

Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda: Strengthening Parliamentary Engagement in Climate Action in the Arab Region

Beirut, 29-30 November 2022

Proposed Programme of Work

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022

BEIRUT TIME	SESSION
9:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA (3 min) Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU (3 min- virtual) Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi, Regional Hub Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP (3 min- virtual) <p>Presentation of the programme of work.</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p>Session I – Setting the scene</p> <p>The session will set the scene for the Forum by providing participants with an update on the status of the SDGs in the region with focus on climate and climate-related goals and targets, an overview of the outcomes of COP27 and their implications for the region, and a framing of the role that Arab parliaments can play in shaping climate action and delivering on the SDGs.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Hala Abou-Ali, Former Member of the Parliament in Egypt, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the status of the SDGs in the Arab region with focus on elements connecting to the climate change agenda- <i>Ms. Maisaa Youssef, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA (10 min)</i> Overview of COP27 outcomes and what they mean for the Arab countries <i>Mr. Tarek Sadek, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (10 min)</i> Parliaments and climate change: the role of the IPU in supporting parliamentary action on climate change and sustainable development- <i>Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU (10 min)</i> <p>Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Amr Ezzat, Member of the Egyptian Senate, Undersecretary of the Energy, Environment and Manpower Committee, Egypt (5 min) <p>Discussion (25 min)</p>

BEIRUT TIME	SESSION
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Session II – Adapting to climate change impacts in the Arab region: Role of parliament in building resilience and protecting the most vulnerable</p> <p>This session will take stock of the impacts of climate change, notably on water and other food production resources (land and biodiversity) in the Arab region, and their broader socio-economic repercussions. It will analyze the needed policy responses to adapt to climate impacts while protecting vulnerable and marginalized groups, and the role of Parliaments in advancing them, benefitting from experiences from the region and beyond.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nadim Farjallah, Director of Climate Change and the Environment Program, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and Intranational Affairs (IFI), American University of Beirut (AUB)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How vulnerable is the region to climate change? What impacts are being observed and what are the most likely scenarios? • Who are the groups most at risk? To what extent do parliaments have access to information on the specific situation and needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including from a socio-economic point of view? What information sources are available to guide parliamentary actions? • What adaptation policies are Arab countries adopting? What are the challenges of implementation? Where will the funding come from? • What governance structures, legal frameworks and investments are required for effective climate adaptation? How to ensure that they won't produce unwanted impacts in other SDG areas? • What lessons have we learned from parliamentary experiences in the region and beyond in that respect? • What is the role of other actors and what partnerships could support the work of Parliaments in this area? • What approaches or practices should be promoted and implemented to ensure that the voice, needs and specificities of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups are taken into consideration? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding vulnerability to climate change in the Arab region <i>Ms. Aya Ibrahim, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (10 min)</i> • Global experiences in parliamentary action supporting climate adaptation: - Member of Parliament (country to be confirmed) • Arab country experiences supporting climate adaptation: - Intervention by Mr. Mayouf Al-Dhiab, member of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic (7 min) - Intervention by Ms. Inaya Ezzeddine, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Women and Children Committee, Coordinator of the Parliamentary Advisory Board for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan, Parliament of Lebanon (7 min) - Intervention by Ms. Nadia El Tohamy, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives in Morocco (7 min)

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	<p>-Intervention by Mr. Samer Madanat, Assistant Secretary General for Financial and Administrative Affairs, the Audit Bureau of Jordan (7 min)</p> <p>Open discussion (45 min)</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session III – Mitigating climate change: Arab regional challenges and the role of parliament in addressing them</p> <p>This session will consider climate change mitigation commitments and related socio-economic implications in the Arab region. It will analyze the needed policy responses, notably in the energy sector, to achieve emission reduction targets, and the role of Parliaments in advancing them, while making sure they are consistent with the SDG targets.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E Ms. Najat Saliba, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Professor of Analytical Chemistry, American University of Beirut (AUB)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What commitments have Arab countries made to reduce greenhouse gases and what actions are they concretely taking in that respect? Are they consistent with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs? • What are the present and anticipated socio-economic implications of climate mitigation actions in the region? • What governance structures, legal frameworks and investments are needed to support fair and just climate change mitigation actions in Arab countries (e.g. transition to clean energy) and help meet global commitments? How to ensure that they won't produce unwanted impacts in other SDG areas? What information sources are available to guide parliamentary actions? • What lessons have we learned from parliamentary experiences in the region and beyond in that respect? • What is the role of other actors and what partnerships could support the work of Parliaments in this area? • What practices can be promoted and implemented to ensure that the needs and specificities of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups are taken into consideration? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change mitigation actions in the Arab region <i>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (10 minutes)</i> • Global experiences in parliamentary action supporting climate mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio López de Uralde Garmendia, President of the Committee on Climate Change, Member of the Congress of Deputies, Spain (7 min-virtual) - H.E. Kaaya Christine Nakimwero, Member of Parliament, Shadow Minister for Water and Environment, Uganda (7 min-virtual) • Arab country experiences supporting climate mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intervention by Mr. Hassan Bi Omar, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco (7 min) - Intervention by Mr. Mohamed El-Sayed Mohamed Abu Zeid, General Manager the Central Auditing Organization of Egypt (7 min-virtual)

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	<p>- Intervention by Ms. Rajaa Mohamed Al-Hassan Makkawi, Audit Manager, the National Audit Chamber of the Sudan (7 min)</p> <p>Open discussion (45 minutes)</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2022

BEIRUT TIME	SESSION
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Session IV – Advancing disaster risk reduction in the Arab region: Role of Parliaments in supporting preparedness and resilience to climate risks</p> <p>Climate-related hazards in the Arab region are increasing in both frequency and intensity, adding further complexity to the array of risks hampering the achievement of the SDGs in the region. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires “all-of society” to work together to reduce risk. Women, who are one of the groups that are disproportionately affected by disasters, can have a central role in building community resilience. In this context, the session will discuss the role of parliaments in promoting cross-sectoral, whole of government and whole of society action to reduce and prevent disaster risk while strengthening resilience, especially of those most at risk.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Habib Maaluf, Journalist and Researcher on Climate Change Issues</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the main human and material losses incurred by disasters in the Arab region? • What are the specific needs and vulnerabilities that must be included in disaster risk reduction plans and policies? • What governance structures are needed to reduce and prevent disaster risk in the region? What role can parliaments play? • What key information is needed for Parliaments to effectively undertake their role? Do parliamentarians have access to information/analysis of the situation of those that are most at risk, including women? • What is the role of other actors and what partnerships could support the work of Parliaments in this area? • What practices can be promoted and implemented to ensure that the needs and specificities of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups are taken into consideration? <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding disaster risk reduction in the Arab region- Mr. Walid Ali, Regional Climate Change Specialist, Regional Hub for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (10 min-virtual) • Global experiences in parliamentary action for advancing disaster risk reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Parliament (country to be confirmed) • Arab country experiences for advancing disaster risk reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intervention by Ms. Boghya Saad, member of the National People's Assembly in Algeria (7 min)

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	<p>- Intervention by Ms. Thouna Fakhreddine, member of the People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic (7 min)</p> <p>- Intervention by Ms. Farah Ahmed Al-Farhan Auditor in the Department of Performance Oversight and Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Obaid, Assistant Auditor in the Department of Performance Oversight, the State Audit Bureau of Kuwait (7 min)</p> <p>Open discussion (45 minutes)</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30– 13:00	<p>Session V – Scaling up climate financing in the Arab region and the role of parliaments</p> <p>Implementing climate action will require adequate funding. The regional needs for climate finance are expected to increase over time. In addition to domestic public and private sources of finance, all countries including those of the region can benefit from multilateral and bilateral climate funding. This session will zoom onto climate financing gaps and sources in the Arab region and explore the role of parliaments in scaling up resources and ensuring their good management.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the climate financing needs in the Arab region? What global and regional sources of finance are available and what are the challenges to accessing them? • What national institutions and processes are needed to efficiently access international climate finance, ensure adequate funding in national budgets and channel private investments into relevant climate initiatives? • What lessons have we learned from parliamentary experiences in the region and beyond in that respect? • What is the role of other actors and what partnerships could support the work of Parliaments in this area? • What practices can be promoted and implemented to ensure that the needs and specificities of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups are taken into consideration? <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate financing needs in the Arab region and options for securing them Ms. Lara Geadah, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (10 min) • Mr. Indrajit Bose, Senior Researcher, Third World Network (10 min) • Ms. Hajar Khamlichi, President and Co-founder Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (MYCN) (10 min) • Global and regional experiences in supporting the mobilization of climate finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Parliament (country to be confirmed) <p>Open discussion (45 minutes)</p>

BEIRUT TIME	SESSION
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Session VI– Open discussion – Advancing climate action in Arab countries and preparing for COP28: What needs to change in terms of Parliaments’ mechanisms of work?</p> <p>Based on presentations and discussions up to this point, this open discussion session will help crystallize the key messages of the Forum and identify action areas for Parliaments and other stakeholders to strengthen climate action, including in terms of preparations for COP28.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Social Justice Section, ESCWA</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of parliamentary committees, or inter-committee coordination, are best suited to effectively advance, shape and monitor climate action while improving consistency and complementarity with other development goals? • What information resources are available for parliaments, and how to solidify the science-policy interface to confront climate change? • What mechanisms are needed to strengthen links between the executive and legislative branches of government, and strengthen oversight of climate action? • What mechanisms are needed to elaborate national positions ahead of COP28 negotiations and, post-negotiations, to discuss outcomes and implications for national legislation and policy? • What mechanisms are needed to increase dialogue and communication with citizens in this domain? • What forms of collaboration with stakeholders are needed and how can they be strengthened?
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages of the Forum. • Recommendations for future activities of the Parliamentary Forum.