

Climate Security in the Arab States: Lessons learned and scaling-up

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 11.00 –12.30 p.m. Beirut time



Background and objective

The Arab region is experiencing a greater than average temperature increase. In fact, the region saw its worst drought cycle in a millennium from 2007-2017 which exacerbated social vulnerability, food and water scarcity, and environmental fragility. COP27 and COP28, both held in the region, need to be complemented with initiatives for moving from negotiations to implementation, where resilience building and climate adaptation deserve a top focus. This includes scaled up finance for accelerating climate resilient food and water systems, carving an empowered role for women in climate action, and climate resilient recovery solutions in the Arab States. The 90-minute special session is closely linked to the overall theme of scaling up the climate security nexus based on experience from the field, research, and innovation in the region. It aligns with the dialogues of COP27 on promoting and strengthening climate action. The session will serve as a space to share good practices and lessons learned among practitioners to explore how to scale up innovative and integrated approaches that can bring multiple benefits across the SDGs and climate action.

Questions to be addressed

- What is the Regional Climate Security Initiative in the Arab region which is spearheaded by the League of Arab States?
- What does climate-security mean in the context of climate action in Arab States? How can efforts in mitigating climate change and integrating climate related risks in decisions help to enhance human security?
- Climate change-related events such as floods and droughts do not affect all people and communities equally. How do we identify those who are the most vulnerable? What is the available data telling? How do events such as more frequent and intensive droughts affect or exacerbate the vulnerability of women, who already suffer disproportionately from climate change?
- How can technology and regional platforms strengthen and enhance work across climate, food, water, social security and scaling up activities? What are the available technological advancements in these areas? What are the strengths and challenges of collaborative efforts of multi-partner networks in giving more thrust to the climate action agenda and its effects on human security?

Moderator

- **Nuran Atef**, Regional Lead for Africa and Middle East, UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Egypt

Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Nada El Agizy**, Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, League of Arab States, Egypt

Panelists

- **Dr. Amel Azab**, SDG-Climate Facility Project Coordinator, Arab Water Council, Egypt
- **Dr. Dena Assaf**, UN Resident Coordinator, United Arab Emirates
- **Maria Selin**, Head of Regional Development Cooperation MENA, Embassy of Sweden, Jordan
- **Dr. Nadim Farajalla**, Program Director, Climate Change and Environment Program, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- **Oscar Ekdahl**, Regional Head for Resilience and Livelihoods, WFP Regional Bureau for Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, Egypt
- **Paola Pagliani**, Regional Programme Coordinator, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, Jordan
- **Dr. Wadid Erian**, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, League of Arab States, Egypt

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room I (B1 floor).