

SDG13: Advancing Climate Action in the Arab Region

Tuesday 9 April 2019, 16:15-18:00, MZ Meeting Room, UN House, Beirut

Background

SDG13 calls on the global community to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and is one of the six SDGs under review during the 2019 HLPF. Examination of SDG13 requires consideration of SDG8 (particularly on decoupling economic growth from environmental pollution, which can be supported through the transfer of appropriate technologies and finance); SDG 10 (particularly on reducing inequity within and across countries in terms of vulnerability to climate change impacts and the ability to access the means of implementation needed to pursue climate action); and SDG16 (in light of supporting climate action through effective and accountable institutions that can enhance the resilience of developing states and vulnerable communities at the regional, national and sub-national levels). SDG13 also seeks enhanced preparedness for natural disasters, which necessitates capacity building and education (SDG4). Accessing means of implementation (SDG17) in light of these goals will be the focus of the special session.

Session Objective

Following an overview of regional priority issues and concerns related to climate change, it is expected that the panel will focus on solutions and ways to better engage and respond to the concerns of women, youth and vulnerable group in pursuing climate action. The panels will include discussions on climate change vulnerabilities, risks, and impacts; awareness raising; and means and modalities for enhancing resilience and climate planning and action, with focus on means of implementation including finance, technology, and capacity building.

Themes of Discussion

- Opening remarks: SDG13, its policy interlinkages, and key messages from the contributing regional consultations on climate change (Beirut, March 2019) and environment/natural resources (Cairo, February 2019)
- [Panel 1: Setting the Stage for Climate Action](#)
Discussion
- [Panel 2: Advancing Climate Action in the Arab Region](#)
Discussion

Facilitator

- [Ms. Roula Majdalani](#), Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA

Panel 1

- [Mr. Ayman Shasly](#), Chair, Arab Group of Climate Change Negotiators mandated under the LAS Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE); Board Member, Green Climate Fund; Advisor for International Policies, Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, Saudi Arabia
- [Ms. Luna AbuSwaireh](#), Director General, Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Lebanon
- [Mr. Peter Lundberg](#), Head of Regional Development Cooperation, MENA, Embassy of Sweden, Amman

Panel 2

- [Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Adam](#), Commissioner General, Humanitarian Aid Commission, Government of Sudan
- [Ms. Samia El Baouchi](#), President, Women of My Country for Development and Tourism Association (UNFCCC accredited NGO), Member of the Board, Arab Network on Climate Action, Executive Bureau Member, Moroccan Organization for Human Rights, Morocco
- [Amb. Djamel Eddine Djaballah](#), Director, Environment, Housing and Water Resources Division, League of Arab States

This Special Session will be live-streamed