**Climate Change and Human Rights in the Arab Region**

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**Preface**

The relationship between human rights law and the environment is remarkably consistent. Sources agreed that States have obligations under human rights law to protect against harm. Human beings have the right to enjoy a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Damage continues to the human environment, particularly in developing and least-developed countries. There are several specific principles, such as the duties of states to respect and protect humans against environmental damage. In addition, they should provide awareness about that the lack of resources can lead to environmental and human degradation and many environmental challenges, including climate change, ozone depletion, long-range atmospheric pollution. These environmental challenges are threats to human rights across borders and globally. In light of this, the report reviews the challenges facing countries in tackling climate change and the environment in Egypt, Sudan and Oman, as well as a good example of India in combating plastic pollution and how climate change affects world economies.

**Countries facing the challenges of climate change**

The industrial revolution caused increasing in global temperatures by 1.2 ° C compared to the previous period. This would lead to drought and floods and the acceleration of natural disasters, as well as the continued rise in sea levels due to the fusion of the North and South poles in the long term. Usually, the most vulnerable groups who have been hurt the most and most affected. Which is threatening the international effort to eliminate the threat to the human rights. The World Health Organization predicted that between 2030 and 2050 climate change would kill around 250,000 people around the world. The World Bank confirmed that internal migration rates would increase by 2050, forcing more of 43 million people displaced to escape from the slow effects of climate change.

* **The issue of presence in water security in Egypt**

Egypt has been the most Nile basin which is dependent on the Nile for more than 95% of its water. But this has become a real crisis due to several factors, such as Egypt's share of river water since 1959 is only 55.5 billion cubic meters without taking into account the increase in population Which exceeded 100 million people. Egypt is one of the countries most affected by the negative effects of climate change, resulting in billions of economic losses. High temperatures will affect the coasts that are threatened with disappearance.

The confrontation mechanisms came through Egypt's move at all local and regional levels to confront its water crisis. Internationally, the European Union Ambassador in Cairo, Ivan Surkos, affirmed during the Water Works Forum in the context of Egypt's 2030 Development Strategy, on providing 450 million euros as a grant from EU to water sector in 12 Egyptian governorates. On the African level, contacts and intensive meetings continued for the crisis of the Nahda dam in Ethiopia. During these meetings, Egypt reached either partnership with Ethiopia in the process of dam construction or work to reduce the years of filling its storage capacity so as not to affect the flow of water to Egypt using advanced technology.

On the Arab level, in the context of achieving water and food security and sustainable development of Arab affairs, the Arab Water Council signed a joint memorandum of cooperation with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). This memorandum is to promote joint cooperation and research partnerships in the fields of environment, agriculture, water management and natural resources for water resources. At the local level, the Egyptian Prime Minister announced the government's intention to implement an urgent plan to develop environmental resources, rationalize the use of irrigation water and protect the coasts to achieve the country's water security. this is by expanding the implementation of water purification stations and expanding the desalination of sea water in coastal cities.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Finally, concerning Egypt's efforts to use clean coal to generate electricity, Egypt announced in 2018 that it would pay attention to the use of coal as part of its plan until 2035. It will be used in the construction of the Hamrawin station located in the south of Safaga. Which is the latest of its kind in the Middle East, in partnership with companies for the establishment of the first Coal power plant due to the issue of climate change.[[2]](#footnote-2)

* **Sudan and the construction of a nuclear plant**

Sudan benefits from nuclear science and from the International Atomic Energy Agency's assistance to help more than 35 million people to cope with climate change. Activities include new varieties of heat and drought-resistant plants, and the establishment of irrigation systems; making the best use of water and fertilizer. As well as improving Crop yields, and disease vector control using a method that uses nuclear material to control insect pests.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity of Sudan announced that during the next ten years, the first nuclear plant for peaceful uses will be built in Sudan. The project is three phases. Sudan has confirmed that the first phase has been completed and is now in the second phase of identifying the international executing companies and a group of international experts. As well as signing agreements with Russia and China to provide technology to Sudan.[[4]](#footnote-4)

* **The issue of desertification in the Sultanate of Oman**

The Sultanate of Oman has continuous efforts to preserve the good environment. In joint efforts with governmental and international institutions, it has been able to launch several initiatives to address the effects of climate change, especially drought and desertification. The Ministry of Environment with a number of ministries has a strategy to implement some practical solutions to address the danger. One of the successful projects in this issue is the million-palm tree project, which has finished 25% of the country's cultivation. There is also a project to grow one million trees, 800,000 of which have already been planted. They are expected to be completed before 2022. As well as their efforts to reduce global warming emissions, as it targets to reach its dependence on renewable energies to 15-20% in 2030.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Examples of good practices to address climate change**

* **INDIA**

In October 2018, the United Nations Environment Award was awarded to the Indian Prime Minister, thanks to efforts to combat plastic pollution in India and its obligations to address the effects of climate change. India imposed a ban on the use of plastic in the country's capital and prevented New Delhi residents from using plastic bags, Single-use cups and tableware. In 2010, India ranked 12 out of 192 countries in terms of the amount of plastic disposed of in the world's oceans. India has taken a tough stance against one of the world's biggest sources of pollution, "the plastic ban"; due to the continuing deterioration of India's environment. This is in cooperation with Indian Prime Minister and Executive Director of the United Nations, Mr. Erik Solheim, by overcoming single-use plastic materials. Highlighting the rapid economic development of India, in the long term, plastic will be banned once in all Indian states by 2022.

This led to the meeting of several companies, small business owners, innovators and environmental activists to take collective action on plastic pollution. The most important of these was the commitment of (Modi) company to join a clean campaign sponsored by the United Nations 'Clean Environment', which seeks to overcome the plastic pollution in the sea. India has 7,500 km of coastline, the longest coastline in Asia. As a part of the commitment, the Government will establish a national and regional campaign to combat marine litter as well as a program to measure the total marine plastic footprints in Indian coastal waters. Other notable steps towards making India pollution-free include a partnership between the United Nations Environment Program and the Board of Control in India on the "Green Cricket" throughout India. It also pledged to make 100 national parks free of waste.

In addition to innovative solutions to environmental challenges, Western Maharashtra has introduced an urban e-mobility program to reduce emissions. At the same time, the Andhra Pradesh state in south-eastern India has provided a gradual plan for the transfer of 6 million farms from traditional synthetic chemical farming to Zero Budget Natural Farming.[[6]](#footnote-6)

This is a good practical model for combating climate change. Many countries can apply the same methodology to the elimination of plastic pollution, or making partnership with India and cooperate for a world free of plastic pollution as one of working India's initiatives.

**The impact of climate change on world economies**

Global economic growth has been linked to rapid deterioration in the global environment. There has been no interest in economic thought in issues of depletion of natural resources. A rising temperature will increase climate disturbance over the next 30 years, thus, increasing pressure on food and water demand with increasing waves of immigration. The possibility of catastrophic global warming cannot be denied in the coming period. The climate change crisis is not limited to global warming only, but there are other problems such as water shortage, diminishing arable land, and the risk of epidemics and poverty.

* **Expected losses**

World Bank reports indicate that the Earth's temperature could rise to 4 ° C at the end of the next century, which will have disastrous effects on agriculture, water resources and developing countries will be the most affected. With rising the temperature by 3 degrees Celsius, the global average GDP will decline by about 2%. That will affect the tourism industry, which is one of the most important sources of income for a large number of countries, especially the Arab countries.

The rise in temperature will cause a severe decline in the index of countries that depend on tourism. Therefore, the current tourist areas can be converted to areas of no importance in tourism by 2080, according to some estimates. On the other hand, coral reef bleaching caused by increased temperature and acidity of sea water will affect tourism economics in the Red Sea countries, primarily Egypt and Jordan. The erosion of beaches and rising sea levels will affect coastal tourism centers, particularly Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria and Jordan, and Lebanon.

Buildings and infrastructure in some Arab countries at risk due to climate change impacts are estimated at 75% due to rising sea levels and storm surges. The issue that putting transport systems, water and sanitation systems and power plants at high risk. Climate change will also affect negatively on agricultural crops and threaten global agricultural production. This will lead to a rise in food prices, and hence, the burden of the budgets of countries and the high rate of inflation, which may adversely affect the incomes and then the purchasing power and consumption.[[7]](#footnote-7)

In the future, India is the most carbon-affected country in the world. It is expected that the cost per ton will be about $ 86, which is 21% of the total global cost. It's followed by the United States at $ 48 which is 11% of the global cost, then, Saudi Arabia at a cost of $ 47 per ton equivalent to 11% of the global cost. The United Arab Emirates was among the top 10 countries affected by these emissions at a cost of $ 24 per ton.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**Recommendations**

As part of the concern of the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights for the cause of climate change and the efforts and challenges of countries to address this issue, we commend the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the environment and recommend:

* To make a visit to India and submit a report detailing India's actions in the control of plastic pollution in order to learn other countries about this model which could be followed.
* The Special Rapporteur should assist States that have plans to address climate change regarding the effectiveness of action through strategies and coordination. Especially, where those who are responsible cannot fulfill their obligations by enabling rights holders to develop, only through effective human rights-oriented policies, rights-based and coordinated strategies and support from stakeholders.
* The Special Rapporteur should call for exchanging experiences and good practices in the use of the working framework for addressing the issue of climate change among States.
* The Special Rapporteur should adopt comprehensive research and analysis of the experiences and challenges of successful States to support other states through the Human Rights Council.
* The Special Rapporteur should establish a constructive dialogue with governments, international organizations, the international community and relevant actors to address challenges and focusing on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

1. For more information, please, check this link: <https://bit.ly/2Vyj7C4> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. الكهرباء- تكشف تفاصيل أول محطة توليد بالفحم في الحمراوين – صدي البلد 16 ابريل 2018 <https://bit.ly/2wblTmv> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. الوكالة وتغير المناخ: التكيف معه ورصده والتخفيف من حدته – الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية 17 يناير 2019 <https://bit.ly/2VDX8cU> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. السودان يتجه لبناء أول محطة نووية 3 سبتمبر 2018 <https://bit.ly/2NJz1GF> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. جهود عمان لمواجهة الضغوط البيئية <https://bit.ly/2Whi7GX> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. الهند تحدد وتيرة السياق العالمي نحو التغلب علي التلوث البلاستيكي <https://bit.ly/2JYalvc>

   تقير جديد يقدم توقعات عالمية بشأن الجهود المبذولة للتغلب علي التلوث البلاستيكي <https://bit.ly/2JysJeI>

   الهند تحظر استخدام البلاستيك وحيد الاستعمال <https://bit.ly/2JxLcIc> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ثر التغير المناخي المرتقب علي اقتصاديات دول العالم – العين الإخبارية 1 ديسمبر 2018 <https://bit.ly/2WeSJkZ> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. الدول الغنية الأكثر تضرراً من التكلفة الاجتماعية لانبعاثات الكربون- بنك المعرفة المصري 17 أكتوبر 2018 <https://bit.ly/2HtxaF3> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)