



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Consultative Meeting on the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Agenda:

“Reinforcing the Environmental Dimension of 2030 Agenda for Sustainability and Peace in the Arab Region”
Cairo, 14 to 15 February 2024

AGENDA**Wednesday, 14 February 2024**

9:00 – 9:30

Registration

The meeting will be held at the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa receipt and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

To participate virtually, kindly register and connect through the following link:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqd-6grT8pE9eTRdRsRO8_NVCgkkCk9kf8](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJEqd-6grT8pE9eTRdRsRO8_NVCgkkCk9kf8)

Opening Session

Moderator:

Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

9:30 – 10:00

Opening Remarks

- *Ms. Samah Saleh, Representing Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment in the Arab Republic of Egypt*
- *Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Head of Secretariat, Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS)*
- *Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*

10:00 – 10:10

Meeting Objectives and Agenda

- *Ms. Sara Daniel, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*

10:10 – 10:25

Tour de table

Session 1 **SDG 1 - End Poverty Through Climate Resilience, Sustainable Livelihoods and Nature**

Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Head of Secretariat, CAMRE, Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, LAS

10:25 – 11:00 **Presentations**

- The Extent of Environmental Challenges and Drought on Increasing Vulnerabilities and Poverty in the Arab Region
 - *Mr. Mateo Daniel Merchan, Associate Migration, Environnement & Climate Change Programme Officer, Regional Office Middle East & North Africa (MENA), IOM, Egypt*
- Bridging Inequalities in Food Systems to Ensure Sustainability and Poverty Alleviation
 - *Ms. Maria Pilar Ouro Paz, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (Online)*

11:00 – 12:00 **Panel Discussion**

- Access to Land Rights for Women – Policy from Morocco
 - *Mr. Nabil Dahhou, Environmental Economist, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Kingdom of Morocco*
- Formalizing the Informal Sector: Unlocking Environmental Opportunities
 - *Ms. Samah Saleh, Director General of Urban Development, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Environment, Egypt*
 - *Mr. Osama Abu Rumman, Engineer, Greater Amman Municipality, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Online)*
- Renewable Energy for Improving Livelihoods and Empowering Women
 - *Mr. Mohamed Zied Gannar, Executive Director, Gannar Sustainable Energy Consulting, Tunisia (Online)*
- Sustainable Dryland Management: Enhancing Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods
 - *Mr. Laith AlRahahleh, Programme Manager, Dryland, Livelihoods and Gender, International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN)*

Discussion

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

Session 2 **SDG 2 - End Hunger and Ensure Food Security Through Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Transformations**

Moderator: Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

12:30 – 12:45 **Presentation**

- Focusing on the Sustainability Dimension, How Does the Food Systems Transformation Approach Accelerate SDG2 in The Arab Region?
 - *Mr. Ibrahim Adam Ahmed Al Dukhairi, Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) (Online)*

12:45 – 14:00

Panel Discussion

- Food Safety Legislation and Food Systems Pathways in Lebanon
 - *Ms. Inaya Ezzeddine, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, and Chairperson of Women and Children and SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Commission, Republic of Lebanon*
- Innovations for Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems: Ending Hunger and Mitigating Climate Change
 - *Mr. Naser Edin Obeid, Director General, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD)*
- Regional Initiative on Ending Hunger – Progress and Challenges
 - *Mr. Wadid Erian, Senior Expert on Sustainable Development, League of Arab States*
- Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in West Asia
 - *Ms. Seta Tutundjian, Founder and CEO, Thriving Solutions (Online)*
- Enhancing Agriculture and Food systems in NDCs’ Next Generation for Accelerating SDG2 - Funding Opportunities Emerging from COP28
 - *Ms. Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/RNE) (Online)*

Discussion

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

**Session 3 –
Part I**

SDG 13 – Climate Action Through Integrated Approaches

Moderator:

Ms. Sabine Sakr, Regional Development Coordinator, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA)

15:00 – 15:20

Presentation

- Strategic Climate Action Priorities for Arab States: Maximizing Benefits from COP28 Commitments and Pledges
 - *Mr. Abdelrahman Al-Gwaiz, Senior Advisor on Environment and Sustainability, Arab Negotiation Group on Climate Change*

15:20 – 17:00

Panel Discussion 1

- Alignment of Current Energy Policies in the Arab Region with Global Ambitions to Triple Renewable Energy and Double Energy Efficiency Efforts by 2030
 - *Mr. Jauad El Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)*
- Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation: Progress of Saudi Green Initiative in Light of COP16 preparations
 - *Ms. Haifa Alolayan, Advisor, General Directorate for International Conventions, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
- Specific Challenges Facing Climate Action in Mauritania: An Example from Least Developed Countries
 - *Mr. Hacem Maouloud, Technical Advisor on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment, Islamic Republic of Mauritania*

- Post-COP28 Opportunities for New Projects and Partnerships in Jordan to Drive Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, and Accelerate SDGs
 - *Ms. Randa Barakat, Policies Directorate, Project Management Section, Ministry of Environment, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

Discussion

End of Day 1

Thursday, 15 February 2024

9:00 – 9:10

Recap of Day 1

- *Ms. Sara Daniel, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), ESCWA*

Session 3 – Part II

SDG 13 – Climate Action Through Integrated Approaches

Moderator:

Ms. Sara Daniel, Research Assistant, CCNRSC, ESCWA

9:10 – 10:00

Panel Discussion 2

Climate Action in Compounded Challenges Context – Country Experiences

- *Mr. Omar Boukerwata, Director of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment, Libya*
- *Mr. Zaghoul Samhan, Director General of Policies and Planning, Environment Quality Authority, State of Palestine (Online)*
- *Mr. Abdalla Said Musse, Coordinator of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Somali Republic*
- *Mr. Abdelrahman Alkhalifa, Deputy Director, Research and Information Department, Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource, Republic of Sudan*
- *Mr. Abdulqawi Qasem, Director General, Planning, Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Republic of Yemen*
- *Ms. Hanadi Awadalla, Member of the Arab Negotiation Group on Climate Change, Republic of Sudan*

Discussion

Session 4

SDG 16 - Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development

Moderator:

Ms. Nisreen Allahham, Expert, Middle Regional Office, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

10:00 – 10:30

Presentations

- Role of MENA Regional Climate Security Hub in Enhancing Resilience and Peacebuilding in the Arab Region
 - *Ms. Martina Jaskolski, Climate, Peace, and Security Policy Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security*
- War on Gaza: Weaponizing Access to Water, Energy and Food
 - *Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, ESCWA*

- Current Status of Natural Resources and Services in Gaza and Long-Term Environmental Impacts Following the War
 - *Mr. Ahmad Yaqubi, Water Resources Expert, Former Director General, Water Authority, State of Palestine*

10:30 – 11:30

Panel Discussion

Experience on Institutional Reform to Enhance Inclusiveness and Accelerate SDG Implementation

- National Plan for Afforestation 2022-2035: An Example on Bilateral Cooperation
 - *Mr. Mohamed Shamlooh, Senior Environmental Specialist, Supreme Council for Environment, Kingdom of Bahrain*
- Building Back After a Crisis: An Opportunity for Strengthening Environmental Dimension in Planning
 - *Mr. Muneer Abbas Hussein Tuageree, Senior Chemist, Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Iraq*
- Transition to Green Economy: An Example of Inter-ministerial Coordination
 - *Mr. Mohammed Almamari, Director of Sustainability, Environment Authority, Sultanate of Oman*
- Youth Inclusion in Decision Making for Peace and Sustainable Development
 - *Ms. Sarra Mansour, Youth Climate Champion Delegate, Gender and Youth, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), People's Democratic Republic of Algeria*
- Optimal Mechanisms for Addressing Critical Environmental Issues in Times of Crises
 - *Mr. Fadel El Zubi, Food Security & Agriculture Expert, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
- Mainstreaming Environmental Consideration in Project Planning for Building Peaceful and Sustainable Societies
 - *Ms. Muneera Al Wuhaib, Head of Sector, Environmental Impact Planning Department, Environment Public Authority, State of Kuwait*

Discussion

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

Session 5

SDG 17 – Strengthening Implementation through Finance, Technology, Capacity Building and Partnerships

Moderator:

Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

12:00 – 12:30

Presentations

- Post-COP28 Emerging Opportunities in Climate Finance for the Arab Region: Enhancing Arab States' Access to Climate Finance
 - *Mr. Samir Tantawi, Senior Climate Change Consultant, Arab Republic of Egypt*
- Arab Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy: An Example of Regional Partnership
 - *Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Head of Secretariat, CAMRE, Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, LAS*

12:30 – 13:30

Panel Discussion

- Contribution of Private Banking to Alleviating Poverty, Ending Hunger and Addressing Climate Change
 - *Ms. Maysoun Ali, Head of Sustainability and E&S systems, Commercial International Bank, Arab Republic of Egypt*
- Complementarity between Private Banking and Public Finance for Environment and Development
 - *Mr. Mahdi Hamdan, General Director, Istiqlal Bank for Investment and Development, State of Palestine*
- Role of CSOs and NGOs in Boosting Capacities and Building Partnerships
 - *Mr. Emad Eddin Adly, General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)*
- Role of Technology in Accelerating SDGs Implementation: Successful Technology Transfer Projects on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Arab Region
 - *Mr. Rajiv Garg, Director (a.i.), United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) (Online)*
- G20 Global Land Initiative: Emerging Opportunities to Address Land Degradation in the Arab Region Ahead of COP16
 - *Ms. Salma AlSayyad, Policy Officer, G20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

Discussion

Key Messages and the Way Forward to Achieve Goals 1, 2, 13, 16 & 17

13:30 – 14:00

- *Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS*
- *Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA*

End of meeting
