



# Informing Arab Climate Change Negotiators through the Science- Policy Interface

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# Presentation Outline



- Supporting Arab States in climate change negotiation
- Linking climate change science to policy, adaptive capacity and mitigation
- Sector modules on climate change adaptation
- Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation in COP21 and COP 22 RICCAR Side Event

# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation

- ESCWA organized in coordination with the League of Arab States (LAS) four workshops on climate change, in response to resolutions adopted by of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE).
- Then the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for West Asia (UN Water) joined as a partner at the fifth and sixth workshops as well as joined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/Cairo Office) in the seventh and eighth workshops.
- The workshops aimed to achieve the following:
  - Raising the awareness of new Arab negotiators on climate change negotiations;
  - Identifying joint opportunities and challenges in preparing for the drafting of the new climate change agreement at the UNFCCC/COP-21;
  - Ensuring an ongoing dialogue on climate change between Arab States;
  - Identifying the necessary factors for successful negotiations and building partnerships with non-Arab actors to achieve common goals;

# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation

## Regional Training Workshops on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries (since 2013)

Workshop 1: Amman (22-24 October  
2013)

Workshop 2: Amman (26-28 May 2014)

Workshop 3: Kuwait (11-13 November  
2014)

Workshop 4: Doha (19-21 May 2015)

Workshop 5: Cairo (17-19 November  
2015)

Workshop 6: Cairo (3-6 April 2016)

Workshop 7: Rabat (25-29 September  
2016)

Workshop 8: Beirut (10-13 April 2017)

**Workshop 9: Cairo (9-12 October 2017)**

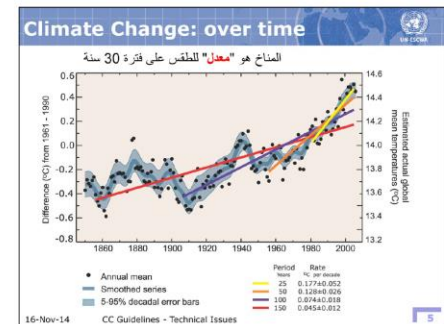
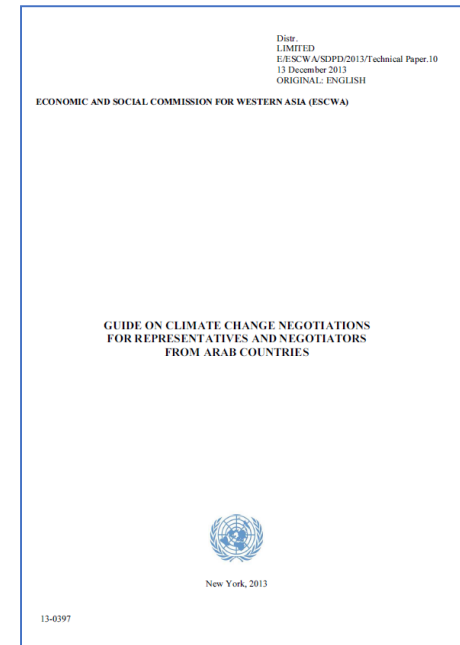


# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation

- The first five workshops focussed on:
  - To develop the negotiation skills of Arab negotiators to effectively engage in the global meetings and Conference of Parties;
  - to address issues related to climate change for mitigation and adaptation actions;
  - to build common positions between countries in the region taking into consideration.
- The following three workshops focused on:
  - Means of implementations of Paris Agreement.
  - Analysis of the submitted NDC's by the Arab Countries.
  - Legal implications of the Paris Agreement,
  - Access finance through the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
  - Provision of technology assistance through the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN),
  - Supporting States to meet the targets set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) though existing financial and technological mechanisms.
- More than 120 negotiators/experts from ministries of foreign affairs, environment, petroleum, energy, water resources , agriculture, energy and civil aviation, as well as regional and international organizations participated in the workshops.

# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation

- ESCWA prepared the Guide on Climate Change Negotiations for Representatives and Negotiators from Arab Countries.
- The Guide contains important scientific information on: climate change and its repercussions for the Arab region; UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the conferences of the parties and their working groups; and the status of negotiations on key issues such as adaptation, implementation, mitigation, financing and technology transfer.
- It also sets out guidelines on effective negotiation methods, forming negotiating teams, and building alliances with political groups and their impact on negotiations.
- This enabled to promote dialogue and coordination and forge common perspectives and positions among national actors on climate change.



Climate is a cycle that essentially results from the natural interaction between the sun, the atmosphere, and the oceans, as well as increasingly important human factors. In more technical terms, the climate cycle is described by atmospheric statistics such as temperature, precipitation, and wind velocity. Since the dawn of civilization and until the industrial age, those parameters generally varied in a relatively cyclical manner, and climatic patterns followed a 30-year cycle that defines "Climatological Standard Normals" (CSN). The current Climatological Standard Normals are computed over 1901-1930, 1931-1960 and 1961-1990.

# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation

- The workshops were also aimed to prepare for meetings of the Arab Group representing Arab countries in climate change negotiations, led by the League of Arab States.
- Based on the discussions and conclusions of these workshops, the participants contributed to the preparation of an Arab paper summarizing the common Arab position on climate change.
- The paper was presented to the Arab negotiators at the climate change Conference of Parties (COP) and the preparatory meetings of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies.



# Linking Climate Science to Policy, Adaptive Strategy and Mitigation



**Science**

**Policy**

**Impact and Vulnerability Assessment**

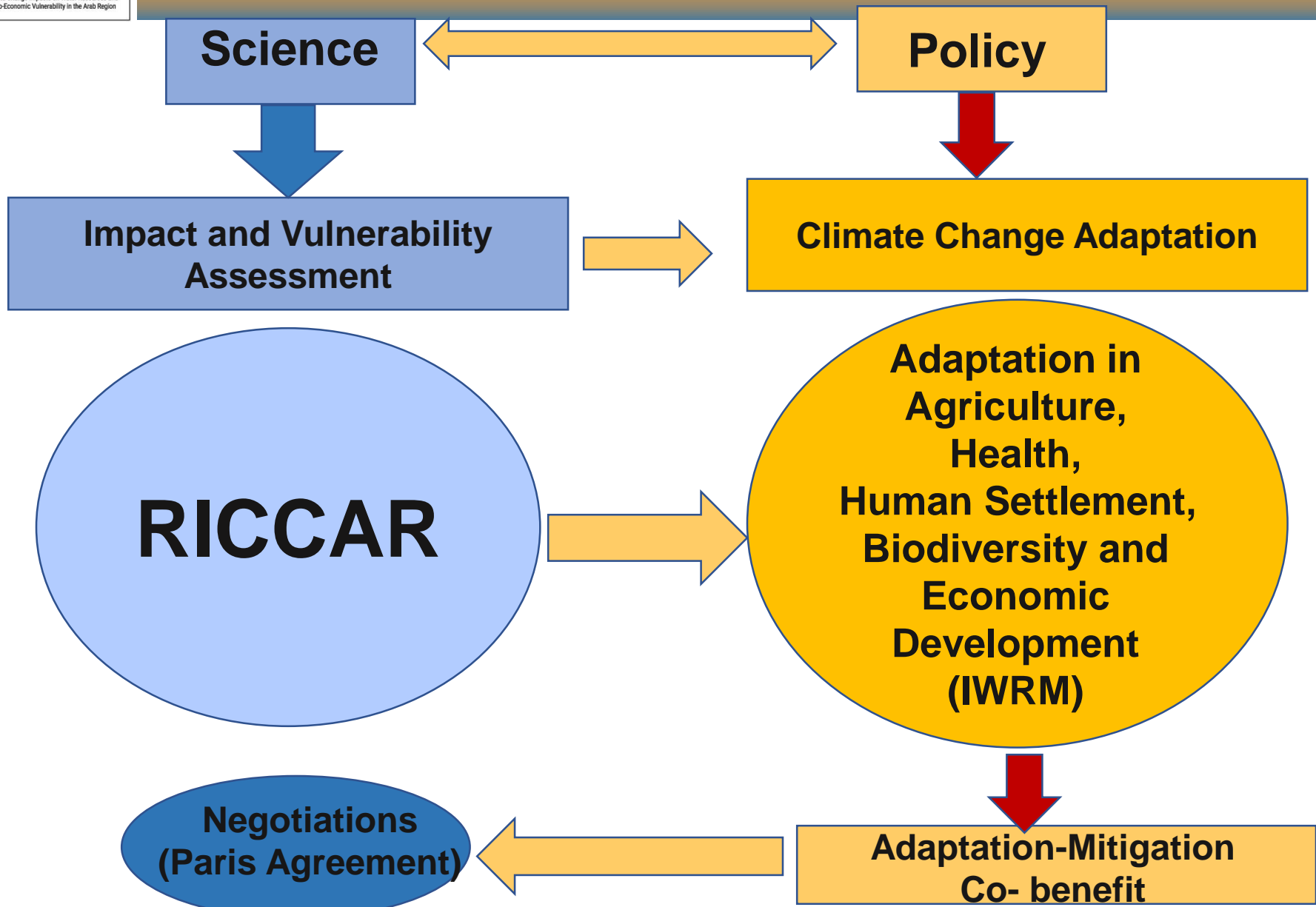
**Climate Change Adaptation**

**RICCAR**

**Adaptation in Agriculture, Health, Human Settlement, Biodiversity and Economic Development (IWRM)**

**Negotiations (Paris Agreement)**

**Adaptation-Mitigation Co-benefit**





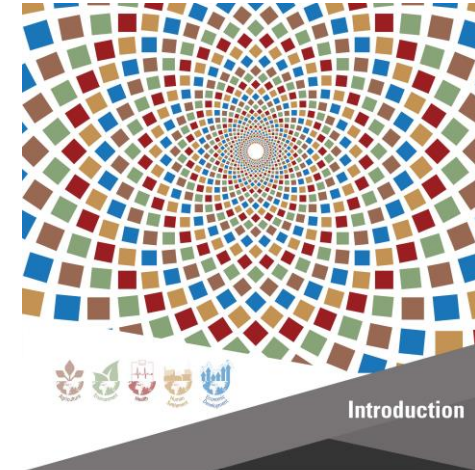
# Climate Change Adaptation

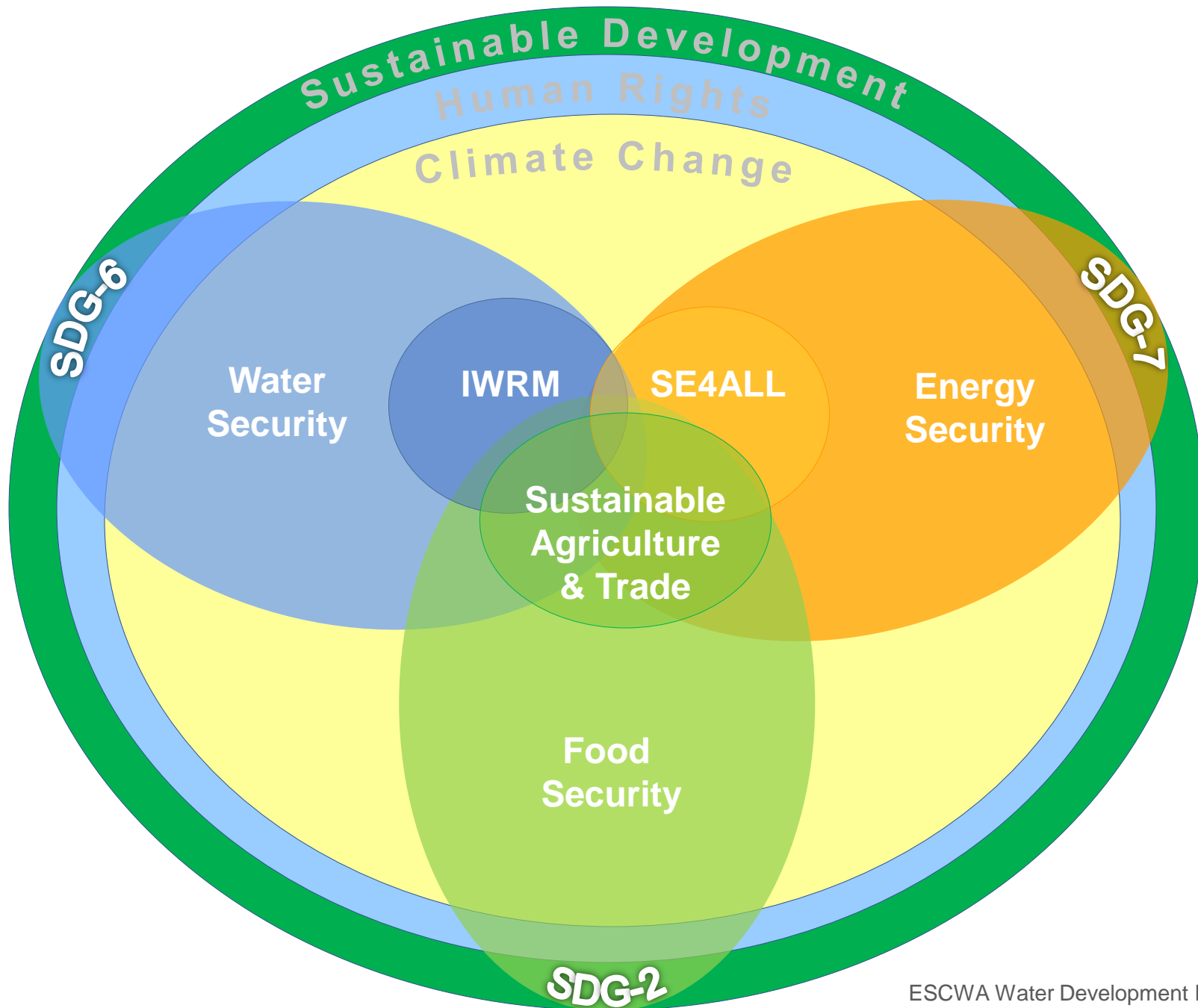
## United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools

Five sector modules were developed by the following leading organizations (in coordination with ESCWA):

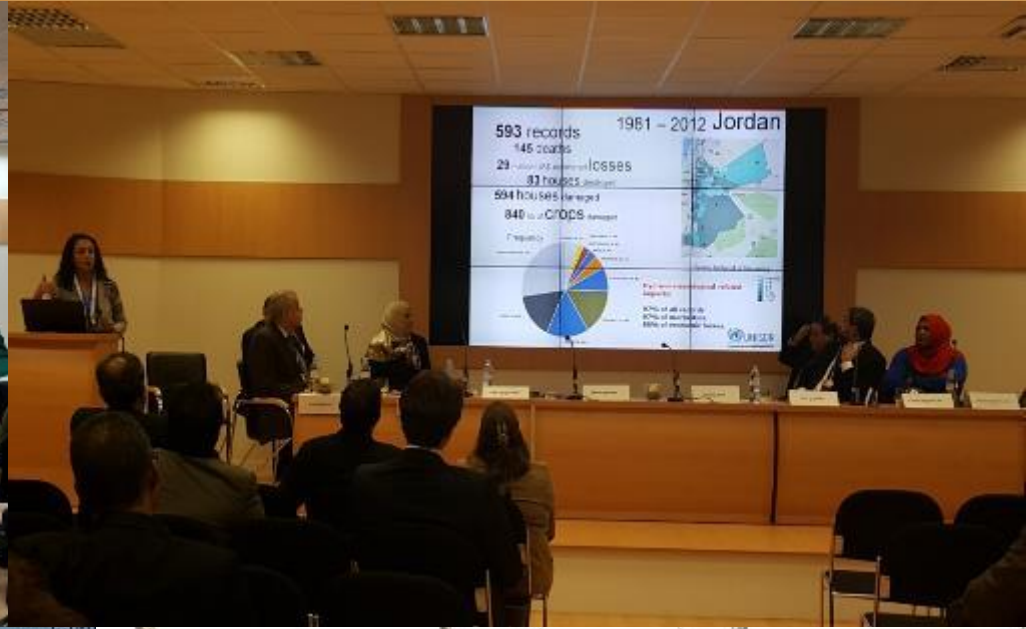
1. Agriculture module by ACSAD/GIZ;
2. Environment module by UNEP/ROWA;
3. Health module by WHO;
4. Human settlements (water supply and sanitation) by ACWUA;
5. Economic module by ESCWA as well as an introductory chapter for the manual.

Five workshops were held with stakeholders from each sector to review respective modules





# Supporting Arab States in Climate Change Negotiation in COP21 and COP 22 RICCAR Side Event





United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22)  
Marrakesh, Morocco

### Side Event on Climate Change Impacts on the Arab Region and Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives

15 November 2016  
11:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 17:00  
GCC Pavilion – Blue Zone

The Arab region is severely impacted by climate change more than many other regions in the World. Flash floods, heat waves, cyclones, droughts and dust storms were witnessed over the past several years throughout the region which caused serious socio-economic losses and deterioration of environmental conditions. A significant number of regional and national scientific studies and activities on the projected impacts of climate change on various sectors were recently developed and implemented in the Arab region. The League of Arab States-United Nations Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) is one of those key scientific outputs that provided evidence of future warming and dry conditions over the Arab region. The developed impact and vulnerability assessments showed that towards the mid- and end of the century climate change will exacerbate pressures on scarce water resources, food security, biodiversity, human settlements, health, economic development and people. The Arab States have demonstrated their present and future actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC's) in different sectors. This side event will share experience from regional initiatives and national efforts on climate change impacts and climate change adaptation strategies and measures and mitigation actions towards implementation of Paris Agreement and achieving the sustainable development in the Arab region.

#### Agenda

##### Session I (11:00 – 13:00 hrs)

11:00-11:05	<b>Introduction and Background</b> <i>Moderator</i> : Mr. Ayman Shasly, Chair of the Arab Negotiation Team on Climate Change, Advisor for International Policies, Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
11:05-11:15	<b>Moving from Climate Change Impact Assessment to Adaptation in Various Sectors in the Arab Region</b> Mr. Tarek Sadek, Climate Change Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), Lebanon
11:15-11:25	<b>Economic Costs to Lebanon from Climate Change</b> Ms. Yara Daou, Project Assistant, Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
11:25-11:35	<b>Response Measures in the context of Paris Agreement</b> Mr. Albara Tawfiq, Advisor, International Policies, Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mineral

11:35-11:45	<i>Resources, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i> <b>Mainstreaming Climate Change in Water Resources Strategies and Action Plans</b> Mr. Bisher Imam, Senior programme Specialist, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Cairo Office
11:45-12:00	Questions and Answers
12:00-12:10	<b>A Case Study on Ionization Method, the Next Generation Rainfall Enhancement Technology Applied in Jordan</b> Ms. Indira Al Dahabi, Director, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Jordan
12:10-12:20	<b>Agriculture Adaptation in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Highlights from the LAS- UMA- FAO regional dialogues</b> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Cairo Office
12:20-12:30	<b>Bioremediation Practice for Treatment of Polluted Produced Water as Mitigation and Adaptation Project in Sudan</b> Ms. Hanadi Awadallah, Director, Department of Forestation and Re-forestation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Sudan
12:30-12:40	<b>Climate Change Impacts over Egypt</b> Mr. Ashraf Zakey, Under Secretary of State for Research and Climate, Egyptian Meteorological Authority, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egypt
12:40-13:00	Questions and Answers

##### Session II (15:00 – 17:00 hrs)

	<i>Moderator</i> : Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), ESCWA
15:00-15:20	<b>High Level Segment</b> LAS/Arab Negotiation Group, ESCWA and Ministers of Arab Countries
15:20-15:30	Questions and Answers
15:30-15:40	<b>Regional Initiatives on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy</b> Mr. Ashraf Keredi, Department of Energy, League of Arab States (LAS)
15:40-15:50	<b>Observed and Projected Changes in Climate Extremes in the Arab Region</b> Ms. Fatima Dirouech, Head, National Climate Centre, Direction de la Météorologie Nationale Casablanca, Morocco
15:50-16:00	<b>Best Practices in Adaptation to Climate Change in Arab Region: Learning from Regional Experience</b> Mr. Hammou Laamrani, LAS and GIZ Advisor, Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region Project, Cairo, Egypt
16:00-16:10	<b>Impact of Climate Change on State of Palestine and Main Challenges</b> Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader, Minister's Advisor for Climate Change, Environment Quality Authority (EQA), Ramallah, Palestine
16:10-16:20	<b>Climate Resilient Technology Transfer for Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of the Poor Rural Community under Rainfed Agriculture in Sudan</b> Ms. Muna Mahjoub, Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Khartoum, Sudan
16:20-16:30	<b>Economic Diversification in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b> Mr. Albara Tawfiq, Advisor, Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
16:30-16:40	<b>Renewable Energy Projects and Investments In Jordan</b> Mr. Ziad Jebri, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan
16:40-17:00	Discussion and End of Side Event

- Regional-level capacity development and technical assistance can help to reinforce the capacities of countries in a region facing similar climate conditions and pressures (e.g. the Arab Negotiation Group)
- Conduct of vulnerability assessment can complement impact assessment by allowing consideration of the adaptive capacities/resilience differences across countries (as done in RICCAR).
- Such socio-economic and environmental assessments can also inform adaptation as well as mitigation efforts seeking to modify unsustainable production and consumption patterns (e.g. related to energy, land or water and linking SDG's to CC agenda and NDC's)
- The RICCAR scientific outputs can be utilised to develop a scientifically based “Common Case” for the Arab Group that can be used for negotiation purposes.



**RICCAR**

Regional Initiative for the Assessment of  
Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and  
Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

*Thank you!*