

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
'ARAB WORLD POLICY FOR POST-2012 NEGOTIATIONS'**

OCTOBER 14-15, 2008 AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

ORGANIZED BY:

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT'S ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
THE LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT ACTIVISTS (INDYACT)
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION – MIDDLE EAST OFFICE



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This report can be obtained from IndyACT's office in Lebanon
as well as downloaded from the following websites:

www.arabclimate.org

www.indyact.org

The views expressed herein are those of the workshop participants
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STATEMENT BY ORGANIZER

INDYACT

Reaching a new, post-2012 agreement in December of 2009 in Copenhagen is not an option; it is a necessity. According to the United Nation's International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), extreme climate change impacts could be averted if the global temperature rise is kept below 2°C. To achieve this, by 2050, we will need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 60 to 80% as compared to the 1990 levels. To achieve this target, we need to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2015. In a nutshell, we only have around 10 years to seriously change the way our society functions. This is why a large number of organizations and individuals see the upcoming treaty as our last chance to save the earth from the horrific impacts of climate change. This small window of opportunity is being felt by governments, parties, organizations and individuals around the world. However, it is not being felt in the Arab world. Nevertheless, this attitude can be changed.

Alone, the developed world will not be able to tackle the momentous task of limiting the global temperature rise to well below 2°C. Other countries should take part as well. Rich fossil fuel-producing countries who have built their economies on oil profits, such as Saudi Arabia, should take part of the historical responsibility towards climate change.

Unfortunately, fossil-fuel rich countries have not only been negligent of their responsibilities towards the issue, but some countries have been actively hindering regional and international climate change negotiations. Saudi Arabia has played a key role in shaping international climate policy since the start of the climate negotiations in the 90s. Unfortunately, according to a WWF report, this involvement was mainly to ensure that its oil trade was not affected. Saudi Arabia has also been overshadowing the position of the League of Arab States on this issue.

Out of the 23 Arab countries, 11 are oil producing ones, and 4 of them are among the top 10 oil exporting countries in the World. This makes climate change and the reduction of fossil fuel use a very sensitive topic in the Arab League. At the moment, the Arab League has no clear position on all the issues related to the post-2012 process.

Nonetheless, things are changing. In Beirut, despite the tense political situation and the inclement weather at the time, more than 2000 individuals participated in a symbolic 3km walk against climate change in December 2007. Having 2000 individuals participating in Lebanon is like having 150,000 individuals participating in the United States, if we take into account the size of the population. Essentially, Arab civil society is beginning to view climate change as a substantial threat.

Therefore, the Arab League should be leading the fight against climate change and demanding a strong post-2012 regime with clear, long-term goals. Having countries that can influence the global energy market, like Saudi Arabia, grants the Arab World with a unique opportunity to save the planet. The question is: will they take the opportunity?

Wael Hmaidan

Executive Director, IndyACT {The League of Independent Activists}





STATEMENT BY ORGANIZER

ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY IN THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

The AUB- Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at AUB co-sponsored with Indyact and the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) a two-day workshop on “Post-2012 Climate Change Policy in the Arab World”.

Part of IFI’s “Research and Policy Forum on Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World”, aims to use AUB’s significant research and analysis capabilities in developing public policy for the Arab world. IFI’s climate change forum has over 20 faculty members whose research addresses the impact of climate change on the various sectors of the Arab World and gives policy recommendations to the policymakers.

This workshop falls within IFI’s mandate, and is part of a series of ongoing events on climate change in the Arab world that brings together academicians, policymakers, donor agencies, multilateral organizations, NGOs and media, to raise and tackle pertinent climate change concerns.





ورشة عمل إقليمية
سياسات العالم العربي لمفاوضات ما بعد 2012 المناخية
14-15 تشرين الأول - أكتوبر 2008

Regional Workshop
Arab World Forum for Post-2012 Climate Negotiations
October 2008



STATEMENT BY ORGANIZER

HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION - MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

Climate change is one of the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. Rising global temperatures is bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. The effects will be felt internationally but also in the Arab region and there may be severe problems for people in regions that are particularly vulnerable to change.

The Heinrich Böll Foundation as part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism, place particular emphasis on the issues of ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. As such, the Heinrich Böll Foundation is using and supporting different approaches worldwide to address the challenges posed by global climate change and to achieve in particular greater justice in the climate crisis.

As stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Heinrich Böll Foundation believes that, in tackling climate change, countries should respond according to their “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions”, thus preserving developmental equity.

Accordingly, the negotiation processes should not solely be undertaken by diplomats and mainly diplomats from the North, but from active well-informed representatives from Southern countries. As such, the Heinrich Böll Foundation – Middle East Office is supporting several activities within the Arab world aiming at strengthening the representations at all levels of Arab countries in the national, regional and international negotiations.

On the other hand, the Heinrich Böll Foundation – Middle East Office is lobbying for a “Great Energy Transition” to renewable energy sources through working with partner organizations to remove the legal barriers to the expanded and sustainable use of renewable energy technologies and to raise awareness on the benefits of renewable energy sources ad their feasibility in a region that possesses relatively high abundance of solar radiation and prevailing winds.

Layla Al-Zubaidi

Director

{Heinrich Böll Foundation, MEO}

Corinne Deek

Project Coordinator

{Heinrich Böll Foundation, MEO}





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SUMMARY OF WORKGROUPS RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants of the workshop have reached the following key recommendations:

ON SHARED VISION FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION:

- 1 The necessity to establish global long- and short-term goals.
- 2 The adoption of a global GHG reduction goal of 80% by 2050, in order to limit the global temperature rise to below 2°C (with the understanding that to achieve this target, GHG emissions should peak around 2015). In addition, an interim target of 25-40% by 2020 should be established for industrialized countries.
- 3 Different countries should have different commitments according to their historical responsibility, capacity, country size, population size, current emissions, and GDP. A country's commitments should not be based on one specific criterion.
- 4 Historical responsibility must be a very important consideration because it ensures environmental justice, which is necessary for the success of global action against climate change.
- 5 Developing countries must be aware that climate change impacts will also affect the quality of life of their citizens and the sustainable development of their economy.
- 6 Fossil-fuel exporting countries, who have largely benefited and built-up their economies from the profits of GHG emitting fossil fuels, bear part of the historical responsibility of climate change.
- 7 Adaptation should be an important aspect of the new treaty; however, adaptation should not hinder any action on mitigation.
- 8 Aviation and Maritime sectors should be included in the new treaty and should have specific commitments.

ON POST-2012 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REGIME:

- 1 It is not logical to adopt a global target if only some countries establish reduction targets and emission caps and others do not abide by any future limits to their emissions. However, the emissions reduction targets and caps must be fair and should take into account the countries capability to act without hindering its sustainable development.
- 2 There was one concern that basing emission targets on just a per capita basis might trigger countries to encourage population increase, which, in turn, would increase the stress on natural resources and energy demand.
- 3 Although subject to ideological scrutiny, a global emissions cap and trade framework could serve as the most economically feasible regime to reduce GHGs.
- 4 Carbon taxation could also be used to reduce emissions and initiate a transition to renewable forms of energy.
- 5 On its own, the Sectoral approach will not be enough to achieve the global targets. The benefit of such an approach is that it could be used as a separate agreement amongst the private industries.

- 6 Establishing an adaptation fund for developing countries is a vital element in combating climate change and achieving environmental sustainability.
- 7 Generally speaking, LDCs and Small Island States should be prioritized in receiving adaptation funding.
- 8 Adequate mapping needs to be conducted to determine what technology could be transferred, and most importantly to which developing countries. Some developing countries lack basic technologies that can save a lot of energy and could be made easily available. Only technologies that do not require huge capital and could be used for the enhancing of capacity and technical capabilities of developing countries should be transferred.

ON CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM:

- 1 There appears to be a clear lack in capacity as how to initiate a CDM project.
- 2 CDM procedures are too complex.
- 3 One way to enhance additionality could be through a better focus on baselines.
- 4 Projects which bring in a flow of technology to the country should be considered additional.
- 5 The cooperation between developed and developing countries in the implementation of CDM projects should be improved.
- 6 There should be more transparency in stakeholder's consultations. In many cases, after having a certain CDM project approved, the local community sometimes does not accept the project and works on its termination at a later stage.
- 7 CCS should not be considered under the CDM in the second commitment period until more research has been conducted surrounding CCS's practicability and beneficial effects.
- 8 Nuclear energy should not be covered by CDM, due to its environmental and security risks.

ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES / ARAB WORLD ACTIONS:

- 1 Taking into consideration that developing countries have the right to develop (sustainably), win-win actions that achieve both development and emission reductions should be prioritized.
- 2 Developing countries have the advantage to learn from the mistakes of developed countries and thus they can use existing capital to follow environmental standards and create sustainable development plans.
- 3 Some win-win commitments include improving energy efficiency, waste recycling, urban planning and public transport.
- 4 Developed countries could assist developing countries in drafting new energy-efficiency policy measures.
- 5 Another important measure could be the gradual reduction and removal of subsidies on fossil-fuels.

OVERVIEW OF THE TWO-DAY REGIONAL WORKSHOP:

ARAB WORLD POLICY FOR POST-2012 CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

Organized by the League of Independent Activists (IndyACT), American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs and sponsored by the Heinrich Boll Foundation – Middle East Office, a regional climate policy workshop was hosted in Beirut, Lebanon from October 14th-15th, 2008. The workshop was titled the "Arab World Policy for Post-2012 Climate Negotiations". The main objectives of this workshop was to build the capacity of Arab climate change stakeholders to effectively engage in the post-Kyoto negotiations process and produce a regional statement on climate policy that notes both areas of consensus and disagreement in the Arab World. This statement will be submitted to the League of Arab States and other decision-makers in the Arab World.

Since the 'Bali roadmap' was agreed upon at the Bali Conference on Climate Change in December 2007, a negotiation process has started for the drafting of a new climate treaty to be finalized by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen. This agreement will follow the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012 and is considered to be our last chance to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change

Nevertheless, most climate negotiators and policy makers in the Arab World still do not have a unified policy position on numerous issues being discussed within the post-2012 negotiations process. Several important topics have yet to be agreed upon, including developing countries commitments, the inclusion of emissions from international maritime and aviation industries, adaptation, technology transfer, Carbon Capture and Storage, sectoral approaches to achieving targets, and long-term commitments, among others.

In order to play a meaningful role in the shaping of a post-2012 treaty, it is imperative that the climate change stakeholders in the Arab World gain an in-depth understanding of the policy issues and develop a unified policy position that will benefit the region.

The workshop was attended by the Ministries of Environment from various Arab countries, academic and research institutions dealing with climate change, local, regional and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies. The workshop was also covered by the Media.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP WERE:

- ➔ Build the capacity of Arab climate change stakeholders to effectively engage in the post-Kyoto negotiations process
- ➔ Assist in formulating a common position for the region on the post-2012 treaty currently being negotiated
- ➔ Identify potential Arab collaborations to pursue shared research, policy, education, and information-sharing objectives

THE MAIN TOPICS COVERED IN THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS WERE:

- ➔ Shared vision for long-term cooperative action: common but differentiated responsibility of countries and level at which emissions should peak, including medium and long-term global goals for emission reductions
- ➔ Policy framework/regime: mechanisms to achieve medium and long-term goals
- ➔ Clean Development Mechanism: successes and shortcomings, as well as considerations of adding nuclear energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and adaptation projects
- ➔ Developing/Arab country commitments: reasonable options for non-Annex I countries with both low and high per capita emissions

At the end, working groups also discussed future actions that need to be taken in the region in order to achieve a unified position on post-2012 treaty negotiations.

SPEAKERS' BIOS AND SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

DR. HABIB N. EL HABR

Biography: Dr. Habib N. El-Habr is the Director and Regional Representative of the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), a post he assumed in 2005. Dr. El-Habr joined the UNEP in November 1988, becoming Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Chief of the Freshwater Unit in Nairobi, until 1995 when he moved to Japan to assume the functions of Deputy Director to the UNEP International Environment Center. From 1996 to 1998 he worked as the Regional Coordinator for the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for East Asian Seas in Bangkok, Thailand. Besides his expertise in freshwater resources management, Dr. El-Habr has worked in coastal and marine management, wastewater management, environmental health, and environmental assessment.

OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS FOR A POST 2012 TREATY, CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND CLIMATE POLICY POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD

According to worldwide consensus by UNFCCC parties, climate change is caused by increased GHG emissions from human activities. In response, urgent action needs to be taken; however, the current financial crisis and the possible global economic downfall are likely to affect the outcome of international climate negotiations. Developing countries, such as those in the Middle East, must take immediate action against climate change because they are the most vulnerable to the worst environmental, agricultural, and health related consequences of climate change. However, lack of technology, institutional incompetence, and financial capacity stand in their way. Fortunately, within the global arena, climate change has been receiving a lot of attention. Also support for progressive climate policy, such as cooperative mechanisms and alternative markets (carbon market), has been on the rise. Nonetheless, the complexities of the climate change issue and the global financial crisis, among many other factors, have hindered various efforts. One step towards creating reasonable and comprehensive climate policy would be through the revision, redefinition and clarification of some of the most contentious issues within the environmental debate, such as shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and finance.

KATHERINE WATTS

Katherine Watts is a policy officer at the Climate Action Network-Europe (CAN-Europe). This coalition is made up of more than 100 European environmental and developmental non-governmental organizations committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. As a policy officer, her responsibilities include developing policies and positions on post 2012 climate policy for the Climate Action Network-International network, while being involved in advocacy at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations and during the EU policy development processes.

POST 2012: CAN'S VISION FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION

What is needed to avert the major consequences of climate change is the creation of a comprehensive, ambitious and equitable post 2012 agreement. Ideally, this agreement would transform the global economy into one that is low in carbon and sustainable in both its consumption and production, yet at the same time, allow countries to reach development goals. More specifically, the post 2012 agreement should lay down markers for levels of adaptation and also for levels of technological, financial, and capacity building support. In order to reach these climate policy objectives, the Climate Action Network-Europe (CAN-Europe) created the "Viable Global Framework" where countries are divided into 3 equitable tracks. These tracks, the Kyoto Track, the Decarbonization Track, and the Adaptation track, would allow countries, based on their level of development, to commit to an equitable solution to climate change.

TANZEED ALLAM

Biography: Tanzeed Alam works for the Emirates Wildlife Society-World Wildlife Fund as Manager of the Climate Change and Sustainability division. Under this title, Mr. Alam is responsible for a variety of projects related to climate change, adaptation, mitigation, climate change impacts, pollution, and natural resource protection.

POST 2012 POLICY FRAMEWORK/REGIME:

MECHANISMS TO ACHIEVE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM GOALS

The greatest challenge facing our world today is the stabilization of greenhouse gases as to avoid catastrophic interference with the climate system. If immediate action is not taken, the planet will suffer irreversible damage and will experience intensified environmental disasters such as a rise in sea level, droughts and water scarcity, especially in the Middle East. To avert such a disaster, a coherent and swiftly executed post 2012 climate agreement must be created. In order to reach such an agreement, previous policy structures, such as Kyoto, Bali Roadmap, UNFCCC and AWG-KP/LCA, must be analyzed for their strengths and weaknesses so that a holistic climate change framework can be created.

DR. MOHAMED ABDEL RAOUF HAMID

Biography: Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf Abdel Hamid is a Senior Environment Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai. Dr. Raouf, who has lectured extensively on Environmental Accounting and Economics, has worked on several sustainable development projects. Additionally, Dr. Raouf has worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Industry in Egypt, The National Environmental Action Plan of Egypt, Egypt's CDM Strategy, The Socio-Economic Study of Al-Luhaia Fishing Port project in Yemen and The Badr Petroleum Co. budgeting team. In 2000, he was also a Bapetco-Shell Egypt development team member. Dr. Raouf's main areas of interest are environmental policy and economics in the Arab world.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE CDM, AND MATTERS OF RELEVANCE FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one ton of CO₂, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets. This mechanism allows developing countries with limited resources to reduce emissions and develop sustainably while providing already developed countries with a more economically viable method to comply with the Kyoto Protocol's emission reductions commitments. However, it is important to note that the CDM is not a flawless mechanism, critiques include: lack of environmental integrity, Annex I parties can actually increase emissions, sustainable development and technology transfer has not increased significantly, and there exists inequitable distribution of projects, among other criticisms. Possible CDM reform ideas include adding more stringent reduction commitments for Annex I countries, creating a CDM with "atmospheric benefits", and moving away from the CDM with a pure offsetting mechanism. Currently, across the Middle East, there are 54 CDM projects being executed, however, there exists a larger potential for renewable energy expansion in the region.

DR. JYOTI K. PARIKH

Biography: Dr. Jyoti K Parikh is the Executive Director of Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe). She is also a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change in India. Over the years Dr. Parikh has served as an energy consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, EEC, Brussels and UN agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, UNU, and UNESCO. Additionally, Dr. Parikh has written over 200 research papers and 25 book and monographs regarding energy economics, climate change, energy technology assessment, rural energy, the power sector, environmental economics and physics.

DEVELOPING/ARAB COUNTRY COMMITMENTS

In order to avert the major impacts of climate change, new ideas are desperately needed for the post 2012 period. In the near future it is assumed that developed nations will undertake drastic emissions reductions, but what is the strategy to get developing countries on board? Since we cannot hold developing nations to the same standards as Annex I countries, a separate set of standards must exist. However, since not all non-Annex I countries produce the same amount of emissions (some produce even more than Annex I countries!), a flexible criteria must be implemented so that developing countries can reduce emissions in the most efficient and rational way possible. Therefore, it was suggested by the Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) that non-Annex I countries (NAC) be divided into 2 groups: those with emissions above the global average (AGA) in per capita terms (4.2 t/cap), and those with emissions below the global average (BGA). The result is a three tier system where each group (Annex I, AGA and BGA) takes on specific responsibilities to reduce emissions. This system accurately follows the UNFCCC's guidelines of common yet differentiated responsibility in reducing emissions. To further divide the groups, non-Annex I countries could be divided into those with considerable oil resources, OPEC countries, and those without, non-OPEC countries. This is especially applicable to the Arab world.

JANE AMILHAT

Biography: Jane Amilhat, is a European Commission policy officer in charge of the coordination of technology transfer for climate change and other international energy related issues. She is also in charge of the issue of spill over effects in the international climate change negotiations and covers the relations with OPEC countries on climate issues at the "Climate Strategy, international negotiation and monitoring of EU action, Unit (C.1) of the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission" in Brussels, Belgium.

EU CLIMATE ACTION: FROM BALI TO COPENHAGEN VIA BRUSSELS

In order to fight against the environmental consequences of abrupt climate change, the EU has proposed a series of climate and energy policies. These policies aim to achieve the following by 2020: reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 30% (as compared to their 1990 levels), have 20% of energy consumed come from a renewable source, and have 10% of fuel used for transport come from bio-fuels. In terms of creating a healthy planet and coherent policy for the post 2012 period, the Copenhagen agreement must set the world on the right track toward the development of a low carbon society. Additionally, the Kyoto Protocol must be built upon, adding more ambitious actions by all countries based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Moreover, the nature of the carbon market must be revised, and it also must be considered that the carbon market alone will not be sufficient enough to drive the move to a low carbon economy (additional flows of finance and technology are necessary). Lastly, further exploration of the different options and principles to guide the implementation of sectoral approaches is crucial.

INITIATIVES FROM THE REGION

ARAB CLIMATE ALLIANCE

WAEEL HMAIDAN

Wael Hmaidan is a co-founder of IndyAct, the League of Independent Activists, and the head of the 'Arab Climate Campaign' in the organization. The campaign aims at achieving a strong post-2012 climate policy in the region. He is the co-founder of the Arab Climate Alliance, which includes more than 24 NGOs from 11 different Arab countries. The objective of the alliance is to push strong climate policy through the Arab League. Mr. Hmaidan has more than 10 years experience in climate change campaigning in the region. His work on this issue started in his capacity as the Greenpeace campaigner for the Arab World, where he helped established the energy and climate change campaign in several Arab countries. He participated as a policy expert and speaker in several regional and international climate events. He is also a regional advisor to the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR) and UN-ESCWA, as well as a steering committee member of the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA), a global NGO network working on waste management and its relation to climate change.

ARAB CLIMATE ALLIANCE POSITION

The Arab region is one of the richest regions with renewable energy resources, giving it a central role to play in mitigating climate change. If only one percent of the Arabian Desert is used to produce solar energy, using Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP) technology, it is possible to supply the whole World with renewable and clean electricity. Despite the potential opportunities, the Arab League's policy position on climate change has been weak. With the post-2012 negotiations underway, the oil-rich Arab states are expected to play a crucial role, similar to the role they played in the past. These countries have strong influence within the League of Arab States, OPEC and other political forums. Several important topics have yet to be agreed upon in the current post-Kyoto negotiations process, including developing countries commitments, the inclusion of emissions from international maritime and aviation industries, adaptation, technology transfer, Carbon Capture and Storage, sectoral approaches to achieving targets, and long-term commitments, among others. The Arab Climate Alliance is closely following the negotiations and urging Arab states to support a strong post-2012 regime with clear long-term targets since only a formal stabilization ceiling on GHG emissions will stabilize the climate. ACA's Campaign is aimed at insuring the Arab World agrees and commits to a post-2012 agreement that leads to a global GHG reduction goal of 80% by 2050, in order to limit global temperature increase below 2°C; with the understanding that to achieve this target, GHG emissions should peak around 2015 (see detailed ACA position in Annexes).

MASDAR INITIATIVE

TOUFIC MEZHER

Biography: Toufic Mezher is currently a Professor of Engineering Systems and Management at Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST). Before Joining MIST, he was a Professor of Engineering Management at the American University of Beirut from 1992 to 2007. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering from University of Florida, and a Master and ScD in Engineering Management from George Washington University in 1988 and 1992 respectively. His research interests include Sustainable Development, Renewable Energy Management and Policy, Building Knowledge-Based Economies and Innovation Systems, Using System Dynamics to support policy decisions in the public and private sectors, etc.

MASDAR INITIATIVE: TRANSFORMING OIL WEALTH INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY LEADERSHIP

As the first major hydrocarbon-producing nation to take such a step, it has established its leadership position by launching the Masdar Initiative, a global cooperative platform for open engagement in the search for solutions to some of mankind's most pressing issues: energy security, climate change and truly sustainable human development. By the year 2100, it is projected that 50% of Masdar city's energy will come from a sustainable source. This is a huge opportunity for oil-producing centers, such as Abu Dhabi, to evolve their economies and develop a renewable energy industry. The Masdar Initiative wishes to seize upon this opportunity and transform Abu Dhabi into an international hub for alternative energy. To achieve this end, the Masdar Initiative will focus upon alternative energy research and education (i.e. Masdar Institute of Science and Technology), attracting investments, the development of clean alternative energy technologies, and finally, the creation of Masdar City, one of the world's first carbon-neutral, zero-waste cities.

<http://www.masdaruae.com/text/carbon-management.aspx>

THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS RECOMMENDATIONS

A) SHARED VISION FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION

Participants of the working group all agreed on the necessity to establish long- and short-term targets. Since climate change requires global action, it would be impossible to commit any country, if there is no global target that everyone commits to.

The group also agreed that the target should be based on scientific grounds, rather than political. The group recognizes the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the most credible source of scientific information on climate science, and thus advocates for the adoption of its recommendations in the new climate treaty. The group also suggested adopting upper limit target of the IPCC based on the precautionary principle, which is a global GHG reduction goal of at least 80% by 2050, in order to limit global temperature rise to below 2°C. To achieve this target, GHG emissions should peak around 2015. In addition, an interim target of at least 25-40% by 2020 should be established for industrialized countries. A lack of interim targets threatens an overshoot in temperature resulting from a delayed stabilization and reduction path.

Nevertheless, to achieve this target, different countries should have different commitments according to their historical responsibility, capacity, country size, population size, current emissions, and GDP.

Historical responsibility is particularly important because it ensures environmental justice, which is necessary for the success of global action against climate change. It is important to identify who is primarily responsible for causing climate change, and who should take the main burden of the problem. As globally agreed upon, developed (Annex I) countries carry the primary responsibility for climate change and should lead action against it. Developing countries need to improve the quality of life of their citizens, and make sure that combating climate change does not hinder this process. On the other hand, developing countries should be aware that climate change impacts will also affect the quality of life of their citizens and the sustainable development of their economy. Also, developing countries have the opportunity to learn from the developed countries' mistakes and develop in a different way. Renewable energy for example is becoming a profitable industry, and in many cases can be more reliable than fossil fuels. Energy efficiency can bring about major emission reductions, frequently at negative net costs.

Developed countries carry the primary responsibility for combating climate change because they are responsible for most of the historical emissions, currently have the highest per capita emissions, and are in possession of the resources to take action against climate change. Knowing this, they should lead mitigation actions in their countries, as well as support developing countries in limiting their emissions and adapting to any climate change impacts.

Nevertheless, the group also sees that fossil-fuel exporting countries, who have largely benefited and built-up their economies from the profits of GHG emitting fossil fuels, bear part of the historical responsibility of climate change. The producers of fossil-fuels are just as responsible as the consumers of fossil-fuels, and should have immediate commitments to reducing GHG emissions nationally and internationally. Although the group agrees that primarily the fight is against GHG emissions rather than fossil-fuel, and that fossil-fuels are not the only source of GHG emissions; still fossil-fuels are the primary emitters of GHGs. It is similar to the producer of a certain commercial product that later on is found to have an indirect negative impact on environment. Usually the producer of the product is held responsible, rather than the consumer. If fossil-fuel producing countries are not willing to consider historical responsibility, at least they could be held responsible for emissions generated after 1990 when climate change problem was globally recognized.

Although the Arab countries have among the lowest emissions, some countries do have high per capita emissions, and these countries are mainly oil-producing countries. This confirms our position that fossil-fuel producing countries should be held partially responsible for climate change.

Determining the different responsibilities of different countries is a difficult process. To be fair, this process requires taking several factors into consideration. Also, at the same time, the process needs to be simple enough so that countries are able to implement it. The group was not able to reach a decision on which countries should make what commitments, but several ideas were suggested.

Fossil fuel producing countries can join Annex I in the second commitment period, as well as economies in transition. Other developing countries (excluding Least Developed Countries (LDCs)) can establish a target date for stabilizing GHG emissions. Other suggestions included channeling some of the fossil-fuel trade profit towards regional mitigation actions. This would be specifically beneficial for fossil-fuel producing countries that are completely refusing to take any obligations.

Another suggestion was that part of the responsibility to support adaptation to climate change impacts could be given to fossil-fuel producing countries, especially considering that these countries have been pushing for adaptation action more than mitigation in the post-2012 negotiations process.

On the issue of adaptation, it is clear that many countries are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. Some countries (such as LDCs and small island states) do not have the capacity to adapt to these changes, and require urgent global support. Adaptation should be an important aspect of the new treaty, but taking into consideration that the best way to adapt to climate change impacts is by avoiding them. Therefore, adaptation should not hinder any action on mitigation. Knowing that to adapt to climate change impacts would cost us around 50 billion US dollars a year globally (according to Oxfam), and that the current yearly fund available to mitigate and adapt to climate change does not exceed one billion US dollars a year, the group was concerned that action on adaptation could replace mitigation action.

One suggestion was to apply a carbon tax in order to fund adaptation action. This would benefit both mitigation and adaptation. Also, the priority should be given to LDCs and small island states in receiving adaptation funds.

Finally on the issue of aviation and maritime law, the group agreed that these two sectors should be included and have specific commitments in the new treaty being drafted.

B) POST-2012 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REGIME

In order to achieve the long-term goal of at least 80% GHG reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, the working group agreed that it is imperative for both developed countries to establish reduction targets and developing countries to enforce emission cap policies (on a “per capita” basis). It is not logical to adopt a global target if only some countries establish reduction targets and emission caps and others do not abide by any future limit to their emissions. However, the emissions reduction targets and caps must be fair and should take into account the countries capability to act without hindering their sustainable development. The emission reduction targets and caps for each country should take into consideration several factors: the current GHG emission, size of the population, size of the country and the country’s GDP. There was one concern that basing emission targets on a per capita basis might trigger countries to encourage population increase, which would increase the stress on natural resources and energy demand. Although subject to ideological scrutiny, a global emissions cap and trade framework could serve as the most economically feasible regime to reduce GHGs for many sectors. For others, other approaches, including but not limited to policies and measures, funds and taxation, may be more effective and appropriate.

Along the same lines, carbon taxation could also be used to reduce emissions and initiate a transition to renewable forms of energy. In the Arab world, implementing emission cap policy and carbon taxation is very challenging due to the following factors: a) many Arab governments are reluctant to adopt such policy because the impacts of climate change are still not fully comprehended by our governments and thus the issue is not yet a priority, b) there exists much resistance from Arab oil producing countries to act against climate change, c) new and energy efficient technologies are still not competitive with traditional fossil fuel technologies, and d) several Arab governments do not have the capability to implement their already existing policies.

One way to initiate holistic progress in emissions reductions in both the developed and developing Worlds, is to establish a sectoral reduction regime. Nevertheless, on its own, such a regime will not be sufficient to achieve the global targets. The benefit of such an approach is that it could be an agreement amongst the private industries separately. The industries that should be under such a regime are the energy intensive industries such as: transportation, electric power generation, fossil-fuel, and construction (cement, iron, wood, etc.).

Establishing an adaptation fund for developing countries is a vital element in combating climate change and achieving environmental sustainability. Generally speaking, LDCs and Small Island States should be prioritized in receiving adaptation funding. What is alarming is that currently around 50 billion US dollars are needed for adaptation every year. The available and committed adaptation fund currently does not exceed one billion US dollars a year. In order to execute successful adaptation projects, increasing funding is crucial. Carbon and fuel taxes could serve as a reliable future regime to secure funding for adaptation projects (CDM's and emission trading are not enough to fund adaptation projects).

To achieve rapid change in development, and for developing countries to benefit from the mistakes of the developed countries, there should be adequate transfer of clean technologies through a clear and efficient mechanism. First, however, adequate mapping needs to be conducted to determine what technology could be transferred, and most importantly to which developing countries. Some developing countries lack basic technologies that could be made easily available. Only technologies that do not require huge capital and could be used for the enhancing of capacity and technical capabilities of developing countries should be transferred. Feasible technology transfer projects include: Passive solar thermal heating, "green" building construction, organized public transportation, and urban planning, and research and development partnerships. In order to achieve successful technology transfer, a specific institution should be designated to implement, oversee, and evaluate technology transfer projects. Additionally, more involvement from the private sector is needed.

Having a top-down approach supplemented with a bottom-up approach is deemed necessary when we are in a region with governments that are reluctant to act on climate change. Therefore working on the community level should be given importance. The people need to know that fighting climate change can be economically lucrative.

New policies should be put in place to address the issue of technology and its transfer. These policies should oblige/divert funds to research and development while encouraging the creation of new technologies in the Arab world. This would sustainably resolve the issue of lack of technology.

c) CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

For emission reductions to be more successful globally, it is important that developed countries keep working on more domestic responsibility regarding their emissions, while improving the Kyoto carbon trading mechanisms to support the developing nations in building a clean and sustainable environment. To achieve this aim, we suggest the below improvements:

If the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is to truly achieve its dual goal of (1) assisting non-Annex I countries in achieving sustainable development while contributing to the environmental objectives of the Convention, and (2) assisting Parties included in Annex I in achieving their GHGs emissions commitments, several concerns must be addressed. Concerning the weaknesses surrounding the CDM, the fact that the CDM has no official "environmental-economic analysis" is a major limitation. The economy and the environment should not be considered separately; they are two interdependent entities.

From the standpoint of developing countries, there appears to be no clear guidelines, as how to initiate a CDM project, thus making it complicated for these countries to get on board. The lack of knowledge by the Designated National Authorities (DNAs), along with the cumbersome procedures, also curb the number and credibility of CDM projects certified. Furthermore, CDM procedures, such as proving "additionality", are too complex and hinder the

application of the project. Proving additionality has been very difficult and a large percentage of CDM projects face enormous concerns in terms of their additionality. But everyone agreed that there can never be a perfect procedure and one of the means to enhancing additionality could be a better focus on baselines. There was a suggestion that considers a project which brings in a flow of technology to the country is considered additional. Some suggested the integration of local sustainable practices as well. Another method to improve the additionality problem is to have a different rules or approaches for different countries (ex: less stringent rules for countries with little CDM projects and more stringent rules for those with many; ex: The ease in which China obtains CDM projects raises the question of how additional they are).

Future CDM projects could benefit from the following improvements: a reduction in bureaucracy, increased “top-down” guidance without hindering creativity, increased the resources for the EB’s (Executive Board), and increased transparency in operations. Not having a DNA in all the signatory countries of the Kyoto Protocol is a serious shortcoming from the governments because incorporating a DNA creates an official starting point or reference for those who need to initiate a CDM project. The participants also recommended that these DNAs are to receive continuous capacity building. Furthermore, building trust between the DOEs and the EB is also one of the necessities of creating stronger and efficient linkages in the system.

It is also crucial to improve the cooperation between developed and developing countries in the execution of CDM projects as to increase the capacity of countries implementing CDM projects.

Concerning the sustainability of CDM projects, the CDM should enhance the participation and ownership of the host country’s people, by having more transparency in stakeholders consultations. In many cases, and after having a certain CDM project approved, the local community sometimes does not accept the project and works on its termination at a later stage.

One question that is central to the CDM debate is whether or not “Carbon Capture and Storage” (CCS) should be considered under the CDM in the Post 2012 period. Because of the existing concerns with the new CCS technology—including its unproven ability to permanently trap carbon emissions and the investment of financial resources towards fossil fuel production that is unsustainable instead of towards renewable energy and energy efficiency projects—CCS should not be considered under CDM in the second commitment period until more research has been conducted surrounding CCS’s beneficial effects. Until then, CDM resources should be used for more practical purposes, such as longstanding and scientifically proven ways of reducing emissions, e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy, public transportation projects, waste recycling, etc.

In addition, there have been discussions about whether nuclear power projects should be supported under the CDM. The work group decided that nuclear energy should not be covered by CDM, due to its environmental and security risks. Managing nuclear waste is still a controversial issue, as well as the possibility of having nuclear power plants as a target for terrorists or producing nuclear weapons. In addition, nuclear fuel is also a limited resource, and eventually the World will have to re-transform the energy sector.

D) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES / ARAB WORLD ACTIONS

It is very difficult to assign commitments to developing countries based on historical emissions, current emissions and wealth/capacity. Taking into consideration that developing countries have the right to develop (sustainably), win-win actions that achieve both development and emission reductions should be prioritized. It is very important to note that developing countries have the advantage to learn from the mistakes of developed countries and thus they can use existing capital to follow environmental standards and create sustainable development plans.

The problem is that Arab countries do not make effort to be innovative, and still aim at developing in a similar ways to current developed countries.

Some win-win commitments could be conducting improvements in:

- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** This option is the most feasible option for developing countries. At no cost at all (but actually at an economic gain) and by just introducing new policies, developing countries can reduce their future demands on energy. These Policies include energy codes to buildings, appliances, cars, etc. Other examples include: enforcing the use of solar water heaters, increasing taxes on high residential consumption of energy, etc.
- **WASTE RECYCLING:** improving waste recycling is an economic gain by providing cheap raw material to local industry, and at the same time reducing GHG emissions. Composting organic waste does not only reduce methane emissions, but also avoids emissions resulting from the production of chemical fertilizers. Recycling one aluminum can saves 90% of the energy compared to producing a new can from raw ore.
- **IMPROVED URBAN PLANNING:** especially in the transport sector
Developed countries could assist developing countries in the drafting of these policy measures.

Other important measures could be the gradual reduction and removing subsidies on fossil-fuels.



WORKING GROUPS ON THE WAY FORWARD

A) RESEARCH (SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, POLICY):

Climate change research within the Arab world is very limited, and it is being recognized as one of the main bottlenecks in advancing climate change work in the Arab region. More research on the impact of climate change in the region is needed, especially if serious adaptation action is going to take place.

In terms of policy, in order to create a competent environmental strategy, it is necessary that cooperation exists between academia, NGOs, the government, and the private sector. It has been noted that there is a huge lack in climate change policy experts in the academic sector. Most research so far has been focused on the science of climate change.

Furthermore, policy options need to be developed that will promote the following: a) the development of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency practices, b) implementation of economic incentives as to encourage sound environmental practices, c) incorporating climate change in governmental institutes, d) encouraging scientific research, and lastly, e) inter-regional cooperation. It is recommended to establish a Regional Climate Center (Data Bank and Research) to coordinate regional effort and to accumulate existing and future information/research/studies on climate change from across the region. The research executed by this regional center should focus on the following areas: policy, economy (climate change impacts and action), water management, agriculture, forestry, desertification, land use/degradation, climatology, food (in)security, poverty, health, urban environment, and demographics.

It is crucial to disseminate existing scientific research to related stakeholders and general public. Therefore more funding is required for regional research institute in addition to information dissemination centers. Civil society NGOs could take the primary responsibility in disseminating existing and future research and information on climate change.

B) POLITICAL PROCESS TO ACHIEVE AND ARAB LEAGUE DECISION

A strong Arab League decision concerning climate change is dependent upon awareness and research. To begin the political process, awareness campaigns must be spread by NGOs. Furthermore, it is very important that NGOs produce and disseminate research reports to the public and the government. These research reports should detail each Arab country's position concerning climate change (i.e. policy, public awareness, environmental needs, etc.). Also, "impact reports," which highlight environmental problems and push governments toward developing solutions, should be created in order to initiate the climate change political process. The involvement of academia in this process would be beneficial.

The next step towards creating a strong Arab League decision is transforming climate change into a top priority for government officials. Prioritization of climate change can be achieved through regional climate meetings and workshops where the government, NGOs, civil society and the private sector are present. Additionally, NGOs lobbying government officials would greatly influence the political agenda. Lastly, to ensure a united stance against climate change, it is crucial that all Arab countries actively engage in climate negotiations in the Arab League. Therefore it is crucial to increase the capacity of Arab climate negotiators and to push each country to formulate a national policy position on all climate issues discussed in the post-2012 negotiation process.

NGOs have also a big role to play in formulating the regional position, and thus the Arab Climate Alliance is granted observer status at Arab League climate change meetings.



c) VENUES, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS THAT NEED TO BE ORGANIZED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND POLICYMAKERS

Below are a number of ideas generated for initiatives aimed at educating the public and policymakers:

- 1 Preparatory briefings, strategic meetings and environmental research reports would allow heads and members of delegations, as well as government officials, to become more informed of their responsibilities and commitments to the environment.
- 2 Periodic climate change forums (for NGOs and the government) could potentially educate all sectors on climate change issues. Additionally, the private sector, under Corporate Social Responsibility, can aid in technology transfer and also in the development of environment-friendly technology.
- 3 The production of climate change-focused films and documentaries with a precise, emotional, and shocking message could serve as a very valuable tool for the environmental movement. Films and documentaries can potentially spur investment in research and raise awareness. In addition, these products can place pressure upon the government and the private sector to act in more environmentally friendly ways.
- 4 Networking events, awareness campaigns, organized debates, training and capacity building workshops, as well as fundraisers are key elements in diffusing messages containing the climate policy demands of Arab NGOs. Cooperation between the international community, the government, civil society, and the private sector is necessary to reach a strong Arab World position for post-2012 negotiations. Also, these events can raise public awareness surrounding climate change issues and can potentially place pressure on the government and the private sector (to enforce environmental policy, to prioritize climate change, etc.).
- 5 Political parties' campaigns are tools that could potentially be used to prioritize climate change on the political agenda.
- 6 Academia needs to conduct more research projects and organized debates on climate policy.
- 7 Climate change should also become the topic of focus during social gatherings, arts, and rallies led by public figures could most definitely influence public opinion. Ideally, the result would be greater environmental awareness, increased civic engagement, and a stronger sense of ecological responsibility.

d) FUTURE COMMUNICATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS:

Within the Arab world, religious leaders and institutions command a great deal of influence. Consequently, these societal leaders have a powerful capacity to spread the environmental message across the Arab world. This is a resource that should be tapped. In the meantime, the role of NGOs is an integral element in spreading climate change awareness. NGOs need to be running public education campaigns and even initiating campaigns in the schools and universities (i.e. weekly class activities related to environmental issues, required environmental classes for university students).

In December of 2009, Copenhagen will be hosting negotiations regarding the post-2012 climate treaty. Therefore, it is very important that a strong political campaign is run in a swift manner as to assure the integration of sound policies into national positions as soon as possible. In order to achieve this, a dialogue must be created between political parties (government) and NGOs.



Additionally, vigorous, yet non-confrontational campaigning must be executed in key countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and India. Also, pressure from influential countries might propel the environmentally stubborn countries into agreeing to a progressive climate policy. In terms of campaigning, it would be beneficial to first relay the environmental message to receptive public figures within the Arab region. From there, the message can be disseminated to the public through the appropriate media channels and also brought to the government.

During the workshop it was proposed that an inter-regional newsletter be created in order to inform peoples in the Arab region of all climate related events (i.e. monthly newsletter). In terms of post-workshop projects, the following initiatives were proposed: a) the composition of a post-workshop essay detailing the positions of the various participants, b) the construction of an online forum to foment thoughtful critique and responses to the essay, and c) the creation of a final product essay embodying the ideas and responses of the workshop that will be presented to the Arab League Summit in January of 2009.



ANNEX 1

AGENDA

“ARAB WORLD POLICY FOR POST-2012 CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS”
TWO-DAY WORKSHOP, OCTOBER 14 - 15, 2008

HOSTED BY

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs,
The League of Independent Activists,
in collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation - Middle East Office

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

To build the capacity of Arab climate change stakeholders to effectively engage in the post-Kyoto negotiation process and produce a regional statement on climate policy that notes both areas of consensus and disagreement in the Arab World. This statement will be submitted to the League of Arab States and other decision-makers in the Arab World.

INTRODUCTION

Since the ‘Bali roadmap’ was agreed to at the Bali Conference on Climate Change in December 2007, a negotiation process has started for the drafting of a new climate treaty by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen. This agreement will follow the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012 and is considered to be our last chance to avoid catastrophic climate change impacts.

Nevertheless, most climate negotiators and policy makers in the Arab World still do not have a unified policy position on numerous issues being discussed within the post-Kyoto negotiation process. Several important topics have yet to be agreed upon, including developing countries commitments, the inclusion of emissions from international maritime and aviation industries, adaptation, technology transfer, Carbon Capture and Storage, sectoral approaches to achieving targets, and long-term commitments, among others.

In order to play a meaningful role in the shaping of a post-2012 treaty, it is imperative the climate change stakeholders in the Arab World gain an in-depth understanding of the policy issues and develop a unified policy position that will benefit the region.

PARTICIPANTS

- Ministries of Environment from Arab countries (especially UNFCCC focal points and delegates)
- Academic/research institutions dealing with climate change in the Arab World
- Arab non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Embassies
- UN agencies
- Funding organizations
- Media

LOCATION

West Hall, American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

1ST DAY

8:30 - 9:00

Coffee and registration, distribution of materials

9:00 - 9:15

Opening remarks, introductions, and goals of the workshop

Dr. Nadim Farajalla, Faculty Director of the Research and Policy Forum on Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, IndyACT

Layla Zubaidi, Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation-Middle East Office

9:15 - 9:45

Overview of expectations for a post-2012 treaty, contentious issues and climate policy position in the Arab world

Dr. Habib N. El-Habr, Director & Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia, Bahrain (confirmed)

9:45 - 10:15

Shared vision for long-term cooperative action: common but differentiated responsibility of countries and level at which emissions should peak, including medium and long-term global goals for emission reductions

Katherine Watts, Policy Officer, Climate Action Network-Europe (confirmed)

10:15 - 10:45

Post 2012 policy framework/ regime: mechanisms to achieve medium and long-term goals (e.g. binding emissions targets, aka cap-and-trade; policy based; sectoral)

Tanzeed Alam, Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF, Manager of Climate Change & Sustainability Program (confirmed)

10:45 - 11:15

Clean Development Mechanism: successes, shortcomings, opportunities in Arab world, debate over adding nuclear, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and adaptation projects

Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf Abdel Hamid, Senior Environment Researcher, Gulf Research Center (confirmed)

11:15 - 11:30

Break

11:30 - 12:00

Developing/Arab country commitments: reasonable options for non-Annex I countries with both low and high per capita emissions

Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), India (confirmed)

12:00 - 1:00

Post-Kyoto Outlook: Current situation and limitations for action
Jane Amilhat, Policy Officer, Environment Directorate-General, European Commission
Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, IndyACT

1:00 - 2:00

Lunch

2:00 - 2:30

Divide participants into working groups
→ Shared vision for long-term cooperative action
→ Policy framework/regime
→ Clean Development Mechanism
→ Developing/Arab country commitments

Establishment of group responsibilities, ground rules, assigning of moderators, presenters, note-takers, etc.

2:30 - 4:00

Group discussions to establish common ground and begin developing policy recommendations

4:00 - 4:30

Reconvene to share initial feedback on areas of agreement/disagreement and preview agenda for 2nd day

2ND DAY

8:30 - 9:00

Coffee

9:00 - 9:15

Announcements and review of working group tasks
Rami Zurayk, Chairman, Faculty Advisory Board, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

9:15 - 11:15

Working group discussions to further develop policy recommendations

11:15 - 11:30

Break

11:30 - 12:30

Group presentations to share policy recommendations with all participants, followed by plenary

12:30 - 1:00

Initiatives from the Region:

- Presentation of Arab Climate Alliance position
Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, IndyACT (confirmed)

- MASDAR Initiative
Toufic Mezher, Professor, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (confirmed)

1:00 - 2:00

Lunch (All recommendations will be compiled during lunch for distribution to participants)

2:00 - 3:00

Working group discussions on the way forward

- Policy/economic research that needs to be done
- Political process to achieve an Arab League decision
- Venues, activities, events that need to be organized to educate the public and policymakers
- Structure for communication, sharing information, follow-up

3:00 - 4:00

Group presentations to share recommendations on the way forward with all participants, followed by plenary

4:00 - 4:30

Summary of next steps/ closing remarks

Rami Zurayk, Chairman, Faculty Advisory Board, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

3RD DAY

Optional excursion to the Shouf Cedars Reserve

LIST OF PREPARATORY MATERIALS:

- The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in December 2007
- Issam Fares Institute's policy memos
- Policy papers on IndyACT's website:
http://www.indyact.org/news_details.php?news_id=MjE=
- Policy questions to consider for working group discussions

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 3

ARAB CLIMATE ALLIANCE

SUMMARY OF POSITION PAPER FOR A POST-2012 CLIMATE AGREEMENT OCTOBER 2008

The need to act now on climate change

The reality of climate change affecting people all over the world is apparent through more frequent floods, droughts, hurricanes, and the spread of disease. In the Arab world, the greatest impact will be on agriculture and water resources, causing further stress in a region already plagued by ongoing conflict and scarce water supplies. Mainly due to massive amounts of fossil fuel combustion, greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations have been causing the world to warm, on average, by 0.8 degrees Celsius. While most climate experts agree we still have the capability to stabilize our climate, they call for significant steps toward reducing global GHGs within the next 5-10 years. Otherwise it will be too late to avoid a temperature rise of over 2o C, which will bring about catastrophic climate change impacts.

THE ARAB WORLD'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING CLIMATE STABILITY

The Arab region is one of the richest regions in terms of renewable energy resources, giving it a central role to play in mitigating climate change. Despite the potential opportunities for producing renewable energy in the region, the Arab League policy position on climate change has been weak. Actually, there is no strong climate change policy adopted by the Arab states for the post-2012 negotiations process. Furthermore, in the past climate negotiations, some oil-rich Arab states have attempted to hinder progress towards an agreement, seeking to avoid any binding commitments to reductions in carbon emissions by a fixed date, emphasizing the scientific uncertainty about climate change and the flaws in existing economic analysis, and advocating for a go-slow approach in reaching an agreement. However, this doesn't have to be the case. With a combined population of 325 million people in 23 countries, the Arab World voice can heavily impact the global climate change debate and policies. Arab civil society must band together with a united demand for action from their governments.

ACA'S DEMANDS FOR A POST-KYOTO AGREEMENT

ACA is closely following the negotiations and urging Arab states to support a strong post-2012 regime. Formed of more than 24 NGOs from 12 different Arab countries, the ACA represent a wide percentage of the Arab civil society, especially since some of its members include Arab networks with hundreds of local NGO members. ACA urges the Arab League, and all countries, to support the creation of a results-oriented climate agreement that reflects the latest scientific research and includes the following key requirements:

- 1 Short and medium-term emissions reduction targets for developing and developed countries with a series of consistent milestones leading up to 2050.

Establishing clear long-term targets is crucial, since only a formal stabilization ceiling on GHG emissions will stabilize the climate. Based on the UN-IPCC (United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) recommendations, ACA's Campaign is aimed at insuring that the Arab World agrees and commits to a post-2012 agreement that leads to a

global GHG reduction goal of 80% by 2050, in order to limit the global temperature increase to below 2°C. To achieve this target, GHG emissions should peak around 2015. Establishing short and medium-term targets are essential in attracting investment and technology as to ensure we reach our target of 60-80% emissions reductions by 2050, and to minimize the costs associated with future climate change impacts and delayed mitigation. One appropriate milestone would be for industrialized countries to reduce emissions by 25-40% below 1990 levels before 2020. Specific GHG emission caps for developing countries should be agreed upon in a post-2012 treaty, which would be financed at first by developed countries, and specific obligations should be imposed on rich fossil-fuel producing countries, which ought to be held responsible for their part in contributing to the climate change problem. Early participation in the global carbon market can be profitable for developing countries; later participation, on the other hand, risks missing the opportunity for technological advancement.

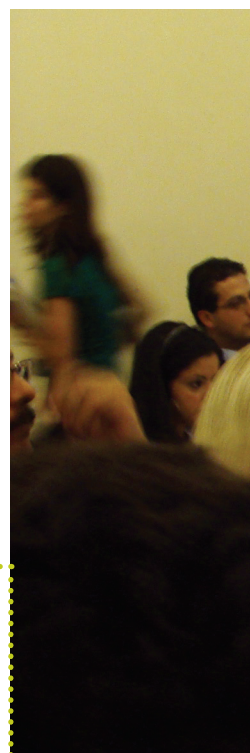
- 2 Adoption of win-win commitments for developing countries that both insure GHG reduction and sustainable development, such as:
 - a Reduction and eventual removal of subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.
 - b Policies to facilitate and streamline the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
 - c Development of public transport and increase industrial energy efficiency, and the reduction of the consumption of products with high energy intensity.
 - d Waste recycling.
 - e Protection of forests and increasing green spaces in urban areas.
 - f Giving climate change political priority in order to include it in the programs of all public institutes.
 - g Encourage NGOs and civil society to actively campaign on climate change awareness.
- 3 Improvement and expansion of the Clean Development Mechanism, and excluding Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project until the technology is mature
- 4 Not to consider waste-to-energy incinerators, and nuclear energy projects as part of the solutions to climate change
- 5 Including commitments for international aviation and maritime transport sectors in the new agreement
- 6 Development of an adequate Adaptation Fund
- 7 Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

We are calling on all Arab civil society to join the “Arab Climate Alliance”, which is focused on shaping the Arab League’s position for the post-2012 agreement.

By joining the Alliance, you insure that our voice will be heard and our message spread. It is up to the Arab civil society to influence the position of their governments.

Please visit our website at www.arabclimate.org for more information.





**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
'ARAB WORLD POLICY FOR POST-2012 NEGOTIATIONS'**

OCTOBER 14-15, 2008 AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

ORGANIZED BY:

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT'S ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
THE LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT ACTIVISTS (INDYACT)
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HEINRICH BOLL FOUNDATION – MIDDLE EAST OFFICE