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**The 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27)**

**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

**6-18 November, 2022**

**Side Event Concept Note**

**Thematic Day:** ACE, Energy

**Date:** Monday 14 November - 18:30—20:00 Tutankhamun Room (100)

**Title:** Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Action, Building Climate Resilience, inclusiveness and Sustainability: Experiences from the Arab region

**Lead Organization: League of Arab States (LAS)**

**Co-organizer: Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)**

**Background**

Impacts of CC in the Arab region requires Arab movement & solidarity within SDGs implementation and based on joint responsibility. Climate risks are significantly increasing, however they need to be addressed through an inclusive & participatory approach, leaving no one behind. Climate Change undoubtedly, even if it is a global problem, has a serious and dangerous repercussions on the Arab region, which necessitates placing it at the top of environmental priorities at the regional and national levels. In the past few years, the Arab region has become one of the most vulnerable regions of the world to climate change impacts and risks, from threat to coastal areas, increased drought and desertification, scarcity of water resources, increased groundwater salinity, and the spread of epidemics and diseases. Efforts have been ongoing on the regional and national levels, but the world since early 2020 have been facing pressing challenges due to COVID-19.

COP 27 and COP 28 are being held in the Arab Region hosted by Egypt and UAE in Nov 2022 and 2023 respectively, having 2 COPs in the region is a good opportunity to mobilize Arab peoples to better understand climate change, how to participate and tackle it. While addressing the needs of both regions and the world as a whole, this is a unique opportunity for Arab States to focus on their climate vulnerability while identifying special needs and achieved pilot actions that need to be scaled up.

The Arab region faces environmental difficulties such as poverty, scarcity of water, and the arid nature of the region which is vulnerable to climate change. Thus, achieving resilience is a priority for the Arab region, especially while hosting COP27 & COP28 in the region. There is an emerging need for strengthening community resilience towards increasing climate risks, and putting more efforts & investments to achieve sustainable resilience that leaves no one behind.

The region is facing different kinds of climate hazards; sea level rise, flooding, extreme events, drought, etc. and the session will highlight regional efforts and national strategies to achieve adaptation and mitigation, and strengthen resilience.

**Objectives**

* Showcase experiences on adaptation efforts to adjust systems and societies to climate change impacts & mitigation to lower or remove GHG emissions from the atmosphere, such as RAED’s initiative “Baladna” (our country) Hosts COP27, that aimed to mobilize relevant local actors towards climate change issues. It succeeded to establish local multi-stakeholder platforms in Egyptian governorates
* Encourage Party negotiators and civil society organizations to discuss progress in this area expected at COP27 and beyond, contributing to making progress on adaptation, mitigation and resilience.
* Identify expanded actions to be taken for vulnerable communities in the Region.
* Discuss potential partnerships on the regional and international levels.

**Expected Output**

* Identify key considerations and ways in which COP27 can address its outcomes
* Role of CSOs in facilitating local to national discussions on achieving progress in adaptation and building resilience.
* Challenges faced in the region in making progress
* Identify the efforts done in the Region to face risks due to climate change Share best practices and success stories by Arab civil society.
* Emphasize the importance of establishing effective partnerships, and considering civil society organizations as a core partner.
* Highlight the role of all stakeholders involved.
* Emphasize the importance of strengthening capacities and identify available investments to reduce the risk of disasters due to climate change.

**Agenda**

Opening remarks(5 min)

Dr Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS

Dr. Emad Adly, RAED

**Panelists: (60 min)**

* Ms. Nina Birkland, Norwegian Refugee Center (NRC) / Ms. Samah Hadid, Norwegian Refugee Center (NRC)
* Mr. Sujit Kumar Mohanty, UNDRR ROAS (tbc)
* Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS
* Task Forces/ National Focal Points, Ministry of Environment (2 countries)
* RAED - CSOs representatives (Jordan, Algeria & Iraq)

Q&A session (20 min)

Closing remarks (5 min)