



Climate and Energy Project
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Position Paper on behalf of Civil Society in the MENA Region for COP27

2-4th September 2022

Cairo - Egypt

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Members of the Climate Action Network Arab World (CANAW) alongside representatives from Egyptian civil society organizations met in Cairo from 2-4 September 2022 to prepare for the twenty-seventh United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27), which is scheduled to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh during the period from 6 to 18 November 2022.

The meeting discussed how to achieve climate justice for the Arab citizens which is the supreme goal of the efforts of Arab society organizations working in the field of environment in general and climate change in particular, especially in light of the intertwined global situations, including the political (the Russian-Ukrainian war), the economic (resulting from inflation after the global closure due to the Corona pandemic), and the environmental (resulting from climate change between the floods, drought and extreme hot weather conditions), that all affects the overall process of negotiations and the Arab human right when it comes to climate change.

Accordingly, the participants agreed upon a number of recommendations and demands that aims to achieve climate justice for the Arab citizen, they are detailed hereunder:

- **The Role of Arab Governments, especially the League of Arab States**
 - Transparency in sharing data and information from Arab governments and the League of Arab States to enable local and regional civil society organizations working in the fields of environment and climate change to carry out their duties efficiently and impactfully, especially information related to the negotiating position, developed countries exerted pressure, budgets allocated for climate change, whether from national budgets or external funding. Additionally, openly detailing and discussing plans, procedures, strategies and legislations necessary to combat climate change and divert its impacts on the Arab region and its citizens



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- Strengthening the ties and establishing proper foundations of communication between the Arab negotiators under UNFCCC (Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement) and Arab civil society representatives aiming to equip them towards participating effectively in defending the rights of the citizens generally and claiming their climate rights specifically.
- Providing the necessary funding for the scientific institutions (academic universities and research centers), to carry out research thus being able to monitor and analyze the impacts / risks of climate change locally and regionally.
- Founding environmental courts in Arab countries along with climate and environmental legislation and enforcing the legislation if present; with the final aim of protecting the environment in addition to natural resources, while ensuring the right to climate justice
- Providing the necessary infrastructure/base to handle modern technologies and avoiding any damage that may result from utilizing them through separation, reuse, and recycling on sound scientific bases.
- Formulating Arab Council for Climate Change, which sets legislation and guides for joint investments and cooperation in the Arab region, the members should include governmental and civil society representatives.

➤ **The role of Arab Civil Society Organizations**

- Dealing with climate change issues in a comprehensive matter based on reducing carbon emissions while understanding climate change risks. Additionally, it is essential and unavoidable to understand the fragility, adaptation needs, and resilience for some sectors (agriculture, water, health, urbanization, biodiversity, natural systems and climate migrations)
- Communicating with the marginalized and vulnerable social groups, and those most affected like children, women, elderly and people with chronic diseases to identify and understand the impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihood.
- Communicating with trade unions to discuss the losses that workers are exposed to as a result of climate risks and the transition towards renewable energy with highlighting the necessary measures for mitigation, adaptation and flexibility so as to ensure that the transition is just and



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inclusive. Furthermore, some institutions, like Industrial ones for example, need to change their working methods aiming to ensure the protection of workers from stress, while creating a healthy working atmosphere.

- Achieving the basic principles of climate justice which include by not limited to; respect and protection of human rights, the right for development, gender equality and justice, equitable distribution of benefits and responsibilities, effective partnerships to secure climate justice, decisions related to climate change should be participatory, focus on education, defend the climatic rights of the Arab citizen, on top of which comes the right to live in an environment and natural systems free from the dangers of climate change and extreme weather events.
- Demanding countries historically responsible for climate change to take responsibility, while not neglecting the existence of a joint responsibility from the rest of the world in facing climate change, but essentially differentiating between those impacted and those who were the cause of the problem.
- Develop a set of regional projects based on geographical databases that represent the region fairly especially when it comes to climate and the impacts, which through these projects CANAW and other civil society organizations can achieve climate justice for the Arab citizen and work to obtain finance for such regional projects during COP 27 and COP28
- Setting local mechanisms that enable civil society organizations to monitor climate finance that governments are receiving in addition to evaluating the efficiency of spending and associated impacts.

➤ **The Role of the Private Sector**

- Governments should pave the way to engage with the private sector effectively through laws, regulations and incentives, while requesting the private sector to adopt an integrated approach on dealing with climate issues, providing the necessary funding within the framework of its social responsibility for adaptation measures, in which their results often require a long time compared to mitigation



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- Utilizing and investing in the capabilities of the private sector in capacity building and human development to face climate change locally and internationally

➤ **The Role of Global Climate Action Movements under the UNFCCC**

a. Finance:

- The importance of providing the necessary funding to transition towards low carbon economies capable of facing the shocks and crises resulting from climate change and adapting to its impacts.
- Providing mechanisms to compensate for loss and damage caused by climate change
- Transparency and balance in the distribution of funding between mitigation and adaptation
- Develop and implement capacity building programs for civil society organizations by specialized experts.
- Providing a window for financing civil society organizations within the financing mechanisms of the Climate Change Agreement, such as the Green Climate Fund, allowing them to implement projects that reduce emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

b. Adaptation and Resilience

- The importance of protecting fragile and poor communities from the effects of climate change while providing all the necessary support and implementation mechanisms such as financing, technology and capacity building.
- Paying attention to health programs and limiting the spread of diseases related to weather conditions, focusing on lessons learned during COVID pandemic.

c. Emission Reduction

The importance of implementing measures to reduce carbon emissions aiming to achieve low carbon developments while avoiding harmful effects on biodiversity, natural systems, and commitment to the extended responsibility of products by



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producers of technologies, which is fundamentally needed to reduce emissions of hazardous wastes such as batteries.

d. **Technology Transfer**

The importance of activating the role of technology transfer centers and supporting them to become technology producers so that developing countries, including Arab countries, can obtain the right to use such technologies thus aiding at reducing costs, increasing benefits and spreading technologies on a larger scale which will ultimately accelerate emission reduction and adapt to the impacts more efficiently.