmental

<sup>4</sup> نبض، الوزراء المسؤولون عن شؤون البيئة بدول مجلس التعاون يبحثون تنفيذ مشاريع التعاون مع المغرب في المجال البيئي، 4 أبريل 2022،

<https://bit.ly/3wi4c3c>

<sup>5</sup> العربي الجديد المغرب يسحب أكثر من 300 مبيد زراعي ويتلف 30 طناً من المحاصيل، 7 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3M5kmDR>

<sup>6</sup> الصحراء، النيران تلتهم هكتارات من أشجار النخيل بغابة قصور المعاصيد في الرشيدية، 20 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FtlOxe>

custodian sector, in order to support and improve citizen participation in preparing and implementing environmental policy and limiting climate change.<sup>7</sup>

On April 12, the Bou Regreg and Chaouia Water Basin Agency organized, through the visual debate technology, a scientific symposium on the topic **“Exchange of experiences and good practices to confront the effects of climate change – drought.”** This symposium came on the sidelines of the celebration of the World Water Day and falls within the framework of the communication strategy of the Bou Regreg and Chaouia Water Basin Agency, which is linked to the national program for the supply of irrigation and drinking water 2020-2027, in its axis, which aims to raise awareness of the conservation of water resources and the rationalization of their use. The symposium comes in the context of the water deficit suffered by the water basin of Bou Regreg and Chaouia, which brings together the various stakeholders and actors from institutions, professors, researchers, and farmers' associations<sup>8</sup>.

The local development company "Casablanca Environment", under the supervision of the Casablanca Municipality, launched a new program called **"Green Schools"**, aimed at educating schoolchildren about the importance of preserving their environment and establishing environmentally friendly and climate-friendly habits. The new program launched in partnership with the Regional Academy of Education and Training in Casablanca and the Association of Teachers of Life and Earth Sciences targets primary school students in public schools in the sixteen districts of the economic capital.<sup>9</sup>

### Axis two: the reality of achieving SDG 13 in the Arab region

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

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

##### Egypt:

In the context of Egypt's preparation to host the COP27 climate conference, the Minister of Environment participated in the closing session of the workshop of the United Nations

<sup>7</sup> وكالة المغرب العربي للأنباء، طنجة.. ندوة انطلاق مشروع "الحق في الولوج إلى المعلومة البيئية"، 1 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/397SOPq>  
<sup>8</sup> المحيط الفلاحي، تنظيم ندوة علمية حول "تبادل الخبرات والممارسات الجيدة لمواجهة آثار تغير المناخ"، 10 أبريل، 2022، <https://bit.ly/39T0upv>  
<sup>9</sup> وكالة المغرب العربي للأنباء، إطلاق برنامج "مدارس خضراء" من أجل توعية التلاميذ بأهمية الحفاظ على البيئة، 20 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3kRmbZc>



Secretariat mission, the Joint Operational Team of the COP27 Climate Conference in Egypt, which was held by the Ministry of Environment to discuss the roadmap for the climate conference. During the workshop, the Minister listened to the points of agreement that resulted from the workshop the work and challenges faced by the participants, emphasizing the importance of reaching a clear vision of the COP27 roadmap and resolving the overlaps between the working groups.<sup>10</sup>

The Minister of Environment, Ministerial Coordinator, and Envoy of the Cop27 Climate Conference participated via videoconference in the closing session of a series of sessions organized by the Adaptation Action Alliance to discuss lessons learned from the latest report of the second working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on “Negative Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation”. The closing session reviewed the implementation of adaptation measures in the coalition countries, and the Minister of Environment indicated Egypt’s interest in supporting the adaptation process, highlighting the inevitability of taking urgent steps in the field of adaptation, especially after the results of the last report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which gives a red light and alerts the need for taking immediate and decisive action and act on all fronts of adaptation in ecosystems, cities, and water and agriculture sectors.

In Egypt, the Egyptian Minister of Environment, in its capacity as the chief representative of the upcoming conference of the state parties to the Climate Change Agreement, confirmed that it will be built on the progress stated in the outcomes of the COP26 Glasgow Climate Conference, especially the work on the global goal of adaptation and ensuring that **pledges to double funding for adaptation are fulfilled**.<sup>11</sup>

To complement the previous efforts, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of International Cooperation held a meeting to discuss proposals for cooperation with development partners, within the framework of preparations for hosting the COP27 climate conference, and they reviewed some features of cooperation with development partners in supporting national, regional and international efforts in the climate file and implementing and financing climate and development projects, such as the Bank The European Investment Bank, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Green Climate Fund.

<sup>10</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تتراأس الجلسة الختامية لورشة عمل بعثة سكرتارية الأمم المتحدة " الفريق التشغيلي المشترك لمؤتمر المناخ COP27 بمصر"، 2 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3w9oA6Q>

<sup>11</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة خلال مشاركتها في الجلسة الختامية للجلسات التشاورية التي ينظمها تحالف عمل التكيف، 7 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3wdUfnn>

It was emphasized that the Green Zone at the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Conference will be an important platform that will allow the host country to involve civil society, youth, and the private sector, and will provide an opportunity to present various ideas, innovations, and technologies, and allow development partners to submit their contributions to support the climate file, including the platform that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization aspires to UNIDO for implementation in the field of climate innovations especially mitigation and adaptation.<sup>12</sup>

Meanwhile, the Minister of Local Development and the Minister of Environment held a meeting within the framework of the ongoing preparations to host the COP 27 climate conference in Sharm El-Sheikh. Throughout two sessions, efforts made in the field of solid waste in some Egyptian cities were reviewed to work on the integrated waste management system in Sharm El-Sheikh to turn it into a sustainable green city and raising the efficiency of the collection, transportation, treatment, and recycling of waste.<sup>13</sup>

The Minister of Environment met with Jennifer Morgan, Under-Secretary of the German Foreign Ministry and Special Commissioner for Environmental Policies at the German Foreign Ministry, and her accompanying delegation to discuss Egypt's preparations to host the upcoming COP 27 climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh, as part of Egypt's keenness during its presidency to build on the successes of the Glasgow Climate Conference. The Minister of Environment indicated that the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Conference COP27 is an implementation conference, both by working to ensure the implementation of the pledges made in Glasgow, and also by presenting experiences, success stories, and best practices around the world in addressing the effects of climate change, and what Germany can offer in this regard, to be an important step in the transition from the stage of words to actions, which means the need to come up with urgent and immediate measures to work on implementing the decisions of the Glasgow Conference and the Paris Rule Book and the measures that support the process of addressing the effects of climate change.<sup>14</sup>

The Minister of Environment also met with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Jacques Volek, to discuss cooperation between the two parties at the 27th Conference of Parties on Climate Change, which Egypt will organize next November in Sharm El-

<sup>12</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزيرنا البيئة والتعاون الدولي نتناقشان آليات التعاون مع شركاء التنمية في إطار تحضيرات استضافة مؤتمر المناخ COP27، 15 أبريل

<https://bit.ly/3sjji2F>، 2022

<sup>13</sup> وزارة البيئة،\* وزيرنا التنمية المحلية والبيئة ومحافظ جنوب سيناء يستعرضون العروض الفنية لشركات وطنية للعمل في منظومة الإدارة المتكاملة للمخلفات

بالمحافظة استعدادًا لقمة المناخ\*، 17 أبريل 2022، <https://www.facebook.com/EGY.Environment>

Sheikh, this is in light of the depth of relations between Egypt and the Czech Republic. During the meeting, the Czech ambassador expressed the desire of the Czech Minister of Environment to hold a visit soon to Egypt to discuss a number of important environmental matters, especially in light of the Czech state's readiness to take over the presidency of the European Union in the second half of the year, which means The COP27 conference will be a subject of great interest from the Czech Republic, stressing the desire of the Czech Minister of Environment to hold a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Sameh Shoukry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, especially in light of her invitation to attend the business forum, which reflects the importance of inviting bodies working in the field of environment in Egypt to this forum Whether academic bodies or private sector companies.<sup>15</sup>

### Algeria:

The Minister of Environment, Samia Moualfi, received the US ambassador to Algeria, "Elizabeth Moore Aubin". The meeting discussed files related to the environment and aimed to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership between the two countries and transfer expertise, especially in the field of waste management. The visit was an opportunity to talk about various topics of international importance related to the environment, such as the climate change file, which is a file that preoccupies international public opinion.<sup>16</sup>

### Qatar:

The Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council has signed a joint cooperation program with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to mitigate the effects of climate change. This program comes within the framework of implementing the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Strategy 2030, and benefiting from it in supporting the sustainability of the Qatari environment, addressing the phenomenon of climate change, and protecting the biological diversity of natural habitats, through the use of knowledge and advanced technology to achieve the objectives of the Qatar National Strategy for Environment and Climate Change. The areas of cooperation cover several strategic axes, including supporting the identification of challenges and opportunities related to the environment and climate change in areas where knowledge and innovation can make effective contributions to finding innovative solutions for them, and building and developing partnership and cooperation between the Ministry

<sup>15</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تلتقي سفير جمهورية التشيك لبحث التعاون بين البلدين خلال مؤتمر الأطراف الـ 27 للتغيرات المناخية بمدينة شرم الشيخ، 30 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3w7q7ds>

<sup>16</sup> وزارة البيئة الجزائرية استقبلت وزيرة #البيئة\_الدكتورة\_سامية\_موالفي صباح اليوم سعادة سفيرة #الولايات\_المتحدة\_الأمريكية في #الجزائر السيدة "إليزابيث مور أوبين"، 12 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vVgklo>

on one hand, and local companies and international companies research centers in Qatar that are based on research, development, and innovation on another hand, to support projects to develop innovative technological solutions in Qatar in priority areas.<sup>17</sup>

### Saudi Arabia:

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a number of issues were discussed, including those related to the environment and climate. The two sides agreed to continue cooperation in this field. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan also welcomed the Kingdom's launch of the "Green Saudi" and "Green Middle East" initiatives. The two sides expressed their aspiration to implement these two initiatives.<sup>18</sup>

### Jordan:

Proceeding from the interest that the government gives to the agricultural sector and water management systems in the Kingdom, the government signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) a project agreement (Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Jordan through Improving Water Use Efficiency in the Agricultural Sector), which will be implemented in four governorates: Madaba, Karak, Tafila, and Ma'an, where the project aims to promote the sustainable development of this vital sector and enable its workers to face challenges and obstacles that prevent moving forward in its development and increase its production capacities, such as global warming, climate change, water scarcity, and the failure to manage its sources in an optimum way and many more<sup>19</sup>.

### UAE:

The UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, discussed, during a phone call, with John Kerry, the US Presidential Envoy for Climate Change, ways to support joint cooperation between the two countries on the climate file, and ways to enhance collective international action in **facing the repercussions and challenges of climate change, increasing funding**. The two sides discussed the role of the "Abrahamic Peace Agreement" in promoting climate action and cooperation in many important projects that support global efforts in facing the

<sup>17</sup> الشرق، مجلس قطر للبحوث والتطوير والابتكار يتعاون مع وزارة البيئة لتخفيف آثار التغير المناخي، 3 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3kSa129>

<sup>18</sup> بوابة الأهرام، السعودية وباكستان تؤكدان أهمية تعزيز العمل المشترك وتكثيف التواصل لبحث الفرص التجارية والاستثمارية، 1 مايو 2022،

<https://bit.ly/388KizU>

<sup>19</sup> الأنباط، الحكومة توقع اتفاقية منحة مع منظمة الفاو لتعزيز التكيف مع التغير المناخي وتحسين كفاءة استخدام المياه في قطاع الزراعة، 14 أبريل 2022،

<https://alanbatnews.net/article/366304>

repercussions of climate change and that contribute to achieving sustainable development and prosperity as the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation affirmed his country's commitment to work with its international partners in the climate file and seeking to adopt proactive plans in facing the challenges of climate change.<sup>20</sup>

### Tunisia:

The Minister of Environment met with the Director of the “Heinrich Böll Stiftung” office in Tunisia, and this meeting was devoted to assessing the reality of the cooperation being implemented in the environmental field in Tunisia and looking into the prospects for its development and ways to finance it, especially in the field of climate change, combating pollution caused by plastic, hygiene, and waste management, and what the matter requires about adopting effective participatory approaches with the various stakeholders.<sup>21</sup>

<b>Objective (2)</b>	<b>Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</b>
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### Egypt:

The Ministry of Environment participated in the United Nations Support Forum for Egypt in hosting the COP27 climate conference. It also participated via video conference in the session on the study of surveying national awareness of the issue of climate change and communication about the conference. The Minister of Environment indicated that allows us to identify the points that need more work by measuring the national awareness of this issue and determining the appropriate content to build awareness that provides an opportunity for citizen engagement in facing the effects of climate change. Especially after Egypt launched the first national climate dialogue targeting various groups such as youth, women, local communities, politicians, religious men, and others, to create actual community participation in the challenge of climate change that continues beyond the climate conference.

The Minister of Environment added to the role of this survey in providing the correct information at the right time to help decision-makers move forward and implement more training and awareness-raising activities for citizens about the climate challenge and its impact on the quality of life. The Egyptian government is keen that the

<sup>20</sup> صدی البلد، الإمارات والولايات المتحدة تبحثنان سبل دعم التعاون في ملف المناخ، 27 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3yn0OXG>

<sup>21</sup> وزارة البيئة-تونس، 6 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3kPmjbt>

conference initiatives take into account the human dimension and the interests of citizens and societies, build on previous initiatives launched at climate conferences after the Paris Agreement, ensure the participation of communities affected by the effects of climate change and developing countries, and to achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation<sup>22</sup>.

### **Libya:**

In the village of Al-Aweni, southwest of the capital Tripoli, the violence prompted many local farmers to abandon their lands and homes in search of safety. Some displaced farmers returned after several years, and they found their lands affected by drought, while critical infrastructure there was damaged by the conflict. What makes it worse is that the terrain of this mountainous Libyan village makes drilling water wells in it a difficult and unsustainable issue. And the only water tanks that used for emergencies in the dry seasons destroyed during the fighting in the town of Al-Aweni, following the “Arab Spring” protests in 2011. All parts of Libya are disproportionately affected by climate change factors, and the country is classified among the least prepared countries to face the risks of climate variability. In addition, the conflict has exposed the country's vulnerability and made it more vulnerable to climate change due to the low capacity to adapt, which may increase natural risks to agricultural production<sup>23</sup>.

### **Sudan:**

In April, the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources and the National Forestry Authority signed a framework memorandum of understanding to implement forest activities. It is for the project to build resilience to climate changes in the agricultural and pastoral sectors to increase the resilience of communities in East, West, and Central Darfur, West, and South Kordofan, Kassala, Red Sea, North, and Khartoum states<sup>24</sup>.

### **Saudi Arabia:**

The Saudi Meteorological Center revealed the start of the artificial cloud seeding program through the first practical step, which is the launch of the first flights in the skies of Riyadh, Qassim, and Hail, as part of the first phase of the program.

<sup>22</sup> وزارة البيئة، وزيرة البيئة تشارك في ملتقى دعم الأمم المتحدة لمصر في استضافتها لمؤتمر المناخ COP27، 13 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vTlfso>

<sup>23</sup> أندبننت عربية، "الصليب الأحمر" يحذر: النزاع الدائر في ليبيا وتغير المناخ تسببا بأزمة غذاء، 21 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3kOJfaL>

<sup>24</sup> المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية، وقع المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية والهيئة القومية للغابات مذكرة تقاهم اطارية بهدف تنفيذ أنشطة الغابات لمشروع بناء المرونة مع التغيرات المناخية في القطاع الزراعي والرعي، 11 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/38dHiCe>

This program seeks to achieve six goals represented in increasing the annual precipitation rate by between 10% and 20% to enhance adaptation to climate change, reduce desertification, and achieve the “Green Saudi Arabia” initiative objectives by increasing vegetation cover, and transferring knowledge, and technologies and qualifying cadres. It also supports cloud physics research, monitors atmospheric elements in the upper atmosphere, and supports early warning work of dust storms <sup>25</sup>.

### **Jordan:**

In April, the Jordanian Minister of Environment, Dr. Muawieh Khalid Radaideh, attributed the increase in dust in the Jordanian airspace to climate change that the world is witnessing at an accelerating pace. And earlier, the ministry warned citizens of the need to wear a muzzle and adhere to it throughout the Pentecostal winds. Minister Radaideh confirmed that his ministry monitors air quality through 23 monitoring stations distributed over the governorates, containing devices for measuring pollutants in the ambient air and two mobile laboratories to measure air quality in the Kingdom in emergency cases.

Jordan is aware of climate change through several measures that it has implemented. It enacted laws regulating environmental work represented in the Environmental Protection Law, the Green Growth Plan, the Climate Change Policy, and the Framework Law for Waste Management. In addition, Jordan’s ratification of the nationally determined contribution document frames a climate action plan to reduce emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change<sup>26</sup>.

### **UAE:**

Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, participated in the periodic meeting of environment ministers in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to discuss the environment and climate issues in preparation for the COP 27 and COP 28 sessions. It aims to enhance cooperation to meet the climate change challenges <sup>27</sup>.

### **Iraq:**

In Iraq, the water stock in Iraq has decreased by half compared to 2021 due to the lack of rainfall and the decrease in river imports from neighboring countries. Iraq, which rich

<sup>25</sup>Esquireme، السعودية تُبأشر بعملية الاستمطار وتخطو نحو السعودية الخضراء، 27 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3MTsQxK>

<sup>26</sup>روسيا اليوم، الأردن.. وزارة البيئة توضح أسباب زيادة نسبة الغبار في أجواء المملكة، 1 مايو 2022، <https://bit.ly/3vRJg4g>

<sup>27</sup>وزارة التغير المناخي والبيئة، شاركت معالي مريم بنت محمد المهيري في الاجتماع الدوري لوزراء البيئة بدول مجلس التعاون لمناقشة أهم قضايا البيئة والمناخ، 5 أبريل 2022، <https://www.facebook.com/MoCCAUEAE/posts/347619567404770>

in oil and gas, is one of the five countries most affected by climate change and desertification. Water is an issue in this semi-desert country of 41 million people. The World Bank has estimated that in the absence of appropriate policies, Iraq could see a 20% decrease in available freshwater resources by 2050. Iraq was devastated by repeated wars, poor infrastructure, and a slowdown in reconstruction after the attacks against ISIS<sup>28</sup>.

Some of Iraq's oldest archaeological sites are also being destroyed by climate change, with high salt concentrations eroding stones and frequent sandstorms eroding ancient monuments. The damage to sites such as mythical Babylon will leave gaps in knowledge of human evolution, the development of early cities, the management of empires, and the dynamic changes in the political landscape of the Islamic era<sup>29</sup>.

### **Kuwait:**

The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has announced projects to increase reforestation in more than one area in Kuwait, and tens of thousands of plants and trees were planted. The application of the vegetation belt includes two aspects: the first is afforestation, which means planting tall trees, and the second is afforestation, that is, planting small and medium-sized trees to reduce the encroachment of sand, dust, and dust by the wind. This method reduces the effects of dust-laden winds as such trees act as buffers and wind barriers<sup>30</sup>.

### **Yemen:**

The Yemeni governorates have witnessed a change in the climate during 2020, resulting from heavy and continuous rains and torrential torrents that washed away much of the land. Many Yemeni regions turned into green semi-nature reserves including the crossing dam in the Shaar district of Ibb governorate and Wadi Bihan, where torrential rains gather from various regions in Shabwa governorate one of the vast lands in the Marib desert and many Yemeni regions<sup>31</sup>.

In Yemen, women are the most affected group by climate change. The woman goes to bring water from remote and dangerous places. Women are the most committed in their homes and suffer from the repercussions of climate change and air pollution due to medical waste and homes near landfills<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> العربية، انخفاض احتياطي العراق من المياه إلى النصف، 21 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3wbfsOU>

<sup>29</sup> أخبار العربي، تغيّر المناخ يهدد بدمار المواقع الأثرية العراقية، 16 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/39yZQVR>

<sup>30</sup> رصيف 22، تشجير ومحميات وطاقة بديلة... ماذا نعرف عن جهود الكويت لمحاربة التغيّر المناخي؟، 30 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3MTxSdC>

<sup>31</sup> عدن الغد، تغير المناخ في اليمن يحول بعض المناطق إلى شبه محميات طبيعية، 22 سبتمبر 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FtMZYJ>

<sup>32</sup> الأمم المتحدة، في اليمن.. المرأة تقف في الجبهة الأمامية للاستجابة الإنسانية، 12 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3912b3w>



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

#### **Kuwait:**

On April 10, the Environment Public Authority in Kuwait announced a competition to encourage people to reduce climate change, which is directly related to reducing plastic consumption, titled "Recycle it Right", it is a Ramadan competition to collect plastic, collecting a big number and weight of plastic from cans and bags, with the aim of encouraging the reduction of the uses of plastic that are harmful to the environment and that help increase the dilemma of climate change<sup>33</sup>.

#### **Tunisia:**

Within the framework of the EU-funded climate project on reducing waste risks based on selective sorting, the Central Eastern Representation of the National Agency for Waste Management participated in the awareness-raising event directed at residents in the state of Mahdia in cooperation with the International Center for Environmental Technologies, the municipality of the place and all the actors involved in the implementation of this project. The workshop was activated on how to produce biological fertilizer by exploiting garden and kitchen waste, especially since one of the project components is the completion of a composting station for the benefit of the place municipality<sup>34</sup>.

Tunisia is facing the dangers of climate change because of its presence in one of the regions most exposed to global warming, the Mediterranean region, which could witness devastating environmental crises that will intensify unless the necessary measures are taken to limit their aggravation. Tunisia needs financial credits of \$19.3 billion until 2030 to implement its pledges to protect the climate. And Tunisia's commitments require a 45 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, instead of 41 percent previously specified.<sup>35</sup>

#### **UAE:**

In April, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organized the first conference of the Climate Research Network in the UAE on the sidelines of Climate Week activities in the Middle East and North Africa, hosted by Dubai for the first time in the region. The

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<sup>33</sup> الهيئة العامة للبيئة، تعلن الهيئة العامة للبيئة عن اطلاق حملتها #دورها\_صح، 10 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FqDAkJ>  
<sup>34</sup> وزارة البيئة تونس، انتاج سماد بيولوجي بواسطة استغلال فضلات الحديقة والمطبخ، 6 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3FsMxdt>  
<sup>35</sup> البيان، الاحتباس الحراري يهدد اقتصاد بلد عربي، 13 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3LPLYwF>

conference aimed to provide a platform that would allow scientific and academic bodies and specialists to enhance their cooperation and interaction in areas related to facing the climate change challenge. It also aims to enhance awareness of recent research and studies related to the climate change effects and global and regional action to confront it. And increasing capacity building and relations between members of the network, its strategic partners and the youth category, and provide opportunities for students and youth to integrate and strengthen the climate action system in the UAE<sup>36</sup>.

## Suggestions & Recommendations

Within the framework of what was included in this observatory such as the good practices carried out by the governments of Arab countries, as well as the challenges they faced to improve and develop the environment, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents the following recommendations in the hope of completing Arab development efforts in the field of climate action and facing most of the challenges obstructing its path.

- **First:** Maat for Peace emphasizes the need for the governments of the Arab state to direct their efforts toward inaugurating national mechanisms and Arab mechanisms for financing measures to combat climate change.
- **Second:** In light of the importance of financing directed towards national climate change programs and plans, and as the path towards sustainable Arab economies, Maat calls on private sector institutions to double their investments and solidarity with governments for the urgent implementation of national climate change mitigation plans.
- **Third:** Many Arab countries have highlighted the importance of national dialogues related to limiting climate change and the feasibility of these dialogues. Maat praises this step and calls on the governments of other Arab countries to speed up the implementation of these national dialogues that include different groups of society from youth, women, local communities, politicians and religious men, and climate experts.
- **Fourth:** Maat recommends that media institutions and civil society organizations concerned with the climate crisis need work together to intensify awareness campaigns and conduct workshops and training to promote goal 3 of goal 13. Maat also points out the need to activate the role of these awareness campaigns in Arab conflict areas in particular.

<sup>36</sup> الرؤية، «وزارة التغير المناخي» تنظم المؤتمر الأول لشبكة أبحاث المناخ في الإمارات، 3 أبريل 2022، <https://bit.ly/3kT2QXE>