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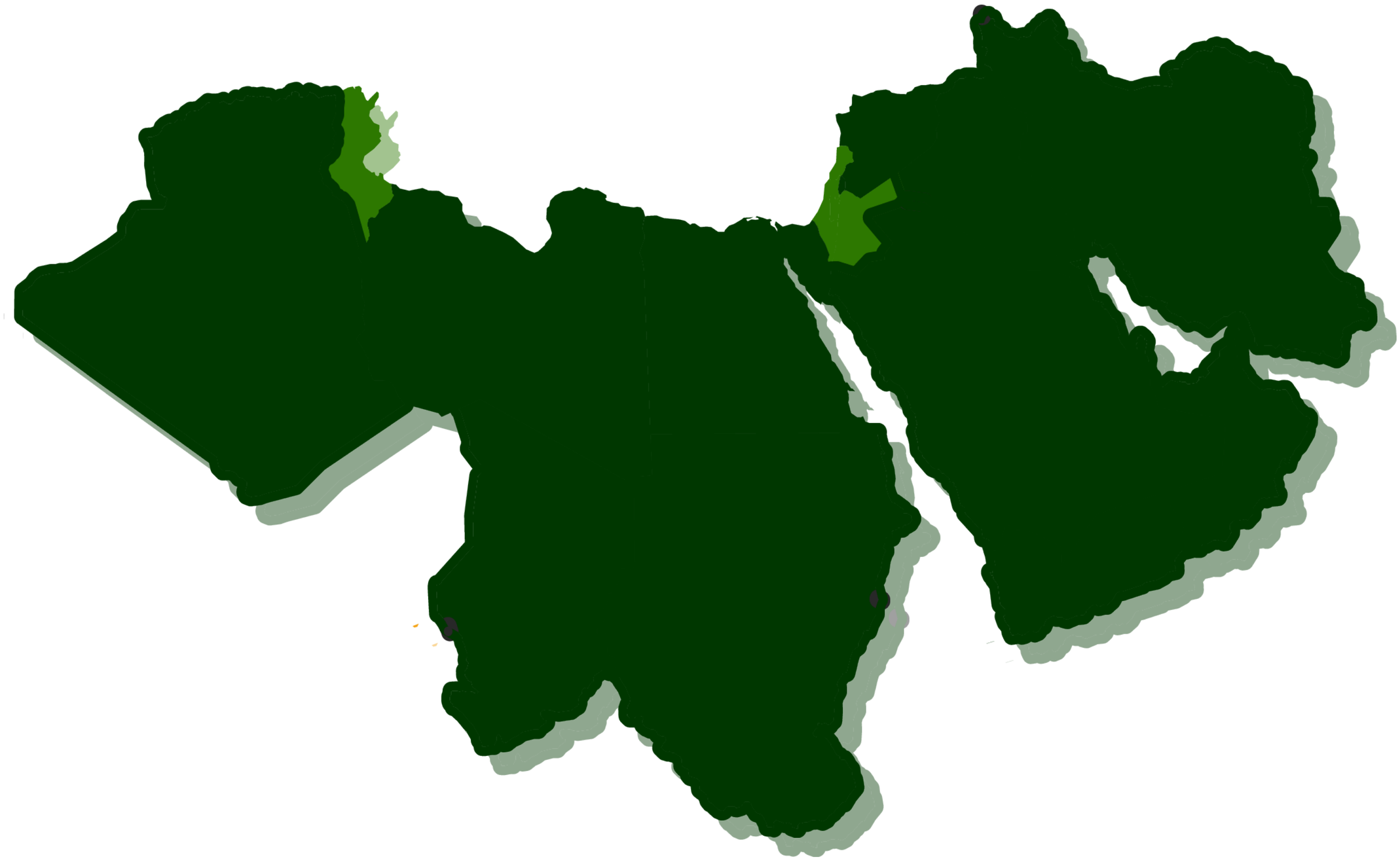
POSITION PAPER

Youth Perspectives on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Tunisia

In cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Palestine and Jordan



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Authors

Team Jordan

Mohammad Tabanjah

Team Lebanon

Khawla Msheik
Jana Rashed
Zahraa Najjar

TeamTunisia

Wafaa Hmadi

Team Palestine

- Bissan Abu Hawwash
- Bisan Safi
- Mohammad Dasht
- Tuqa Bader

MYCN II Project Team

Abdallah Dreiat –GGF Executive Programs Lead
Anas Alzawahreh – GGF Project Coordinator

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About Green Generation Foundation

Green Generation Foundation (GGF) was founded in 2014 as an Environmental Youth-led Organization.
It aims to empower a new generation that is able to adapt to and understand ongoing worldwide environmental changes and create future leaders with the skills to solve environmental and climate-related challenges.

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Table of abbreviation

AF	Adaptation Fund
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRE	Decentralized Renewable Energy Law
EDL	Électricité du Liban
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGF	Green Generation Foundation
GHG	Green House Gas
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LMI	Low - and Middle -income
LTS	Long-term Strategy
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoE	Ministry of Environment of Lebanon
MoEnv	Ministry of Environment of Jordan

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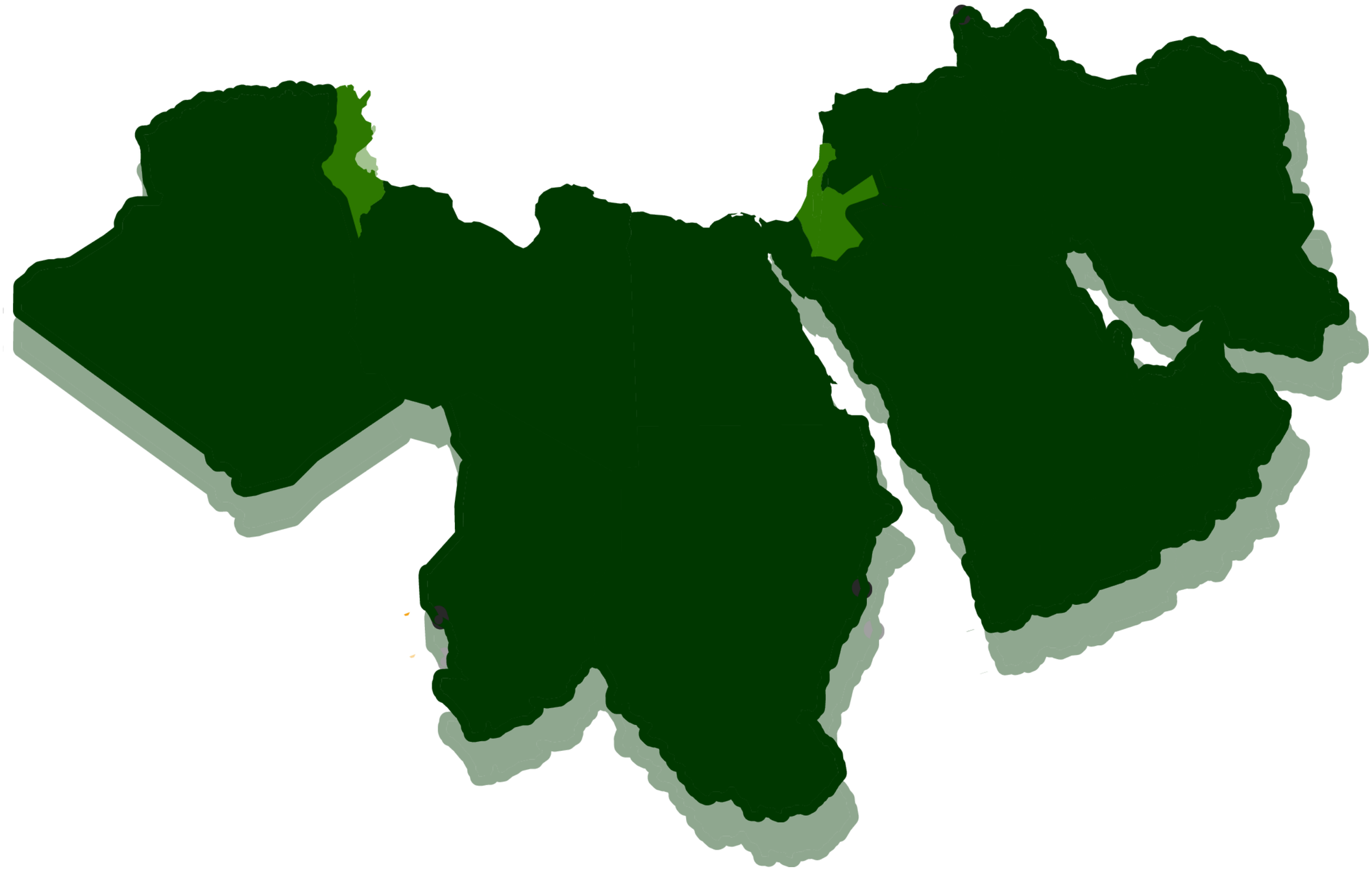
Table of abbreviation

MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
MWI	Ministry of Water and Irrigation of Jordan
NCCAP	National Climate Change Adaptation Plan
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPPS	Public-Private Partnerships
PV	Photovoltaic
PWD	People with Disabilities
SAP	Systematic Action Plan (for early warning systems)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEF	Water-Energy-Food
WFP	World Food Program

Background:

1. Climate Change in the MENA Region



The MENA region is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its naturallyharsh climate, extremely high temperatures, limited groundwater and rainfall, and scarce agricultural land. This area is the most water-stressed region globally, exacerbated by water and precipitation scarcity, high population growth, and geographic population concentration. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The region is experiencing an overall warming trend, with increases in annual and seasonal average temperatures, a rise in heatwave days, and a decrease in precipitation, particularly in North Africa. These changes are expected to intensify, leading to severe economic, health, and environmental consequences. Even with global warming limited to 2°C, heat-stress mortality risk for people over 65 could increase by three to seven times by 2100 (Ahmadalipour & Moradkhani, 2018).

Over the last fifty years, the Middle East has warmed at rates significantly higher than other regions, with an estimated 0.45°C increase per decade, nearly double the rate of Europe. Areas such as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and the Arabian Peninsula are particularly affected. Extreme summer heatwaves occurred across the Levant and Middle East in 2020 and 2021, with temperatures surpassing 50°C in Iraq and other Persian Gulf countries. These warming trends are associated with more frequent droughts, heatwaves, and other catastrophic weather events. For instance, flooding in Egypt, Iran, and
Tunisia in 2020 caused human displacement, while wildfires spread in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that climate disasters in the region cause an annual average of $2 billion in direct material damages and affect over seven million residents each year (Duenwald, et al., 2022) (Garthwaite, 2019) (Alegría & Pörtner, 2022).

Rainfall projections vary greatly by country but generally indicate a decrease. For example, remote-sensing data suggests that rainfall in Jordan will decrease by 30%, with drought likelihood tripling by 2100. Reliance on groundwater will remain a major concern as countries already struggle with depleted aquifers and groundwater scarcity. A 2023 IPCC report highlights that areas of high importance for biodiversity conservation are at extreme risk as temperatures increase across the Middle East.

IMF has reported that changing temperatures and precipitation patterns correlate with a decrease in per capita income, particularly due to damage to the agricultural sector.

Climate modeling confirms trends such as decreasing crop yields, rising sea levels, intensifying sand and dust storms, accelerating desertification, diminishing snowpack, and increasing displacement from low-lying coastal areas, projecting increasingly evident consequences without significant mitigation and sustainability efforts. The danger to the social, political, and economic fabric of the region cannot be overstated (Duenwald, et al., 2022) (Garthwaite, 2019) (Alegría & Pörtner, 2022).

Moreover, climate change significantly affects agriculture in the MENA region, particularly in semi-arid and coastal areas. It leads to reduced crop productivity, salinization, desertification, increased water shortages, and worsening working conditions. The agricultural sector is already under pressure due to high population growth, declining resource bases, and strict constraints on supply expansion. With only 5% of total land being arable and a high dependence on groundwater, sustainable agricultural practices are crucial for the region.

Although the agricultural sector contributes less than 10% to the total value added, it employs 22% of the workforce, including 31% of women, and supports 70% of the rural poor (Nin-Pratt, El-Enbaby, Figueroa, Eldidi, & Breisinger, 2017).

Therefore, agriculture plays a vital role in

environmental sustainability, food security, socio-political stability, and migration. The sector accounts for about 85% of total freshwater use in the region, making it central to any successful climate adaptation strategy.

Food security in MENA is heavily dependent on both domestic production and international markets, as the region is a net food importer. High-income countries in the region can cushion against food price shocks through budgetary resources and overseas farmland acquisitions, while Low-and Middle-Incomecountries face greater vulnerability. The adverse impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity exacerbate unemployment and social instability, contributing to migration and potentially increasing conflict risks (Paris Agreement, 2015).

On the other hand, migration, driven by climate change effects on agriculture and water resources, is a significant trend in the MENA region. The region accounts for a substantial portion of the global migrant and internally displaced populations.

Both temporary displacements due to extreme weather events and long-term migrations due to slow-onset climate processes are expected to rise. Climate change in sub-Saharan Africa further contributes to migration pressures in MENA as a destination or transit region (Defrance, 2017).

Addressing climate change in the MENA region requires comprehensive public policies that integrate environmental protection with broader development strategies. This includes migration management, social stability, poverty reduction, and inequality mitigation. Effective international cooperation and assistance are essential for building resilience against the diverse and severe impacts of climate change in the region.

Source: ReWater MENA

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2. Introduction to the National Determined Contribution (NDC) Process

Global efforts to combat climate change impacts are marked by collaborative actions across nations to limit global warming, enhance resilience, and transition towards sustainable economies. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, serves as a landmark framework for uniting countries in their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering climate adaptation. Initiatives like renewable energy expansion, afforestation, sustainable urban development, and circular economy practices are being actively implemented worldwide. Financial mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, are enabling vulnerable nations to address climate-related challenges. Central to these efforts are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which outline each country's specific climate action plans, ensuring accountability and progress toward global goals (Paris Agreement, 2015).

According to the latest UN report, the collective climate pledges from 193 Parties under the Paris Agreement could potentially steer the world towards a temperature rise of approximately 2.5°C by the century's end (Paris Agreement, 2015). This is a significant reduction compared to previous trajectories but still falls short of the 1.5°C target. The report further reveals that under current commitments, emissions are projected to increase by 10.6% by 2030 (Defrance, 2017). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasized in its 2018 report the necessity of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 to meet the 1.5°C goal.(Duenwald, et al., 2022). This stark reminder highlights the urgency for enhanced and more ambitious NDCs.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement. They reflect each country's efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement, mandates that each Party prepares, communicates, and maintains successive NDCs that they intend to achieve. These contributions are crucial in determining whether the world can meet the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and achieve a global peak in greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible (Ahmadalipour & Moradkhani, 2018). The agreement recognizes that developing countries may need more time to peak their emissions due to their unique developmental challenges and priorities, including sustainable development and poverty eradication (Garthwaite, 2019). Therefore, equity and fairness are integral to the NDC framework, ensuring that all countries contribute according to their capabilities and responsibilities.

NDCs are not static; they are designed to become more ambitious over time. Every five years, countries submit updated NDCs to UNFCCC Secretariat, each reflecting progress beyond the previous submissions and embodying the highest possible

ambition (Dasgupta, 2011). This iterative process aims to foster a continuous escalation of global climate efforts, driving collective and individual ambitions to new heights. The Paris Agreement's mechanism for NDCs relies on NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement. They reflect each country's efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. Article 4, paragraph 2 of Paris Agreement, mandates that each Party prepares, communicates, and maintains successive NDCs that they intend to achieve.

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Methodology

The methodology of the position paper follows a structured and participatory approach to ensure the inclusion of youth voices in the analysis and evaluation of NDCs in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Tunisia. This approach aligns with the project's objectives and leverages available resources, ensuring that the chosen methods are appropriate for generating valid and reliable results.
Throughout the project, participants employed various tools to develop the paper's methodology, as outlined below:

1. Desk Review:

The teams collected and analyzed existing information and data from secondary sources, a
crucial step for understanding the current body of knowledge, identifying gaps, and providing context for further research. The desk review involved gathering information from a wide range of resources, including:

- UNFCCC Technical Documents and Reports
- Online Databases
- Academic Journals and Articles

2. Literature Review:

The primary goal of the literature review was to provide a comprehensive overview of existing research, theories, and findings related to the topic of study. This ensured familiarity with the subject area and helped establish a credible foundation for the paper by engaging with authoritative sources. The project team also focused on sharing relevant past experiences that align with the project concept, such as the work of the Tunisian Youth Climate Committee in analyzing NDCs.

A presentation by our colleague, Wafaa, highlighted the Tunisian youth's experience, detailing how they designed their methodology, developed data collection methods, and shared best practices and lessons learned for analyzing NDCs.

3. Participatory Approach (Peer-to-Peer Learning):

Green Generation Foundation (GGF) facilitated participatory approaches throughout the project, enabling participants to share their perspectives, experiences, and ideas, while empowering them to take on leadership roles within the team through peer-to-peer learning methodologies

Each team analyzed its country's NDCs, and a series of follow-up and consultation meetings were held to consolidate the key points included in the paper. This methodology-enhanced participants' knowledge and skills to engage more effectively in formulating and updating NDCs and other national climate strategies. Furthermore, it promoted effective communication strategies between youth participants at the national and regional levels. In July 2024, GGF hosted a regional gathering in Amman that served as a capacity-building opportunity and a space for peer-to-peer learning. With the support of an expert with extensive knowledge in climate diplomacy and UNFCCC conferences, participants gained valuable insights into the complexities of international climate negotiations and strengthened their ability to advocate for meaningful climate action within the framework of the UNFCCC.

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Executive Summary of the Position Paper

The MENA Youth Climate Negotiators II Program's regional position paper "Youth perspectives in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Tunisia". Youth in the MENA region play a crucial role in climate action by driving advocacy, innovation, and grassroots initiatives to advance sustainable policies, influence national climate strategies, and foster community resilience. The paper emphasizes the urgent need for robust climate action in the MENA region as countries update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to align with global climate targets. Jordan aims for a 31% reduction in emissions by 2030, focusing on risk-informed adaptation, civil society engagement, and a strong Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system. The paper recommends activating the National Climate Change Policy, improving data collection through technology, and fostering transparency to ensure effective NDC implementation and strengthen Jordan's climate resilience. Palestine's NDCs address challenges posed by the Israeli occupation, prioritizing adaptation and mitigation in water, energy, and agriculture, while calling for international support to to strengthen resilience across the water-energy-food nexus while addressing occupation-related challenges.

Lebanon, grappling with climate vulnerability and economic crises, requires urgent legislative reforms, enhanced local governance, and better climate data management to implement its NDCs. Key recommendations include advocating for international support, enhancing adaptation strategies in water and agriculture, promoting renewable energy, and improving monitoring and capacity-building systems.

Tunisia's NDCs target a 45% emissions reduction by 2030, with a strong focus on adaptation in water, agriculture, and coastal zones, alongside ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women and youth. Across the region, there is a shared call for international support, capacity building, and investments in climate resilience to achieve NDC targets and contribute to global climate goals. The paper also emphasizes the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, and people with disabilities, ensuring their active participation in climate action for equitable outcomes.

Jordan Team Position

Introduction

Jordan's diverse geography, with desert regions, highlands, and the Jordan Valley, presents a complex vulnerability profile to climate change (UNFCCC, 2019). Highlighting this diverse landscape and the potential sector-specific impacts strengthens the argument for a tailored NDC approach (Paris Agreement and NDCs, 2015) (NDC Jordan, 2021)(IPCC Report, 2018). While Jordan's political structure, a constitutional monarchywith a representative government, facilitates multi-stakeholder engagement, the paper acknowledges the additional challenges posed by a youthful population and a significant refugee presence.

This demographic context reinforces the need for sustainable development and job creation strategies within the NDC framework. Jordan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outlines its commitment to mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing adaptation measures. The country's national target is to reduce emissions by 31% by 2030, with 5% unconditional reductions and the remaining 26% conditional on international support (NDC Jordan, 2021).

Jordan faces a unique combination of environmental and socioeconomic challenges that make certain sectors particularly vulnerable to climate change (UNESCWA, 2023).

Source: Flickr,Mohamod Al Doori

The nation's dependence on limited natural resources, coupled with population growth and economic development pressures, underscores the need to focus on key sectors. Furthermore, the paper identifies six key development sectors – water, energy, agriculture, transport, industry, and waste management– and analyzes their specific vulnerabilities to climate change. Highlighting these vulnerabilities strengthens the rationale for targeted adaptation and mitigation measures within the NDC (World Bank, 2022). Therefore, the paper proposes three key areas for strengthening Jordan's NDC:

1. Risk-informed Adaptation Strategies Enhancing Climate Resilience in Jordan

This paper advocates for a strengthened climate adaptation strategy in Jordan. While the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NCCAP) provides a solid foundation, demonstrably greater advancements are necessary to ensure long-term resilience. This document proposes a clear position that leverages data-driven vulnerability assessments and prioritizes targeted interventions in critical sectors like water resource management and food security.

- We appreciate the NDCs that are seekingto develop adaptation strategies enhancing climate resilience in Jordan at several separate levels, which focused on building climate action based on a study of climate risk assessments (i.e., Action 2 of Point 4.1.3.), and we encourage to generalize this mechanism to other actions in points that require it through the creation of multiple and diverse climate risk assessment reports for the benefitof the NDCs (i.e., making the Point 4.2.2. Based on climate risk assessment to determine the area's susceptible to drought).

- We demand systematically integrate climate risk information into national development plans, sectoral strategies, and infrastructure investments. This ensures the long-term sustainability and resilience of Jordan's economic activities and infrastructure development.

- The Strengthening of a dedicated Climate Change Directorate within the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) is an appreciated step, and we are following with interest its occurrence. We hope that the directorate will take more legal powers that integrate with its new responsibilities.

- According to Jordan's Fourth National Communication on Climate Change: "The drought in Jordan will increase!!", so we propose to review the following actions: Develop a comprehensive climate change agriculture resilience investment plan, early warning systems for droughts should be strengthened, alongside reliable financial resources for drought compensation. Local farmers' knowledge should be integrated into drought management strategies.

2. Strengthening the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification System for NDC Implementation.

A robust MRV system is critical for successful implementation of Jordan's NDCs. We hope that these position statements will serve as

key enhancements to strengthen Jordan's existing MRV system, fostering transparency, accountability, and effective progress tracking towards its climate goals. Jordan's ambitious NDCs necessitate a robust MRV systemto ensure their effective implementation.

2.1. Activating policies and committees in a sustainable manner

- It is necessary to activate the final draft of the Long-term Strategy (LTS): "the National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan2022-2050" that was published in the UNFCCC website in Sep 2022 (UNFCCC, 2023) to all governmental institutions and ministries and set SMART deadlines for them to renew their policies, systems, and instructions in accordance with the LTS. This circular would activate the important provisions in the LTS and make them a reality on the ground soon.

- We believe that the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) has immense potential to drive significant progress. by adopting more flexible, transparent, and active management strategies, committed to achieving

- NCCC goals and deadlines. To enhance its effectiveness, we encourage the NCCC Chair (MoEnv) to foster the engagement of youth and civil society organizations (CSOs) as observers in discussions and meetings, ensuring diverse perspectives and fostering accountability.

- We call for establishing a multi-stakeholder consultative process involving government agencies, research institutions, CSOs, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. This collaborative approach ensures the indicator framework is technically excelled, reflects national priorities, and fosters broad ownership of the NDC implementation process.

2.2. Technology-Enhanced Data Collection and Management:

- We support all possible forms of digitization in the field of collecting important data and emphasize the need for up-to-date, comprehensive, periodic data that is available, accessible and clear to the public and to climate change specialists. Examples of this digitization include explore big data analytics to glean valuable insights into complex environmental trends and inform evidence-based decision-making for NDCs implementation.

- In confirmation of our clear position on involving civil society with its institutions and competencies in the

climate policy-making process, and to ensure that this partnership is positive, we demand that it has to be invested capacity building initiatives to equip relevant stakeholders, academic institutions, CSOs, INGOs, and NGOs with the skills necessary to operate and utilize these new technologies for effective MRV purposes.

3. Fostering Civil Society Engagement for Enhanced NDC Implementation

Civil society organizations are critical partners in achieving Jordan's ambitious climate goals. Their expertise, advocacy skills, and community reach can significantly contribute to increased transparency, public participation, and ultimately, the success of the NDC implementation process. This paper proposes a three-pronged approach to empower CSOs and leverage their full potential:

- We encourage increased collaboration and coordination between government institutions and civil society institutions. We thus encourage providing platforms for open access to NDC progress reports, climate policies, and underlying data fosters trust with CSOs. This transparency empowers them to become ACTIVE and informed participants in climate action.

- We look forward to starting some forms of engagement with stakeholders, academic institutions CSOs, INGOs, and NGOs through workshops, public forums, and online platforms to gather feedback for refining NDC implementation strategies and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for achieving our climate goals. Regular forums involving CSOs, government agencies, and the private sector are crucial for:

- Facilitate regular discussions to identify the solutions related to NDC implementations.
- NGOs can provide on-the-ground experience and propose innovative solutions, leading to continuous improvement of NDC strategies.

- Collaboration unlocks opportunities for joint projects, co-funding initiatives, sharing knowledge, and innovative solutions combining expertise from all stakeholders.

Recommendations

This paper recommends actions to improve Jordan's NDC effectiveness:

1.Risk-informed Adaptation Strategies:

- Conduct vulnerability assessments to target adaptation efforts.

- Integrate climate risks into national development plans.

- Prioritize action in water resource management and food security.

2.Strengthen Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification:

- Activate the National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2022 - 2050.
- Allowing civil engagement by youth and CSOs with the NCCC as observers.
- Develop a comprehensive framework with measurable indicators.
- Leverage technology for data collection and analysis within the available resources.
- Ensure transparent reporting and communication strategies.

3. Fostering Civil Society Engagement:

- Promote open access to information on NDC progress.
- Build CSOs capacity for advocacy and action on climate change locally.
- Develop communication and storytelling skills for effective outreach.

Conclusion

By focusing on smart adaptation strategies, transparent monitoring systems, and stronger collaboration with civil society, Jordan can make real progress on its climate goals. This means tackling the most vulnerable sectors—like water, agriculture, and energy—with targeted solutions, while ensuring everyone stays accountable through clear tracking and reporting. Collaborating with civil society groups is equally crucial. These organizations bring local knowledge and connect communities to climate action, making it more inclusive and impactful. By investing in tools to assess climate risks, empowering civil society, and building a dedicated monitoring team, Jordan can turn its climate plans into real change. These efforts will not just help Jordan meet its climate targets—they will pave the way for sustainable growth, stronger communities, and a brighter, greener future for all. Together, Jordan can lead the way in tackling the challenges of climate change.

Palestine Team Position

Introduction

Palestine's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted in October 2021, underscore its commitment to addressing climate change amid significant climate vulnerability in the MENA region. Despite having minimal global emissions, which account for less than 0.01% as indicated in the NDCs (NDC Palestine State, 2021), Palestine remains committed to addressing climate change. The updated NDCs aim to set increased ambition in mitigation and adaptation, with 14 detailed action plans targeting sectors like agriculture, energy, and water emphasizing international support for financing and technology. They also aim to demonstrate gender-responsive, time-bound, and measurable plans, indicating Palestine's commitment to climate leadership. These contributions emphasize immediate, near future, and long-term adaptation measures, tailoring climate action strategies to two potential scenarios: independence or the continuation of the status quo.

Aligned with the UNFCCC principles, Palestine's NDCs integrate with its National Development Plan 2021-2023, despite challenges posed by the Israeli occupation. Its Partnership Plan provides for developing NDC implementation action plans addressing the nexus between sectors, which needs to be developed. However, the NDCs face criticism for lacking comprehensive adaptation strategies, especially in times of crisis.

Source: Flickr,Abarilturr

These contributions emphasize immediate, near future, and long-term adaptation measures, tailoring climate action strategies to two potential scenarios: independence or the continuation of the status quo. Vulnerabilities in key sectors like agriculture, energy, and water are compounded by political restrictions and control over natural resources, such as water and arable land. Palestine prioritizes climate adaptation and strives to meet Paris Agreement mitigation goals.

Palestine's NDCs in the Water, Energy, and Agriculture Sectors

The water, energy, and agriculture sectors are crucial in the Palestinian context, particularly as outlined in Palestine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. These sectors directly influence Palestinian communities' resilience, well-being, and economic stability, where resource scarcity and geopolitical challenges create unique vulnerabilities.

Access to safe water is essential for health, agriculture, and industry in Palestine. Yet, the region faces significant water scarcity, exacerbated by political constraints on water rights, infrastructure limitations, and climate change. Addressing water management and improving water supply systems through NDC commitments can help alleviate shortages, reduce dependency on external sources, and build resilience against droughts and extreme weather patterns.

Additionally, reliable energy access is critical for supporting daily life, economic activities, and essential services in Palestine. Currently, the energy sector heavily depends on imports, primarily from Israel, making it susceptible to supply disruptions. By investing in renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency through the NDCs, Palestine aims to enhance energy security, reduce costs, and decrease its carbon footprint, contributing to sustainable development goals.

Furthermore, agriculture plays a vital role in Palestine's economy and food security, especially as it provides livelihoods for many in rural areas. However, the sector faces challenges due to land access restrictions, water scarcity, and climate-related risks. Palestine's NDCs in agriculture focus on sustainable practices, such as improving crop resilience and efficient water usage, both critical for adapting to climate impacts and ensuring a stable food supply.

Together, these sectors represent key areas where strategic climate action can strengthen Palestine's autonomy, improve living standards, and facilitate a sustainable future in the face of complex challenges.

- **Water Sector**

Israeli occupation policies severely restrict Palestinian access to water resources, crucial for agriculture, drinking water, and sanitation. They control more than 85% (Environmental Quality Authority, 2023) of Palestinians' groundwater resources. The diversion of water sources to Israeli settlements and industries leaves Palestinians with limited and unreliable water supplies, exacerbating water scarcity

and impeding efforts to manage water sustainably. Palestinians face challenges in developing infrastructure for water treatment and distribution due to restrictions on movement and access to construction materials. Moreover, the destruction of water infrastructure and wells under occupation disrupts water supply, affecting agricultural productivity and public health.

In the aftermath of the last war in the Gaza Strip, individuals now have access to only (3-15) liters of water per day, which is below the minimum recommended by the World Health Organization's standard of 100 liters per day (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The updated NDCs mark a positive shift, presenting a more comprehensive approach with specific conditional actions and targets. These actions address key vulnerabilities and can be further strengthened to enhance crisis preparedness.

Palestine has developed action plans for water treatment and conservation, and improving water networks and sources. The plan includes reusing 70% of treated wastewater in large-scale plants by 2030, reducing non-revenue water by 15%, rehabilitating all identified wells, and harvesting 7 million cubic meters (MCM) of rainwater in the West Bank. Moreover, the NDCs prioritize the construction of the Gaza Central Desalination Plant, aiming to provide 55 million cubic meters of desalinated water annually. This is a critical step for Gaza, where 97% of existing water in the coastal aquifer is undrinkable due to over-extraction (Environmental Quality Authority, 2023). This is exacerbated by the gaps in the energy sector and is negatively affecting the agricultural sector.

- **Energy Sector**

The energy sector in Palestine is heavily impacted by occupation-related restrictions and dependencies. Palestinians rely on imported electricity, primarily sourced from Israel, subject to frequent shortages and high costs. The lack of autonomy in energy production and distribution limits infrastructure development and renewable energy initiatives. Moreover, energy infrastructure is vulnerable to Israeli military actions and restrictions, disrupting services and hindering efforts to achieve energy security and sustainability. Restrictions on fuel imports and access to natural resources impede economic development and exacerbate socio-economic disparities.

In the energy sector, rising temperatures increase energy demand, but Palestine's domestic electricity production meets only 7% of consumption (Environment Quality Authority, 2021). The NDCs focus on promoting renewable energy, improving energy distribution and efficiency, and repairing damage to the electrical grid. Targets include upgrading the electricity grid for renewable energy distribution, enhancing energy efficiency by 20% by 2035, and generating 20-33% of electricity from renewable sources by 2040. These actions have high adaptation co-benefits by improving the security of energy supply and air quality, which will be beneficial to many sectors such as industry, water, and agriculture.

- ## Agriculture and Food Sector

Occupation policies, including land confiscations, movement restrictions, and the
blockade of Gaza, undermine Palestinian food security. Palestinian farmers, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza, face difficulties accessing their lands due to Israeli settlements and military checkpoints. This restricts agricultural production and limits the diversity of crops cultivated, affecting food availability and nutrition. The blockade of Gaza further exacerbates food insecurity, with severe implications for public health and socio-economic stability. Israeli restrictions on imports and exports also hinder economic opportunities and food sovereignty in Palestine.

For agriculture, climate change projections indicate higher temperatures and reduced rainfall, posing risks to soil stability, water quality, and crop yields. The NDCs propose climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate-resilient land planning, with goals such as 50% of farms applying gender-sensitive CSA by 2040 and annual increases in rehabilitated forest and rangeland areas. These efforts aim to sustain food production, secure livelihoods, and ensure food security.

Palestine's NDCs emphasize international support for financing, technology, and capacity building to achieve these adaptation goals, integrating gender responsiveness and equity across all sectors.

Resilience Through Integration: Mitigating Water, Energy, and Food Risks in Palestine

In alignment with Palestine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), efforts to enhance resilience across the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus are critical, especially under the considerable increase in climate impacts. Integrated management of water, energy, and food systems is pivotal for mitigating risks, particularly under limited access to natural resources, not to mention the evident exploitation of said resources by the Israeli occupation. Palestine's fragile food systems in the West Bank and Gaza prove to be a challenge, with substantial implications for food security and agricultural sustainability.

The World Food Program (WFP) reports alarming levels of food insecurity, particularly in Gaza, where over 96% of severely food-insecure individuals reside (United Nations Office for The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2023) . [MD1] [GU2] Restricted access to arable land and water resources, compounded by market limitations due to Israeli restrictions, stresses Gaza's heavy reliance on food imports.

The energy sector in the West Bank and Gaza faces significant complications, characterized by high demand and dependency on imports that reach over 89% from Israel for electricity alone (Juaidi, Montoya et al., 2016), highlighting sensitivity to external supply disruptions. Both regions experience frequent electricity shortages, with Gaza often enduring severe deficits, limiting daily availability to only a few hours. Additionally, Since October 11, 2023, the situation has become more critical as Gaza’s

power plant shut down due to a lack of fuel, leaving the power grid without electricity and causing a complete blackout with an urgent need for more fuel. Frequent electricity shortages, especially severe in Gaza, limit power availability to only a few hours daily, stemming from infrastructure constraints and political complexities. Water and energy sectors are intricately linked, particularly in Gaza, where desalination and water treatment plants are major energy consumers. Energy demand for these facilities is expected to rise significantly, driven by restrictions imposed on Palestinians, especially under the current ongoing circumstances. The adoption of renewable energy in water facilities could boost sustainability and reduce operational costs.

Addressing these gaps is crucial for enhancing resilience. The NDC should develop detailed crisis-specific adaptation strategies. A holistic approach should be taken to ensure that climate change or non-climate change activities in one sector do not restrict adaptation in other sectors.

During crisis times, the interdependencies between water, energy, agriculture, and food become even more crucial. The dependence on Israeli imports and shared transmission infrastructure increases the severe power and water supply shortages in the West Bank and Gaza. Particularly in Gaza, where energy consumption for water treatment, particularly seawater desalination and wastewater treatment, is significant and is expected to grow. Policies should encourage the development of off-grid renewable energy systems, promote local energy generation, and support utility-scale energy storage technologies to ensure uninterrupted power supply during crises.

Efforts to enhance agricultural productivity while conserving water resources necessitate innovative approaches. Advances in climate-smart agricultural technologies, including
drip irrigation and drought-resistant crop varieties, offer potential solutions. Increasing wastewater reuse for irrigation, supported by strong regulatory frameworks and infrastructure, presents a sustainable path forward. Integrating renewable energy technologies, such as solar PV and biogas digesters, into agricultural practices not only enhances energy efficiency but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, promoting agricultural resilience to energy supply disruptions.

In the context of agriculture, these interdependencies highlight the vulnerability of food production systems to energy and water shortages. Modern agricultural practices require energy and water to perform activities such as land preparation, irrigation, planting, harvesting, transportation, and processing. Integrating renewable energy sources in agriculture, such as photovoltaic power and biogas digesters, can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, lower GHG emissions, and provide independence for farmers.

The water-energy-food nexus is a powerful framework for identifying synergies and managing risks arising from these linkages, especially in contexts like the West Bank and Gaza strip, where access to natural

resources is restricted. From this position and the aforementioned implications of the occupation on the nexus, we recommend the following.

Recommendations

1. Advocacy for International Support and Recognition:

Engage with international stakeholders, including UN agencies, donor countries, and climate finance mechanisms, to secure dedicated funding for implementing NDC-aligned projects.

2. Enhancing Adaptation Strategies in the Water Sector:

Develop crisis-specific adaptation plans that integrate climate-resilient infrastructure, enhance water governance frameworks and regulations, and promote sustainable groundwater management. Advocate internationally for Palestinian water rights and equitable access to shared water resources. For immediate action, deploy more water tankers to store and transport water, ensure a reliable supply to affected areas and safer water transfers, increase mobile treatment units, and distribute point-of-use filters to households for immediate use.

3. Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:

Expand investment in solar and wind energy projects, particularly in areas with high renewable energy potential. Strengthen energy efficiency measures and infrastructure resilience to mitigate the impact of energy shortages on socio-economic stability, promote energy-efficient farming and off-grid distributed solar power, and engage with low-income consumers and small/micro enterprises. For immediate action, accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources to improve energy security and reduce dependence on imports, despite restrictions imposed by the occupation.

4. Safeguarding Agricultural Resilience and Food Security:

Support climate-smart agricultural practices, including sustainable land management, drought-resistant crop varieties, and efficient irrigation systems. Advocate for policies that facilitate access to agricultural lands, reduce trade restrictions, and promote local food production to enhance food security. For immediate action, enhance agricultural resilience to climate change impacts and ensure food security amidst occupation-related challenges support climate-smart agricultural practices, including sustainable land management, drought-resistant crop varieties, and efficient irrigation systems, advocate for policies that facilitate access to agricultural lands, reduce trade restrictions, and promote local food production to enhance food security.

5. Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Capacity Building:

Establish strong MRV systems to track climate actions and outcomes. Build technical capacity within government agencies and civil society organizations to enhance transparency and accountability in climate governance. Moreover, improve data collection and management practices to ensure information is accessible, up-to-date, and reliable.

Conclusion

Coordinated efforts at both national and international levels are critical to addressing Palestine's climate adaptation and mitigation needs. Palestine's NDCs, though ambitious, must be refined to include crisis-specific adaptation strategies, robust monitoring systems, and better integration of water, energy, and food security concerns. Leveraging international support and mobilizing local capacity are essential to overcoming the compounded challenges of occupation and climate vulnerability.

Building resilience across the water, energy, and agriculture sectors requires innovative, inclusive, and integrated approaches, with a focus on community-led actions and equitable resource distribution. By prioritizing renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and efficient water management, Palestine can strengthen its autonomy and pave the way for a sustainable future.

As Palestine continues to advocate for its rights and resources on global platforms, the international community must recognize the urgency of its situation and provide the necessary technical and financial support. In this shared commitment to combating climate change, Palestine's resilience serves as a testament to the power of determination in the face of systemic challenges.

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
PALESTINE AND JORDAN

GGF
Green Generation Foundation

Lebanon Team Position

Introduction

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) area, Lebanon is ranked second only to Yemen in terms of readiness for the effects of climate change. This vulnerability stems from the country's insufficient ability to adapt, which has been made worse by the ongoing financial and economic crisis.

According to the updated NDCs report, Lebanon commits to unconditionally increasing its greenhouse gas emission reduction target from 15% to 20% relative to the Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario, and conditionally increasing its GHG emission reduction target from 30% to 31%
relative to the BAU scenario (NDC Lebanon, 2020). In this context, Municipalities and other local entities in Lebanon are among the pillars and are on the frontline of the NDCs implementation, especially given Lebanon's challenging economic situation and dysfunctional state.

Local Governance in Lebanon empowers official local entities, primarily municipalities (of which there are 1059 in Lebanon), and operates within the framework of Lebanon's demography. Similarly, local community approaches play a sensitive and effective role in assessing the implementation of national contributions in Lebanon, mainly private sector and national universities and research centers.

Source: Flickr,Eugence Kaspersky

However, implementing the NDCs can be challenging for these local entities due to outdated laws that have not been adapted to the current climate change context, potentially hindering their ability to correctly implement the NDCs. In addition, the NDCs and other national climate reports technically emphasize the importance of capacity building for adaptation and mitigation plans. However, the NDCs lack clarity, inclusiveness, and specificity, especially regarding the specific needs of Lebanon.

Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen the concepts and readiness of Climate Action Enablers in the NDCs. For instance, while stakeholder participation is mentioned, it is not fully integrated, especially for municipalities, local communities, national research and university entities, grassroots organizations, and youth groups.

From a youth perspective, our position emphasizes the urgent need to equip municipalities and community-led initiatives in Lebanon with the technical, fiscal, and technological capacity necessary to face and adapt to climate change in the context of NDC implementation. This position paper discusses three main points, followed by recommendations and alternative contributions that we believe are crucial not only for implementing the NDCs but also for sustainable development at both the local and national levels.

Socio-economic profile of Lebanon and linkage with NDCs

The country is currently facing an economic crisis, with passive national legislative and implicative initiatives, political and monetary struggles, and economic restraints. One challenge is the accumulation of budget deficits over the years, resulting in a high debt-to-GDP ratio. As of September 2022, the Lebanese Pound has devalued by up to 95%, causing inflation and a decline in purchasing power. The Beirut explosion also damaged vital infrastructure, including the Port of Beirut. Additionally, Lebanon's public infrastructure is struggling to meet growing demands. The economy heavily relies on the service sector, which accounted for 79% of GDP in 2019 and increased to 81% in 2020. Additionally, the demographic aspect affects sector distribution, making it challenging to suggest a significant mitigation program or adaptation plan. Recently, Lebanon participated in the Green Climate Fund, which not only increases the responsibility of clarity, transparency, and access to information by various authorities and parties, but also raises hopes to effectively implement the NDCs (Lebanese Ministry of Environment).

With Lebanon's economic recovery being an urgent priority, we, as youth, agree that the new NDCs should align with the country's economic recovery plan and adopt robust governance mechanisms, regulations, and partnerships in fact, there are mutual benefits, as improvements in addressing sustainability would positively impact job creation and ultimately foster economic growth. This lays the foundation for an economic and environmental transition.

However, we would argue further on clarity, and specifications regarding governance and partnerships in the NDCs.

Despite the perceived ease of implementing adaptation measures, our position demands a balanced approach that includes green projects crucial for the country's recovery plan. In the following sections, we will detail each of our positions in the context of Lebanon's current situation and outline the priorities we, as Lebanese Youth, envision for the country.

According to MoE and UNDP who are mainly responsible for the preparation and submission of the National Communications (NC) (UNDP, 2023), an implementation process is underway to activate the role of Updated Action Enablers. This is all in the light of Lebanon's participation in the Green Climate Fund, which increases the responsibility of clarity, transparency, and access to information by various authorities and parties to ensure an effective Action Plan. Despite the perceived ease of implementing adaptation measures, our position demands a balanced approach that includes green projects crucial for the country's recovery plan. We recommend enhancing the effectiveness of the NDC by reinforcing governance mechanisms, regulations, and partnerships. This would not only address sustainability but also create jobs and stimulate economic growth, setting the stage for an economic and environmental transition. We will summarize our recommendations in three critical areas:

1. Equip Municipalities and Local Communities with Capacity Building and Technical Expertise to Enable Active Integration in Climate Action.

2. Employ Municipalities, National Universities, National Research Centers and Private Sector in a Centralized Database.

3. Reforming Fiscal Policies and Supporting Green Private Initiatives.

In the following sections, we will detail each of our positions in the context of Lebanon's current situation and outline the priorities we, as Lebanese youth, envision for the country.

1. Equipping Municipalities via Legal Framework and Proper Capacity Building

There are 1,059 municipalities in Lebanon, all of which are regarded as independent local governments in charge of infrastructure, basic services like water supply, healthcare, and education, as well as regional economic, social, and environmental development. Despite their autonomy, their legal power is severely restricted.

1.1 Challenges in Local Governance

- Absence of Legal Reform among municipalities prohibiting them to operate as main Climate Action Enablers

Non-Binding Authority on Industrial Permits: Municipalities are not fully empowered to approve or reject permits related to industrial activities like quarries and polluting factories that makes the possibility of municipalities safeguarding the environment and health of citizens, especially at large-scale industrial development, very limited.

Public Procurement Law: The existing Public Procurement Law presents a considerable barrier to the enhancement of municipal authority in Lebanon (Al-Akhbar, 2024). Despite the inclusion of the term "sustainability" within the legislation, it remains undefined and is not implemented with rigor. This ambiguity limits municipalities' capacity to engage in environmentally responsible procurement, thereby impeding their efforts to advance sustainability.

- **Insufficient Capacity Development for Local Authorities: Technical and Logistical Gaps in Climate Action and Environmental Management:**

The lack of focus on capacity building in the NDC and other communication reports undermines the effective and transparent implementation of climate action plans. Municipalities are not sufficiently equipped with the necessary technical and logistical capacities. This hinders their role for example in having monitoring frameworks of today to document pollution levels or evaluate the ecological consequences within its governance area.

1.2 Recommendations

Updating Legislation to Empower Municipalities in protecting environmental integrity, public health and ensure sustainability:

Laws need to be updated to give municipalities binding decision-making authority regarding permits for industrial activities, such as quarries and factories that release pollutants. In particular, an urgent demand is to establish a Green Public Procurement Law. Legislation should be enacted to promote sustainability by forbidding local governments from purchasing environmentally harmful goods. While National Governance implied by NDCs supports this, there is still a gap at the local level.

Prioritising the development of a capacity-building program for municipalities: This is an urgent need to increase the readiness of municipalities to operate primarily in the context of sustainability and secondarily in combating the effects of climate change. A comprehensive program should be created to enhance the capacity of municipal staff by:

- Establishing oversight bodies to monitor environmental impacts within their jurisdiction.
- Providing technical and logistical support to public officers.

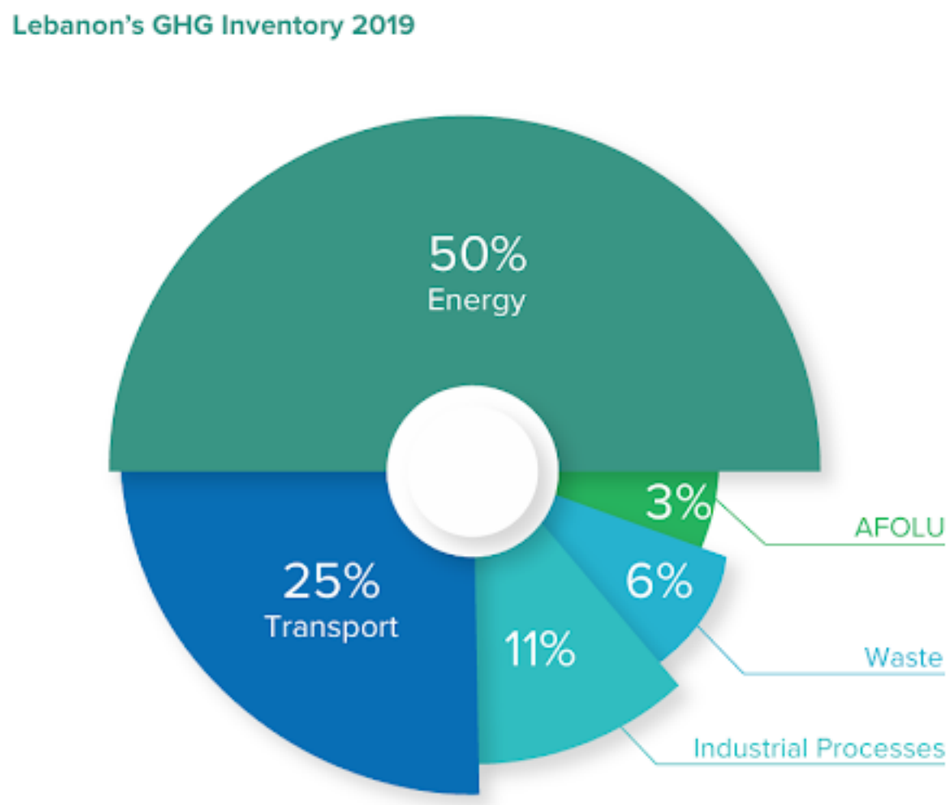
- Strengthening waste sorting and circular economy practices, increasing revenue from the collection of reusable materials.

- **Prepare an Evidence-Based Emergency Risk Management Plan: Create a risk management framework that encourages collaboration between the national government and municipalities and prioritize providing local governments with the technical and financial resources they need to adapt the plan to their specific situations.**

2 High-priority need to Develop and Activate a Holistic Governmental Framework for a Centralized Databas

2.1 Analysis of MRV based on Energy Sector and Decentralised Renewable Energy Law (DRE)

- **In the climate context, data is crucial for assessing the GHG inventory, evaluating institutional capacities for implementing NDCs, and estimating the increase in mitigation goals. This requires a robust database and a robust methodology for measurement, reporting, and verification. Unfortunately, Lebanon lacks such specific methodology, thus any attempt to monitor climate action progress, track received support and finance flow, and report accordingly would be full of uncertainties as we lack a database that provides such information across different sectors. There have been initiatives to build on this database, including the Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency**



Distribution of contribution to GHG emissions Different Sectors in Lebanon
Source: UNDP- Fourth National Communication Report

- **Project CBIT (UNDP, 2021) that is expected to result in an MRV coordination entity focused on improving institutional arrangements for GHG inventories and tracking mitigation progress. However, financial and political constraints hinder its progress.**

Energy Sector and Renewable Energy challenges: EDL (Electricit´e de Liban) is responsible for generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity in Lebanon. It is a government-funded entity that controls the country's only grid. However, EDL has been severely affected by a 222% inflation rate, the 2020 Port Explosion, and the removal of fuel subsidies in 2021, rendering it weak and dysfunctional.

2.2 Challenges

The lack of proper data or uncertainties regarding energy consumption in Lebanon is mainly due to under-equipped ministries, municipalities, and

other institutions, as well as the dysfunctional state of the EDL. The HG inventories in Lebanon are conducted on a project-basis due to the financial dependence on external projects, raising concerns about data validity. Political complications in Lebanon have also hindered the prioritization of climate change in the Annual National Budget. More than 50% of Lebanon's GHGs come from the energy sector (by the National Communication Report), and this will be our starting point to discuss the necessity of having a Central Data Repository. There are three main issues facing this sector: resistance to government regulations by privately operated diesel generators, inadequate coverage of domestic, industrial, and institutional energy by EDL, and limited use of decentralized PVs, mostly off-grid. To address these issues, the recently passed Decentralized Renewable Energy Law DRE allows entities to produce and sell up to 10 MW of renewable energy, aligning with Lebanon's renewable energy targets. However, the successful implementation of this law hinges on the establishment of the Electricity Regulatory Authority, the selection of which depends on political decision. It is important to stress in this context the necessity to maintain a strong national energy production by EDL, as it provides the grid and serves as a link between the government and the private sector.

Without this linkage, decentralized solar efforts, despite their benefits, may perpetuate regional inequality and compromise energy access as a fundamental right (Bitar, 2024).

- Municipalities in Lebanon are confined due to the absence of a legal framework to effectively organize communication,

- partnerships, and green initiatives both among themselves and with other ministries. This deficiency, along with lack of a relevant database and capacity limits their contribution to the essential reporting process.

- Marginalization and exclusion of local communities (including grassroots organizations, youth activists, etc.), universities, and research centers from

The broader climate action plan, particularly from the MRV process, remain a concern. This is despite Lebanon's substantial intellectual and expert capacity, with a significant contribution coming from the National University alone (40% as reported by USAID). This capacity indicates great potential for engagement through internships, short- and long-term projects, and data fellowship programs that foster collaboration between researchers from universities and other stakeholders, such as municipalities, the private sector, and ministries.

Although the CBIT is expected to establish a transparency baseline and an MRV system, this is not expected to fully operate if there is not a holistic ational capacity building in different climate action enablers, especially municipalities, the private sector, and national research centers.

2.3 Recommendations

The Recommendation in this context focuses on universities and research centers, municipalities, and private sector. The selection of the above three national institutes stems from the imperative that it is indispensable to include all stakeholders in any municipality's climate action plan. The technical and financial capacity of these entities is indispensable for reducing external financial dependency.

These groups must be on the front line of any data collection plan. The capacity building and partnership/collaboration scenarios between them is essential to ensure the validity of MRV, prevent double counting, facilitate filtering clustered information, and thus ensure the integrity of relevant data flow to the assigned municipalities and other concerned authorities and ministries.

- Involving national universities, national research centers, and the private sector in a centralized database.

- Allowing access to data automation technology, especially for municipal and governmental workers to permit creating local technical expertise for data registries at the national and local levels, in particular for implementing the MRV system.

- Prioritizing the involvement of national universities and research centers for effective implementation and operationalization of the MRV system.

- Employing youth activists and grassroots organizations in the database framework to utilize their technical and human resource capacities to establish a local data hub for monitoring, submitting, and accessing information.

- Establishing a legal framework that enables the private sector to fund public-private innovation labs dedicated to climate data analytics, offering tax incentives as a form of compensation.

- Furnishing a web-based Platform for Centralized Data Management after the initialization of a centralized data repository, that is made available for all stakeholders, aligning with Right to Information Law (2017) and Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency launched in November 2023. This platform should incorporate regular consultations, workshops, and feedback systems to ensure active engagement and integrity.

- Creating a comprehensive Climate Transparency Act that requires the systematic gathering, reporting, and verification of climate-related data; in which it defines obligations of all relevant institutions, and provides explicit data management procedures, clearly outlines each institution's role and duties in climate reporting and ensures financial flow transparency.

- Developing a central coordination entity, such as a National Climate Transparency Office, to oversee the

- execution of the legal framework, help coordinate inter-ministerial efforts, and ensure that reporting standards are met.

3. Reforming Fiscal Policies and Supporting Green Private Initiative

Mitigation faces profound challenges due to the impact of economically and financially capitalized governments in addition to the dependency on external funds with the reliance on the private sector.
Any theoretical approach to change this reality will only be practical on the long-term vision, while the 2030 framework approaches its essential priority to recommend actions that foster collaboration between the private sector and the government under a legal framework. Additionally, it is crucial to focus on effectively managing the annual General Budget, reducing losses from fiscal mismanagement, and implementing new green and sustainable fiscal reforms.

3.1 Challenges in Partnerships and integrating Local Stakeholders

For the private sector, economic and political instability, lack of financial instruments, and high investment costs significantly hinder the flow of both domestic and foreign investment. Also the priority with the private sector is to finalize a comprehensive and integrated framework for private sector climate action, although many projects and decrees have been introduced and operationalized, serving as entry points for private sector engagement in climate action, including Decree 8633, Decree 8213, Decree 167, Lebanon Climate Act (LCA), Article 55 of Budget Law 79.

3.2 Recommendations

Establishing a robust legal framework is crucial and sensitive at this juncture, especially with upcoming events such as the operationalization of DRE and the Green Climate Fund.

1.Pressing Need to Finalize the Legal Framework for the Private Sector in Climate Action.

This way dependency on external funds and aids diminishes (in the context of funding climate-related work such as GHG inventory) and allows climate action to take place consistently

2.Insisting on Interim Measures of the Private Sector in Climate Action

A. Empower municipalities through legislation, allowing them to tax high-emission industries and utilize the funds to support local environmental initiatives.

B. Providing tax incentives to the private sector for completing projects that benefit local communities, and reactivating legislation that reintroduces interest-free loans from the government, donors, private companies, banks, or the Central Bank.

C. Establishing mechanisms to finance long-term solar energy projects in preparation for the implementation of the DRE law.

3.Supporting Green Private Initiatives and ensuring Technology transfer from government to private sector

A.Facilitate the flow of technology to the private sector to provide access to essential tools, enhancing productivity and reducing costs.

B.Enable the private sector to gain a competitive edge in the global market, fostering overall economic growth.

C.Promote collaboration between stakeholders to accelerate the development of clean energy solutions, such as renewable energy and smart grids.

DSupport efforts to build a more sustainable economy through technological innovation and energy efficiency.

4. Conclusion

Our recommendation comes in the light of the latest war-situation in Lebanon, where any approach not taking into consideration rehabilitation after the war wouldn't work. With the destruction of infrastructure, soil contamination, and biodiversity loss it is crucial to adopt a framework that aligns with the current situation and have an emergency response plan that prioritizes after-war rehabilitation. With the DRE law soon to be enacted and the GCF grant expected to be allocated to Lebanon, we acknowledge the significant role of municipalities, local institutions, and organizations in Lebanon, including the private sector, universities, research centers, youth, and grassroots organizations. We believe that a balanced approach based on reinforcing local governance, building financial and technical capacities, and establishing collaborative relationships among municipalities, local communities, research institutions, and the private sector is essential.

As Lebanese youth, we believe it is crucial to have an emergency response plan. At the same time, Clearly Define Climate Action Enablers in our next NDC and Clearly attribute their roles to them, so they can operate within an official, binding framework to implement not only the NDCs but also any other potential adaptation and mitigation plans, thereby addressing the challenges of adapting to climate change in a rapidly changing economic and social environment. We believe that with the right investments in capacity development and our rights to technology and knowledge, Lebanon has the potential not only to achieve its climate targets but also to establish a strong basis for a more resilient and thriving future.

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
PALESTINE AND JORDAN

GGF
Green Generation Foundation

Tunisia Team Position

Introduction

Tunisia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, with 28% of this reduction conditional on international support and 17% achievable through domestic efforts. The NDCs focuses on key sectors such as energy, industry, agriculture, transport, and waste management, with a strong emphasis on energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy. In addition to mitigation efforts, Tunisia prioritizes adaptation measures to address climate impacts, particularly in sectors like water resources, agriculture, coastal zones, and biodiversity, given the country's vulnerability to climate change.

1. Mobilizing Climate Finance for Effective Implementation of Tunisia's NDC

Tunisia faces substantial challenges in securing climate finance to achieve its climate goals, particularly for its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). A large portion of its commitments—28% of the total emissions reduction target—is conditional on international financial support, making external funding crucial for implementation. Tunisia has been actively seeking funding through various mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other bilateral and multilateral sources, but the flow of climate finance has been slow and insufficient to meet the growing needs.

Source: Flickr,Eugenec

The country also faces challenges in accessing private sector finance and lacks a robust framework for attracting green investments, which limits its capacity to finance adaptation and mitigation projects. Consequently, Tunisia's climate efforts are at risk of being delayed without increased and timely international financial support.

Recommendation

- Expand Funding Sources, Tunisia have been working on the multilateral funds and international cooperation as GCF (Green Climate Fund) , GEF (Global Environment Facility), AF(Adaptation Fund), for accessing climate grants the importance of diversifying climate finance require more implication of the private sector for providing the adequate finance for means of implementation of the local actions of the NDCs and providing assurances for the agricultural sectors and other sectors facing the climate extremes for preserving lives, goods and serveries as a measure of prevention and preparedness for natural catastrophes.

- Encourage private sector investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and incentives for green investments.

- Create national climate funds to strengthen the national climate finance capacity to mobilize and pool domestic and international resources. These funds can be dedicated to specific sectors or climate-related projects. This can attract investors interested in sustainable investments.

- Leveraging Innovative Financial Instruments Such as, Green Bonds, Climate Insurance, Local climate Microfinance for local climate aware projects, etc.

- Insurance and Risk Transfer Mechanisms: Develop insurance instruments to manage climate risks, particularly for vulnerable sectors like agriculture.

2. Enhancing Climate Resilience through Adaptation Measures in Tunisia's NDCs

Tunisia's NDCs place significant emphasis on promoting adaptation measures to strengthen the country's resilience to climate change. Given Tunisia's vulnerability to climate impacts such as water scarcity, desertification, and rising sea levels, the NDCs outlines priority adaptation actions in key sectors, including water resources, agriculture, coastal areas, and biodiversity. These measures focus on improving water management, enhancing agricultural productivity, protecting coastal zones from erosion and flooding, and safeguarding ecosystems. Tunisia also aims to integrate climate adaptation into national development plans, ensuring that infrastructure, land use, and economic activities are climate resilient. International support is critical for the implementation of these adaptation measures, with a focus on building local capacity and ensuring sustainable, long-term resilience.

Recommendation

- Develop an action plan to be carried out in the short, medium and long term. This will be done by considering the issue of adaptation as a national priority and integrating it in all sectors by intervening the various stakeholders (public sector, civil society, technical and financial partners, research and development, private sector, etc.).
- Institutional strengthening and integration of different sectors (agriculture, infrastructure, water, etc.) in policies and systems and considering Disaster Risk Reduction and management.
- Legal gaps have to be filled in the Tunisian system that have cover all the phases of the disaster risk management cycle.
- Analysis of risks and vulnerability through the access to detailed, reliable and up-to-date data that is based on a gender analysis.
- Strengthening data collection and reporting process to handle large databases and inadequate resources for maintaining 24/7 operational forecasting capacities.
- Early warning systems (SAP), dissemination and communication of alerts to “Build Back Better” for the assessment and monitoring of risks and the warning of potential crisis.
- Emergency preparedness through the establishment, development and improvement of measures and mechanisms for risk prevention, analysis and monitoring.

Incorporating schools' disaster-resistant structures and adapting to local risks. Resilient schools not only provide space for learning and development but can also serve as centers to coordinate response and recovery efforts and as emergency shelters.

- Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity, capacity building and integrating climate change measures into policies and plans, awareness raising on climate adaptation and early warning provide opportunities to strengthen the integration between disaster and climate resilience to protect broader development paths at all levels.

3. Empowering Vulnerable Groups: Addressing Gender , Youth, and Children in Tunisia's NDCs

The NDCs shall include a planning of mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts on vulnerable groups throughout all vital sectors (agriculture, health, tourism, energy, etc.).
Protecting these groups’ fundamental rights is at the heart of mitigating and adapting to climate change. Ensuring that all groups in society are protected and able to face the impacts of climate change on their lives is a priority. To help these groups overcome and adapt to climate change as they face exposure to extreme climate events, the NDCs should focus on "Loss and Damage" by enhancing knowledge, understanding, and strengthening dialogue around climate change among these groups.

Recommendation

Vulnerable populations/groups are often subjected to discrimination and marginalization (e.g., unemployment, poverty, malnutrition, and lack of education). They tend to be underprivileged, living in poor conditions with limited mobility and access to resources.

The link between vulnerable groups and the impacts of climate change is rooted in intersectionality. Ensuring a healthy and safe life and environment is a right protected by the Tunisian constitution. Through the constitution, the republic has vowed to protect the rights of children, youth, women, and people with disabilities

Recognize that vulnerable populations are often subjected to discrimination and marginalization, facing challenges such as unemployment, poverty, malnutrition, and lack of education. Address their underprivileged living conditions, limited mobility, and restricted access to resources through targeted indicators.

Recognize the intersectionality between vulnerable groups and the impacts of climate change. Uphold Tunisia's constitutional commitment to ensuring a healthy and safe life and environment, protecting the rights of children, youth, women, and people with disabilities in climate-related policies and strategies (National Gender Action Plan).

Conclusion

Tunisia's NDC highlights the critical need for climate finance to achieve its mitigation and adaptation goals, with much of its progress dependent on international support. Enhancing climate resilience through adaptation measures is a priority, particularly in addressing water scarcity, agricultural vulnerability, and coastal protection. However, successful implementation requires robust financial resources, technical capacity, and stakeholder engagement. Additionally, Tunisia's NDCs emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, focusing on vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children and people with disabilities to ensure they play an active role in climate action. By empowering these groups and promoting gender equality, Tunisia aims to create a more resilient society where the impacts of climate change are mitigated equitably across all communities.

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