



Advocacy Campaign on Adaptive Measure to Reduce Effect of Climate Change in the Arab World

Climate Change has become a reality and therefore, received special attention since the official First World Climate Conference that was held in 1979. The meeting concluded ways climate change would impact human civilization and what the nations of the world could do to avoid climate disruptions. It called for a World Climate Program to handle such issues. A number of intergovernmental conferences were held to study the scientific findings and discuss possible political action.

In 1988 the UNEP and the WMO established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a committee of thousands of scientists, was founded.

The IPCC gathers data on global climate and issues assessments. The 1990 Second World Climate Conference called for a framework treaty on climate change. Ministerial-level negotiations among 137 states plus the European Community did not at the time produce any international targets for reducing emissions. However, the following principles were supported, and later included in the Climate Change Convention. These were:

- Climate change as a common concern of humankind;
- The importance of equity;
- The common but differentiated responsibilities of countries at different levels of development;
- Sustainable development; and the precautionary principle, that the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse to postpone action when there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage.

In 1990, the U.N. General Assembly created the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Framework Convention on Climate Change as subsidiary body. It gave the INC the job of preparing for a ministerial conference on the treaty. The ministers would meet in Berlin to draft a Convention on Climate Change in time for the 1992 summit in Brazil.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in New York on 9 May 1992 and was signed by 154 states (plus the EC) at the Rio de Janeiro UNCED where the third world-climate conference held in June, 1992. It supported the principles of the Second Conference. The goals of the conference were to slow or halt environmental degradation from global warming while promoting sustainable economic and social development. Developed nations were asked to voluntarily rollback their greenhouse gases emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

In 1994, the convention entered into force. Developed nations were required to submit greenhouse gas inventories of emissions and carbon sinks. Also in 1994, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee met six more times to debate more details of the treaty: financing, support for developing countries, and procedures.

In early 1995, the INC dissolved and the Conference of the Parties (COP) replaced it. The COP became the primary governing body of the Framework Convention of Climate Change.

In mid-1995 COP held its first session. It found that the voluntary emissions reductions in the Rio treaty were not working. On the final day ministers from the 117 national parties adopted the Berlin Mandate, a call for new talks containing stronger commitments. In 1995, the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC concluded that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernible human influence on global climate." It concluded that 60% to 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions would be necessary to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

In 1996, COP held its second session in Geneva. It stressed the need for the international community to draft a text of a treaty document requiring industrial nations to reduce their source of greenhouse gas emissions. The legally-binding protocol was barely ready in time for the third COP session in Kyoto, Japan. Other goals of the protocol would be comparable methods for nations reporting inventories of greenhouse gases and offers of financial support for countries implementing the treaty.

In 1997, a draft of the protocol for Kyoto emerged from a series of conferences from March through October.

In December 1997, the third COP on the Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Kyoto, Japan. The Kyoto protocol expanded the powers of the Rio treaty by making greenhouse gas emissions cutbacks mandatory for 38 developed nations listed as Annex I countries. Greenhouse gas emission would be reduced by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2012. How to go about enforcing the cuts was delayed until 1998 at COP4.

In the summer of 1998, international talks on the Protocol began again in Bonn. Representatives from 150 nations met to set the agenda for the Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4). With three major plans on mandated emissions cutbacks, the agenda for COP4 lacked the expected consensus plan that was needed to guide the COP4 meeting in Buenos Aires

In Buenos Aires from Nov. 2-14, 1998, COP4 approves a Plan of Action on the Kyoto Protocol. Parties agree to establish specific policies for achieving emissions reduction goals by the year 2000. COP4's postponement of an agreement on the Protocol's needed mechanisms was fueled by historic differences among party factions.

In November 2001, at the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP 7) in Marrakech, Morocco, Parties reached agreement on the legal text needed to implement the Protocol. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the United States from the Protocol, it is widely anticipated that enough countries will ratify the Protocol in 2003 for it.

In December 6-17, 2004, at the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change prepared for the imminent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, and Skirmished again over the terms for possible consideration of next steps in the international climate effort. In two weeks of talks, negotiators tied up loose ends on technical aspects of the Protocol, produced a modest new "Buenos Aires Work Programme" on adaptation, and agreed to convene a "Seminar of Government Experts" in May that provides an opening for discussing possible future efforts but explicitly "does not open any negotiations leading to new commitments."

The Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties came against the backdrop of Kyoto's impending entry into force. With Russia's ratification in November, the Protocol is set to take effect on February 16, establishing the first binding international commitments to limit greenhouse gas emissions and an international emissions trading system to promote cost-effective reductions. 2.1.2 Climate Change definition.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as: "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods". In other words, the UNFCCC uses the term Climate Change to mean only those changes that are brought about by human activities. There are many factors both natural and of human origin, that determine the climate of the Earth. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are one of these factors which comprise a number of minor gases in the atmosphere; although relatively transparent to sunlight, absorb most of the infrared heat energy transmitted by the Earth towards space.

This phenomenon has been called the "greenhouse effect" and the absorbing gases that cause it "greenhouse gases". Important greenhouse gases include:

Water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, and halocarbons. Climate change is already a reality today and not a fiction for the day after tomorrow, noting that the largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated in developed countries, that per capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low and that the share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs. Melting glaciers and the thermal expansion of sea water may raise sea

levels, threatening low-lying coastal areas and small islands. The global mean sea level has already risen by around 15 centimeters during the past century, and global warming is expected to cause a further rise of about 18 cm by the year 2030. If the current trend in greenhouse gas emissions continues, the rise could amount to 65 cm above current levels by the year 2100. The most vulnerable land would be the unprotected, densely populated coastal regions of some of the world's poorest countries. Bangladesh, whose coast is already prone to devastating floods, would be a likely victim, as would many small island states such as the Maldives.

All fossil fuels release carbon dioxide as a byproduct when burned. This greenhouse gas contributes to global warming, which is predicted to increase flooding in many coastal regions. With the recent global call to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, there is a strong case for promoting the use of sustainable renewable energy technologies worldwide. Using modern technology, enormous reductions can be made in carbon dioxide emissions, particularly if renewable energy is used to replace their fossil-based equivalents.

There are many uncertainties in predictions of climate change, particularly with regard to the timing, magnitude and regional patterns thereof. Acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

The project concept emerges from the fact that climate change impacts are becoming detrimental and are labeled with the expected disasters that will outrage the earth soon and thus actions in the form of adaptation measures are needed. The concept focuses on an advocacy and awareness raising campaign using the participatory and consultative approach as a mean. Initially RAED will identify 3 countries where then the number gradually increases to reach 10 Arab countries. The process at the national level be comprised of conducting an assessment to identify 3 hotspots that might be possibly turned to be for instance in the field of water, agriculture and then health matters. Once the 3 hotspots are identified, a process of dialogue will be launched addressing multi-stakeholders. The aim and outputs of this campaign will be in the form of educating people and raising their awareness including the decision makers about the risks entailed and associated with the climate change and in specific in relation to each hot spot area identified earlier. Moreover, the community capacity building is enhanced and improved. RAED will conclude a model that could be replicated and multiplied in the rest of the Arab region and even in other counties in relation to such type of activities.