

SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region Arab Environmental Partnership to Address Climate Change



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

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Summary of SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region

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Background

The Arab countries are at the top of the countries most affected by climate change, which threatens the lives and of millions of people and destroys tons of crops. It is worth noting that the phenomenon of "**Climate Change**" is an imminent threat to humanity and may make life in "several countries" difficult and dangerous, causing thousands to fall below the poverty line and die of starvation. In the context of Maat's keenness to protect human rights and promote sustainable societies that preserve human life in a safe and good manner, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights releases the first issue of the "The 2030 SDG 13 Observatory in the Arab Region", which tracks good practices and 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 report was divided into two axes; one axis related to **Egypt**, the country of the focus of the issue, which highlights the most prominent countries that have made efforts in relation to achieving the SDG 13. Egypt led these countries, given its recent commendable steps in this regard, topped by the launch of its National Climate Change strategy 2050, and its efforts in January that comes in consistence with the Strategy.

The First Axis: the country of the focus of the issue "the Arab Republic of Egypt"

A fact sheet about the country of the focus of the issue... Egypt's most prominent efforts in the issue of climate change during January 2022

In November 2021, the Egyptian government launched the "National Climate Change Strategy 2050", which is based on planning and managing climate change at various levels and supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals and the goals of Egypt's Vision 2030, by adopting a flexible and low-emissions approach, consisting of five main axes aimed at managing climate change.

- a. With regard to achieving the target of **Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning**, the Egyptian government, throughout January, did the following:

1. The Ministry of Environment undertakes many activities represented in approving the requests of private sector companies wishing to manage and operate recycling plants and safe sanitary landfills for the new solid waste system.
2. Starting logistical preparations to transform the city of Sharm El-Sheikh into a green, environmentally, and friendly city.
3. Participating in the World Youth Forum effectively by reviewing what the Ministry of Environment has achieved with regard to managing climate change.
4. The President of the Republic announces the provision of all sources of funding and equipment required for waste management in the industrial zones.
5. The Minister of Environment, from the House of Representatives, announced the launch and formulation of the first climate finance strategy in the Arab countries next April.

- b. With regard to the target of **Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries**, the Egyptian government has achieved the following:

1. The Minister of Environment made several inspection visits to follow up the progress of the environmental plans of a number of industrial companies in several Egyptian cities, including the Sixth of October City, Alexandria, Beheira, and South Sinai.

2. The Ministry of Environment has installed 115 air quality monitoring stations, aiming to install another 120 stations within 9 years. The administration was also able to have an international plan whereby every quarter of a million Egyptian citizens would have a station to monitor emissions.

3. Inauguration of the nitrous oxide absorption project from the plant for the production of carbonic acid emitted from industrial processes.

4. The first flight equipped with "environmentally friendly" services and products was operated, becoming the first flight of its kind for "Egypt Air" in Africa.

a. About the target of **Improving education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning**, the Egyptian government has achieved the following:

1. The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with Cairo University and also in partnership with the Air Pollution and Climate Change Management Project and the World Bank, has developed university programs for environmental sciences that focus on the ecosystem.

The second axis: the reality of achieving the SDG 13 in the Arab region

This axis reviews the reality of SDG13 in the Arab countries, by identifying the most prominent governmental efforts that have taken place in promoting climate action during the past month, by classifying those efforts according to the objectives pursued by the observatory as follows.

With regard to the target of **Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning**, the Libyan government represented by the Ministry of Environment signed the National Plan for Oil Spills in the Marine Environment, the

government announced its commitment to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, and called on all the parties' states to declare an area not less than 10% of its territory area as nature reserves, the Libyan Prime Minister Abdel-Hamid Al-Dabaiba launched the "Plant a Tree" campaign in Tripoli, intending to plant one million trees in various regions of the country.

For Morocco, the government also launched a project to plant 2022 trees, and the Algerian government, represented by the Ministry of Environment, included in its strategy the creation of job opportunities and the promotion of green entrepreneurship as basic axes for the ecological transition of productive systems and as a tool for achieving sustainable economic recovery. **In Mauritania**, 700 million old ounces were allocated to complete 10,000 km of rural fire-prevention roads implemented by the National Company for Earth Reclamation.

The Environment Public Authority also signed **with the Kuwaiti Ministry** of Oil a memorandum of cooperation to monitor various emissions and try to reduce them, which will reflect positively on hygiene. On Omani International Day, it was announced the continuation of work on a national strategy to protect the environment whose objectives are linked with Oman Vision 2040 in order to enhance environmental performance in the **Sultanate Amman**. The International Atomic Energy Agency of **Qatar** has approved a number of technical cooperation projects with Doha in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, those projects for the year 2022-2023.

As for Lebanon, the Ministry of Environment announced that the integrated national plan in the waste file will be launched soon and a gradual framework will begin to implement it in cooperation with the municipalities. **In Djibouti**, EMEA Power, a subsidiary of Al Nowais Investment Group in the capital, Djibouti, and the Djiboutian Minister of Energy signed a memorandum of understanding to study the development of renewable energy projects, which include solar energy and wind, in a public-private partnership system.

For the second target related to enhancing **Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries**, focusing on an indicator that implements local strategies to reduce disaster risk in line with national strategies, the Moroccan government has worked to use clean energy in the railway system instead of using electricity, through the implementation of a plan developed by the National Office of Railways aimed at a gradual green transformation. In Algeria, an awareness campaign about the cleanliness of cities was launched under the slogan "City cleanliness is everyone's responsibility", during the minister's visits to the Wilaya d'El Oued.

As for Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture have launched an integrative workshop for the parties related to the regional program for cloud seeding. Water and environmental projects have been launched, with costs exceeding 306 million riyals to serve more than 63,000 beneficiaries, including the implementation of 3 projects by the National Water Company. In Bahrain, the Supreme Council for the Environment issued a ministerial resolution on the management of electronic and electrical waste. This resolution aims to regulate the process of managing electronic and electrical waste in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner.

The UAE government also organized from January 14 to January 19 the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, during which the UAE's efforts and commitments towards climate action were highlighted. The government, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, announced a roadmap to achieve leadership in the field of hydrogen and as a major source to support climate neutrality, in addition to the National Energy Strategy 2050. The Abu Dhabi Environment Agency has also completed the second phase of the "blue carbon" environmental and social responsibility project.

As for Iraq, the Iraqi Ministry of Environment has officially announced that Iraq has entered the use of solar energy, in line with the current trend of the Iraqi state towards using renewable sources in generating electric power. The Iraqi Ministry of Oil also announced that the German company intends to provide the energy sector with hydrogen technologies, in line with the Iraqi government's efforts to shift to clean and

renewable energy. **In the Sultanate of Oman**, on January 9, the work of the “Oman Environmental Forum” began in its fifth session (2022), entitled “Bio-safety of our atmosphere”.

With regard to the goal of **Improving education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning** in Morocco and as a result of the black dust phenomenon spreading in the city of Kenitra, the National Laboratory for Studies and Pollution Monitoring, in coordination with local authorities, mobilized a mobile unit to monitor air quality equipped with black dust measuring equipment, in order to carry out analyzes to find out the basis of this pollution. More than 6 million dirhams have been allocated also for the protection and prevention of some areas in northern Morocco from floods, by the Lakos Water Basin Agency and its partners.

In Sudan, in the context of strengthening partnership in environmental work, the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources participated in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Social Development on climate change and adaptation and its impact on achieving gender equality within the framework of Sudan’s presidency of the 41st session of the Arab Women Committee and the Arab regional preparatory meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations 66th session. In the UAE, the Minister of Climate Change and Environment attended the IRENA Youth Forum 2022, which was held under the slogan “Youth-led solutions to accelerate the energy transition and achieve climate goals” during the twelfth session of the IRENA General Assembly meetings, which aims to highlight the contributions of youth to develop solutions that can accelerate the transition towards renewable energy. The Environment Protection and Development Authority in Ras Al Khaimah launched the "Environmental Label" with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

In Palestine, the Environmental Quality Authority in Palestine launched a training program as part of a series of training sessions for security officers from various security services on environmental security at the Preventive Security

headquarters in Nablus, in cooperation with the Political Guidance Authority. The Environment Quality Authority also implemented a capacity-raising program in enforcing national and international environmental legislation. The training meeting included the environmental dimension within the framework of sustainable development and the national legal protection mechanisms for the environment in Palestine.

Recommendations:

1. Speaking about the environmental pollution resulting from factories, which increases carbon dioxide emissions, which harms the environment, Maat for Peace recommends that the governments of Arab countries should be fined to control these practices harmful to the environment and to set legal frameworks and clear environmental standards for the work of those factories.
2. Several governments of Arab countries have conducted training sessions for workers in the sectors of the countries in order to raise capabilities in the field of climate change, and Maat commends these moves and implements goal 13.3 related to environmental awareness, and recommends other Arab countries to quickly launch those training programs that help achieve the 13th goal.
3. In light of the suffering of some Arab countries from legislative deficiencies related to climate change, Maat for Peace recommends a speedy review of national constitutions and amend them in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
4. In light of the importance of the environmental partnership between the Arab countries, which is based on the exchange of experiences with regard to limiting climate change in the country, Maat for Peace recommends increasing joint meetings between environmental stakeholders in order to support government actions in limiting climate change.