



Arab Conference for Cooperation on Climate Change
Kuwait, May 29-30, 2023

BROCHURE



INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of climate change is one of the most important challenges facing all countries at the present time. Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly confirm that harmful emissions resulting from anthropogenic activities over the last century, have led to vast concentrations of greenhouse gases being emitted into the Earth's atmosphere. This has undoubtedly contributed to the observed rise in atmospheric temperature, the warming of oceans and the losses caused by extreme climate events being experienced across the world in recent years.

While all studies and field measurements confirm that the contribution of Arab countries to global warming is relatively low; the climate modelling conducted within the framework of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Social-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) projects large swathes of the Arab region will be negatively affected by climate change, as increased temperatures will make the Arab region hotter and drier, the effects of which will impact all economic and social sectors. Indeed, the science shows that average temperatures in the Arab region have already risen by 0.8 °C since the start of this century, and will increase by 4.8 °C by the end of the century under the business-as-usual scenario. Flash floods, droughts, sandstorms and land degradation are already threatening water and food security, impacting urban and rural infrastructure, and affecting livelihoods in vulnerable communities throughout the region.

To mitigate the negative impact of climate change, many Arab countries are making efforts to reduce their carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels and to pursue adaptation measures. Many Arab nations have developed national programs focused on renewable energy, investing large funds into clean energy generation. They have also raised the efficiencies of energy and water usage through improved irrigation schemes and treated wastewater reuse, and some have developed afforestation programs to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and to reduce soil erosion. Some Arab countries are also preparing for carbon capture and storage projects, in addition to adopting economic policies that include providing incentives and subsidies to industries to encourage them to embrace environmentally sound alternatives to fossil fuels.

To confront the wide ranging social and economic repercussions of this global phenomenon, which will negatively impact all of us, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Developments will convene the Arab Conference for Cooperation on Climate Change in the state of Kuwait during the period May 29-30, 2023.

The Conference will examine the impacts of climate change on the Arab region and discuss how to structure green finance instruments and projects to help Arab countries achieve their climate goals. A select group of 100 high level representatives and senior officials from Arab regional scientific and financial institutions and international organizations will contribute to the discussions. The conference will discuss various factors regarding the classification and design of green projects to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change.



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

The Arab Conference for Cooperation on Climate Change aims primarily to strengthen and support the inter-Arab dialogue on climate change; to strengthen cooperation between states in facing negative repercussions of climate change drawing upon a science-based approach; to foster a common understanding among Arab and regional development institutions on ways by which green financial instruments can support the design and implementation of climate projects; to benefit from lessons learned from international and regional organizations in this field; and to launch joint regional Arab initiatives that contribute to supporting the efforts of Arab countries to combat climate change.

The Conference will provide an opportunity for Arab countries, Arab financial institutions, as well as regional and international organizations to discuss common priorities and best means to mobilize funding for adaptation and mitigation based on climate science and a common understanding of what constitutes green financing for climate action in the Arab regional context. This will be pursued with best practices on green finance globally among public and private financial institutions that contributed to the alignment of their project portfolios with established climate goals.

The Conference will also provide an opportunity for Arab financial institutions to study the possibility of expanding their role in supporting Arab cooperation to include collaboration in the field of climate change by establishing practical mechanisms to stimulate and support regional, and bilateral development and teamwork, in accordance with the needs and priorities of each country, and by engaging joint Arab projects and regional initiatives that can accelerate climate action.

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. Climate change repercussions in Arab countries, their social and economic effects, and the requirements for addressing them (adaptation and mitigation).
2. Climate finance needs and flows at the global, regional and national levels and the role of Arab regional and international financing.
3. Defining green projects under a changing climate and based on Arab regional circumstances.
4. Joint Arab projects and regional initiatives for accelerating action in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
5. Prospects for mobilizing green finance for climate change in the Arab countries and building the capabilities of Arab countries and institutions for accelerating climate action.



**CONFERENCE
LANGUAGE**

**CONFERENCE
OUTCOMES**

**PARTICIPATING
INSTITUTIONS AND
ORGANIZATIONS**

**CONFERENCE
VENUE**

Background papers will be provided in both Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation service will be available during conference sessions.

The conference will contribute to the formulation of a common Arab vision on mobilizing green finance to combat climate change. The conference papers and outcome statement will be made available on the conference's dedicated website: www.Climate2023.arabfund.org

Conference participation is on an invitation basis. High-level representatives and senior level officials from development financial institutions, scientists from regional and international organizations, and Arab states ministries responsible for finance, planning, and environment as well as experts from regional and international organizations, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are invited to contribute.

The conference will be held in person in the Abdlatif Y. Al-Hamad's Conference Hall located in the Arab Organizations Headquarter Building in Kuwait. The opportunity to link into the proceedings online will be provided through the Microsoft Teams application.

The conference will begin at 9:00 am on Monday, 29 May, 2023 and will be concluded by 2:00 pm on Tuesday, 30 May. All times are local Kuwait time (BST, GMT +3).

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

The Arab Fund will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of a limited number of invited speakers as well as one nominated high-level representative from each member state.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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