



**SDG-CLIMATE  
FACILITY**  
Human Security in the Arab States

المجلس العربي للمياه



Arab Water Council



Report on the Results of the

# REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

“Towards an Integrated Climate Security  
Framework for the Arab Region”

6–8 December 2020

with financial support from



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**REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY  
STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE**

**“Towards an Integrated  
Climate Security Framework  
for the Arab Region”**

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A virtual event hosted online (Zoom Platform)

by the Arab Water Council, the League of Arab  
States, and the United Nations Development  
Program (UNDP)

as a milestone of the SDG–Climate Facility Project

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AFESD</b>	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
<b>AGIR</b>	Arab Geographical Information Room
<b>AOYE</b>	Arab Office for Youth and Environment
<b>AWC</b>	Arab Water Council
<b>AWMC</b>	Arab Women Media Center
<b>CAMRE</b>	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
<b>CMED</b>	UCLA Center for Middle East Development
<b>CRNI</b>	LAS Climate Risk Nexus Initiative
<b>DRC</b>	Desert Research Center
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>IsDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>LAS</b>	League of Arab States
<b>NRC</b>	National Research Center
<b>NWRC</b>	National Water Research Center
<b>RCSSHD</b>	Regional Climate Security Stakeholder Dialogue
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>RAED</b>	Arab Network for Environment and Development
<b>Sida</b>	Sweden's Government Agency for Development Cooperation
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNEP-FI</b>	United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative
<b>WB</b>	The World Bank
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program of the United Nations

## Executive Summary

This report provides a summary and overview of the proceedings and results of the Regional Climate Security Stakeholder Dialogue “**Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for the Arab Region**”, hosted online by the Arab Water Council, the League of Arab States, and UNDP from December 6th–8th, 2020. The event was one of the milestones of the **SDG–Climate Facility Project**, implemented by the host organizations and other UN partner organizations and funded by Sida. The three-day event included a day of introductory presentations and two days of interactive workshop activities that engaged participants in drafting a “Regional Policy Framework for Climate Security” in the Arab region. The event was attended by a total of 73 participants representing governmental and non-governmental organizations, research, and academic institutions from fourteen Arab countries, and even further afield.

The presentations on the first day introduced the concept of “**Climate Security**” and explained the interconnections between three important global agendas, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The presentations highlighted the importance of adopting an **integrated, cross-sectoral, nexus-based approach** in addressing climate security, as well as the need to build an enabling environment for climate security research, partnerships, collaboration, sharing, and innovation across the region. Climate security, as an innovative approach, was discussed across technical, institutional, and political contexts. These three spheres were also the core of the work of **four task forces** that embarked on interactive group discussions and planning exercises on the second day of the event.

In several breakout sessions, the Dialogue participants shared in one of those four designated task forces:

1. Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress
2. Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security
3. Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security
4. Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality

The Dialogue participants jointly determined and voted on a shared definition of the concept of Climate Security and its meaning in the Arab region. They further developed a shared vision of advancing climate security as a policy and planning approach across the region. The definition and vision were determined as follows:

### REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY DEFINITION

*Climate Security is a new concept used to describe and understand the combined impacts of climate-related change on natural resources, ecosystems, socio-economic development, and political stability of a country and, therefore, of a region. It aims at emphasizing the catalytic effect of climate-related change as a risk multiplier that can lead to multiple threats on human welfare, economic resilience and national security that most immediately affect vulnerable groups, and that necessitate integrated, cross-sectoral mitigation and adaptation efforts.*



## REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY VISION

*By 2030, the Arab Region will have the enabling environment that allows decision-makers, stakeholders, and the research community to proactively address and act on the emerging complexity of climate-related challenges to attain a regional stability, sustainability, social security and achieve the SDGs. This will be achieved by supporting the operationalization of an integrated policy framework for climate security nexus perspective that brings benefits across the SDGs and enhances the response to the identified challenges by enhancing synergies and minimizing trade-offs, mainstreaming the climate security concept in planning and budgeting, scaling up regional cooperation, participatory planning and partnerships, promoting interdisciplinary research, knowledge transfer, training, awareness-raising, digital transformation, and enhancing access to sustainable finance.*

The four task forces went through a participatory planning exercise that involved identifying and ranking challenges and strategic objectives, followed by formulating strategic actions to work towards achieving these objectives. Besides the discussions based around the thematic area of their own task forces, all participants drew connections to the other task force themes, applying a nexus-approach in their planning steps.

Despite the task forces' differing thematic foci, there were considerable overlaps across the **technical, institutional, and political challenges** the task forces identified. All task forces identified lacking knowledge and awareness of the concept of climate security, insufficient climate security data and regional data-sharing mechanisms, as well as missing capacity to combine existing data sets in ways that would allow for an integrated approach to climate security, as significant challenges in the region. Missing intersectoral approaches in institutional set-ups and mechanisms for climate security implementation, a lack of communication channels and cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as a lack of capacity to apply a nexus-based policy approach, were also pinpointed as important shortcomings. Furthermore, participants believed that insufficient sustainable funding mechanisms and business models were hindering climate security research and implementation, while proactive strategies to involve the private sector and civil society organizations were missing. The most important political challenges the task forces pinpointed were a lack of political will, missing political frameworks at the regional level, absent regional climate security thresholds and goals, and a lack of real commitment to climate security action.

There were also overlaps and synergies across the task forces concerning **strategic objectives** and identified **action items**. All task forces suggested conducting additional research on climate security, using state-of-the-art technologies and innovative research methodologies, including digital innovation and more participatory research approaches that would actively include both genders, as well as marginalized and vulnerable groups in the generation of climate security knowledge, data, and information. To enable meaningful cross-sectoral analysis, research data would have to be disaggregated and new data generation protocols established. All groups proposed the assessment of existing information-sharing platforms in the region and the creation of synergies between them, while new platforms for regional data-sharing might have to be designed and established. An ethics of sharing and collaboration would have to be introduced at the institutional level as well, while cross-sectoral, nexus approaches would have to replace sectoral, "silo"-dominated planning and implementation structures. All groups proposed capacity development – to deepen an understanding of climate security, to advance intersectoral, nexus-based research, and to establish integrated, cross-sectoral institutional arrangements and working styles. On both the political and institutional levels, innovative

and sustainable business and financing models were suggested, as well as better links to the private sector and civil society organizations. More political commitment to climate security was demanded across the Board, measured against regional benchmarks of climate security performance. More participatory and political and governance structures could enable a more proactive engagement of diverse stakeholders in developing and implementing a regional climate security framework. Moreover, more political leadership, particularly of women, was perceived as an important step towards strengthening the climate security policy agenda in the region. Section 2 of this report provides a detailed report on the results of the task force work.

While the task force sessions were an important and successful start to formulating a “Climate Security Policy Framework” for the region, the work and outcomes also showed room for further advocacy work and capacity development. The discussions displayed some disconnection between the theoretical planning level and the real practical impact of nexus-based planning and implementation on the ground. As the climate security approach focuses on the effects of climate change on people and their livelihoods, more tangible policy and planning approaches are needed that model the impact of climate change-related alterations in access to water, food or energy on people, poverty, security, migration, and other socio-economic factors. Moreover, the importance of transboundary resource-sharing agreements and mechanisms, a proactive planning agenda for disaster risk reduction and climate change-induced migration, as well as a more inclusive protection of vulnerable groups, require further regional discussion. Section 3 of this report summarizes the workshop outcomes and proposes future steps.

The successful three-day event culminated in the official launch of the **Regional Climate Security Network**, another important milestone of the SDG-Climate Facility Project. The new network will serve as an innovative think-tank for developing and implementing climate security policies and activities on the regional level across the Arab region. The action plans developed by the task forces during the Dialogue will inform the Regional Climate Security Network’s work in 2021 and beyond. Breaking down nexus-based climate security thinking into practical, multi-dimensional planning tools and approaches will be an important task for the Regional Climate Security Network to pursue. Future participatory stakeholder events following a similar methodology and this Dialogue can also help strengthen the Regional Climate Security Policy Framework. To ensure that such a Framework can have real and tangible impact on the ground, an integrated and cross-sectoral understanding of climate security will have to be translated into real, everyday tools and mechanisms that policymakers, planners and project managers across the region can apply on a day-to-day basis. The new network already has a significant number of members, and the Dialogue organizers extended a wide-scale invitation for further applications into the network through [Expressions of Interest \(EOI\)](#) on the [Dialogue’s Website](#).

After the successful completion of the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, the Regional Climate Security Network will start its operations in early 2021, building on the recommendations and action plans defined by the four task forces. These guidelines for the network are summarized in Section 4 of this report. The results of the Dialogue will also lead to the production of a policy brief on climate security in the Arab region that will be distributed to a broad range of stakeholders from across the region. This policy brief will communicate the main takeaway messages and policy recommendations formulated during the Dialogue, as outlined in Section 5 of this report. Moreover, the Arab Water Council is planning a second Regional Stakeholder Dialogue that will follow a similar participatory format and that is scheduled to take place later in the year 2021. This second meeting will allow for more in-depth discussions based on the results of this Dialogue.

## 1. Overview of the Workshop

The Regional Climate Security Stakeholder Dialogue (RCSSHD) was conducted over three days from the 6th to the 8th of December 2020 under the theme «Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for the Arab Region».

The Stakeholder Dialogue was organized by the Arab Water Council (AWC) with the support of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Arab States Office of The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a milestone of the SDG–Climate Facility Project funded by Sida. The SDG–Climate Facility Program was launched in January 2019 under the LAS Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (CRNI) and will end in December 2022. The SDG–Climate Facility is a multi-partner platform focusing on the impacts of climate change on human security in the Arab region, especially in the context of countries in crisis. It brings UNDP together with LAS, AWC, as well as United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), The United Nations Environment Program’s Finance Initiative (UNEP–Fi), UN–Habitat and the World Food Program (WFP) to deliver climate-oriented solutions that address climate challenges, and to bring co-benefits across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, it aims to scale up access to and delivery of climate finance, including through innovative partnerships with the private sector. The program will establish a regional platform that enables institutions across the Arab world – including government institutions, organizations and NGOs, research institutions, donor agencies and other strategic partners – to successfully integrate climate security into policy-making and strategic planning. The establishment of a Climate Security Network will ensure that the platform is based on the continuous collaboration of a network of strategic partners.

The Stakeholder Dialogue, in turn, aimed at enhancing the capacity of regional and national institutions to mainstream climate security considerations into development strategies and policies in a way that brings benefits across multiple goals such as: enhancing water, food and energy security, gender equality, tackling youth unemployment and eradicating poverty, while also reducing the impacts of, and potential for, conflict and crises. At the Dialogue, stakeholders representing a wide range of institutions, sectors and countries discussed and ranked operational challenges and developed potential strategic solutions associated with climate security related policies on the regional level, in addition to exchanging views and information on how to integrate climate security in a more sustainable and coordinated manner.

The Dialogue resulted in achieving the following outputs:

- A clear definition of the concept of climate security and what it really means for the Arab region has been identified.
- Main challenges hindering the proper operationalization of an integrated framework for climate security in the Arab region have been defined.
- A shared vision developed among relevant stakeholders on the main elements needed to initiate an integrated strategic framework to advance climate action for human security in the Arab region, and mainstreaming climate security considerations in development planning and risk reduction policies has been developed.
- A list of strategic objectives and strategic action priorities have been identified to help create an enabling environment to address the current operational challenges for climate security using integrated and innovative approaches.

- A Regional Climate Security Network has been operationalized to serve as an important and innovative entity for developing and implementing climate security policies and activities on the regional level across the Arab region. The launch of the Regional Climate Security Network marks a key milestone of the SDG–Climate Facility project. The network already has a significant number of members and will form the umbrella for regional climate security related work in 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event had to be hosted online, using the Zoom conference platform. Group-Map and Mentimeter virtual platforms were also used to facilitate the dialogue activities and exercises. These platforms offer real time online tools for communications and discussions which are crucial for participatory planning.

This report summarizes the proceedings of the Stakeholder Dialogue, including the main outcomes of the participants’ discussions, as well as defined challenges, objectives, and action plans. The Task Forces’ results and outputs are a first important step towards shaping a regional climate security dialogue driven by inter–sectoral and multi–stakeholder participation. These outputs do not represent the opinions of the event organizers, nor are they final evaluations of the priorities of tasks and activities concerning climate security policies and planning in the region, but rather they reflect the valuable inputs of the Dialogue’s participants and raise important first points for a targeted assessment of needed policy and planning actions in the region. Accordingly, they will help shape the future work of the Regional Climate Security Network and other regional players and partners.

## 1.1 Participants

The event was attended by senior governmental officials, policy-makers, as well as experts from multi-lateral regional and international organizations in pertinent fields. In total, 73 participants representing governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions from fourteen Arab countries participated in the workshop, as demonstrated in Table 1 (a full list of provided in Annex 1: List of Participants).

**Table 1: Participant groups**

Group	Representatives from
Arab Countries	Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Palestine, Tunisia, and Sudan
International Organizations	UNDP, WB, UNEP-FI, WFP, UNDRR, IWMI, RCREEE, ICARDA, IOM, UNESCO, CIHEAM-Bari, UN Women and CEDARE
NGOs & Academia	AWC, RAED, AOYE, CMED, Ain-Shams University, Lebanese University, DRC, NWRC, NRC
Other Countries	Austria, USA, Italy, Denmark, and Canada

Women were well represented through all steps and activities of the workshop. A total of 27 out of the 73 participants were women, which means that women represented around 37% of all participants.

## 1.2 Workshop Structure

Six sessions were conducted during the three-day workshop; each session designed to achieve specific objectives through a series of interactive activities and live exercises. **Table 2** describes the sequence of the three-day workshop, while a more detailed agenda for each day can be found in **Annex 2: Workshop Agenda**.

**Table 2: Sequence of the Dialogue**

Day	Session	Objective
Day One	Session I: Understanding the Context	To introduce the subject of climate security and reach a common consensus on the general definition of climate security as a concept and on what it implies for the Arab region.
	Session II: Setting the Stage	To introduce the Stakeholder Dialogue's methodology and structure in detail to ensure participants' understanding of the topic, to organize the Task Forces' work and to explain the main objective of each Task Force and the nexus areas tackled during the Task Force discussions.
Day Two	Session I: Visioning, Challenges to Change	To come to a shared understanding of main climate security challenges which affect the technical, institutional, and political dimensions, and hinder the operationalization of climate security in the fields of water, food, energy, and social cohesion.
		To develop a shared vision on how to build an integrated climate security policy for the Arab region tackling current challenges.
	Session II: Strategizing and Setting Priorities	To make decisions on fundamental strategic objectives that contribute to achieving the developed vision based on the identified challenges to transform the developed vision from theory to practice.
Day Three	Session I: Detailed Planning, Time to Act	To convert the agreed strategic objectives into a phased set of activities (plans) that could be conducted under the framework of the Regional Climate Security Network within the next year as a first step towards operationalizing or advancing climate security action, and that could contribute to achieving the developed vision.
	Session II: Launching the Regional Climate Security Network	To provide a summary of the main results and conclusions of the three-day workshop, agree on the next steps, and launch the Regional Climate Security Network to follow up on the agreed actions and define the way forward.

Day one included welcome speeches by the organizations hosting and supporting the event, followed by expert presentations on different aspects of climate security. Interactive sessions began with introductory remarks and ended with wrap-up sessions in the plenary, giving participants an opportunity to discuss and comment on the results. The discussions were facilitated by qualified moderators and reporters from AWC and other partnering agencies. Workshop materials, presentations and results can be accessed by visiting [www.climatechangedialogue.com](http://www.climatechangedialogue.com).

## 2 Results of the Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop

### 2.1 Setting the Scene and Reviews of Efforts

The first day of the Stakeholder Dialogue aimed at introducing the subject of climate security and reaching a common consensus on the general definition for climate security as a concept and on what it implies for the Arab region. Besides, several keynote presentations and interactive exercises were conducted to engage participants and to introduce recent studies, political frameworks, and projects addressing climate security.

Two sessions were held during the first day, as follows:

#### 2.1.1 Session 1: Understanding the Context

This session included opening remarks from project partners, followed by several technical presentations on climate change challenges and forecasts in the Arab region. It also shed light on current regional efforts and possible opportunities to advance climate security across the region and to enhance the coherence between the following three global agendas: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

The official opening of the workshop was chaired by His Excellency **Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid**, President of the Arab Water Council. In his speech, Dr. Abu-Zeid recognized the importance of the SDG-Climate Facility Project in supporting regional efforts towards climate security and nexus planning in the Arab region. Dr. Abu-Zeid highlighted the year 2015 as a landmark year for the international community with the adoption of three main interrelated agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for DRR. Dr. Abu-Zeid described the Stakeholder Dialogue as an innovative tool to operationalize climate security in the Arab region. He stressed that the regional dialogue presented an excellent opportunity to launch the Regional Climate Security Network as a regional umbrella to support collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders, building resilience, and enhancing synergies among different sectors. Dr. Abu-Zeid concluded his remarks by emphasizing the importance of shaping new perspectives of the climate resilience agenda to include the nexus approach in tackling climate security in an integrated manner. Finally, He thanked all participants for making themselves available for the workshop and urged all stakeholders to work together towards better climate security in the Arab region.

The second opening address was given by Ambassador **Nada Al Agizy**, the Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at the League of Arab States. In her speech, Ms. Al Agizy provided a remark on the importance of climate security in the Arab region. She emphasized the role of the Stakeholder Dialogue as an important opportunity to exchange information and discuss issues related to climate security, to develop a shared vision as well as strategic actions. She stressed that climate security represented a significant challenge to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the Arab region. Ms. Al Agizy described the inter-linkage between climate security and human security, as, for example, between 2007-2017, the Arab region experienced the most severe drought conditions which resulted in massive internal displacement, social unrest, and instability across the region. Furthermore, she clarified the relation between climate security and achieving the sustainable development goals, as the socio-economic effects of climate change could lead to weak social cohesion and create conflicts, which, in return, would negatively affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Al Agizy placed emphasis on the importance of the SDG–Climate Facility Project and the Stakeholder Dialogue in creating synergies between different sectors across the Arab region.

The third welcome address was provided by **Ms. Paola Pagliani**, the Regional Program Coordinator at the United Nations Development Program Regional Hub. Ms. Pagliani started her remarks by describing the exceptionality of the Dialogue, which came at the time of COVID–19, which, itself, bears a connection to climate security. She provided interesting links between the pandemic and the interaction between human, nature and the planet. Ms. Pagliani declared that the Arab region was much impacted by climate change, as shown in recorded temperatures for many countries across the region. In her speech, Ms. Pagliani focused on the current water challenges in the region, as 12 of the world’s 17 most water stressed countries are in the Arab region, while, at the same time, climate change projections show that by 2025 the water supply in the region will be 15% of the level of 1960. Additionally, there are more than 4 million people affected by water scarcity in the region. Ms. Pagliani described the case of Somalia as a clear example of climate change impacts in the Arab region, where droughts and floods are impacting the country and affecting the agricultural lands, food security and livelihood. Ms. Pagliani emphasized the achievements of UNDP in supporting climate change adaptation by providing financial support of about 500 million USD to Arab states to deal with climate change challenges. In closing, Ms. Pagliani stressed the significant need for a proactive and participatory approach to deal with climate change. Actions are needed to stop operating in silos and depart on joint actions through working with all stakeholders to produce a systemic change towards climate security. Additionally, she elaborated on the importance of developing comprehensive climate change solutions tailored to local communities. Ms. Pagliani concluded her remarks by providing examples of using renewable energy to provide electricity and reduce emissions, while at the same time enhancing the socio-economic status of communities.

After the opening remarks, **Prof. Walid Abderrahman**, Vice President of the Arab Water Council, provided a presentation on the Stakeholder Dialogue’s objectives and workshop agenda. In his presentation, Prof. Abderrahman shed light on the definition of climate security and its inter-linkages with environmental, social, economic, and human security dimensions. He also described a project cycle that can be implemented for climate security planning in the Arab region and showed the role of the Stakeholder Dialogue in this cycle. Prof. Abderrahman described the main three pillars needed to promote climate security planning in the Arab region as enabling environment, institutional arrangements, and management instruments. In the last part of his presentation, Prof. Abderrahman provided a detailed description of the Dialogue’s agenda.

**Ms. Sujala Pant**, Chief Technical Advisor and Regional Project Management at UNDP presented the “SDG–Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security project” to the participants, including a summary of the project’s goals, scope, activities, and achievements. Ms. Pant emphasized that the Arab region was a hotspot where climate change acts as a threat multiplier, amplifying existing pressures related to social inequalities or political and economic fragility as well as food and water insecurity, affecting both personal security as well as the security of livelihoods. Funded by Sida, the SDG–Climate Facility Project is a regional flagship project that engages a participatory methodology to increase awareness and understanding of the links between climate change and the SDGs, to enhance access to analysis, tools and strategies, to strengthen national and local capacities, and to mobilize innovative sustainable financing mechanisms. The project will conclude with the establishment of a regional SDG–Climate facility that will help advance these goals beyond the duration of the funded project.

For the purpose of raising participants' awareness of climate security, three presentations were given by climate experts. The first presentation was provided by **Prof. Wadid Erian**, Senior Advisor to the League of Arab States, who spoke about the main climate change challenges and opportunities in the Arab region and explained key topics, helping participants to obtain an appropriate knowledge and information background of the Dialogue's topic.

A second presentation was given by **Dr. Adel Farid**, AWC's Facility Design Consultant, about the integrated framework of climate security, the SDGs and DRR. The presentation included a climate security-based review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for DRR. Additionally, the speaker provided a description of the main inter-linkages between these agendas.

The third presentation focused on the impacts of climate change at the country level, particularly the case of Saudi Arabia. **Prof. Walid Abderrahman** presented the results of a research study to assess the climate change impacts specifically on water resources, land resources, and the socio-economic aspects in Saudi Arabia. The study developed two climate change scenarios for the Kingdom. The first scenario predicts an increase in mean annual temperature by 1°C, elevating the ETo by 1 to 4.5% and increasing irrigation requirements by 3 to 8%. The second scenario predicts an increase in mean annual temperature by 5°C, causing a rise in ETo of 6 to 19.5% and raising irrigation requirements by 7 to 14%. Prof. Abderrahman indicated that findings of the study had helped decision-makers and water planners in applying modifications of water management policies to benefit from surface runoff and to minimize damages of populated areas and agricultural lands.

## 2.1.2 Session 2: Setting the Stage

The second session aimed at introducing the Stakeholder Dialogue's methodology and the Regional Climate Security Network's structure to ensure participants' understanding of the topic. It also aimed at introducing each Task Force and its respective focus areas, and explained the nexus areas tackled during the Task Force discussions.

**Dr. Rami Salameh**, the Stakeholder Dialogue consultant, provided a presentation on the Stakeholder Dialogue's methodological steps, and presented the main activities for conducting the Stakeholder Dialogue and its role in addressing climate security.

The second presentation was conducted by **Eng. Heba Al Hariry**, Deputy Technical Director and Regional Coordinator of the Arab Water Council, focusing on the Regional Climate Security Network's structure, and describing the proposed organizational framework, roles, and mandates of the network. The Regional Climate Security Network will bring together institutions, organizations and individuals representing the governmental, non-governmental, private, finance, and civil society sectors from across the Arab region. The network members will work together on developing and implementing a regional climate security framework. This framework will address integrated issues of climate change, social security, and sustainability through a nexus approach that will also advance the implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction. Eng. Al Hariry reminded participants of the fact that the Regional Climate Security Network would be officially launched on the last day of the Dialogue.



### 2.1.3 Interactive Exercises

Two interactive exercises were performed on the first day to ensure a participatory approach and lively discussion during the day, in addition to assessing the level of participants' knowledge about climate security topics.

The first interactive exercise titled «**Climate Security for the Arab Region**» aimed at allowing participants to share their understanding of the climate security definition for the Arab region. Participants agreed on the need of promoting the climate security concept to shift the current traditional sectorial policy-making processes towards more integrated policy frameworks that engender real, transformational change in tackling sustainability challenges and vulnerabilities. Accordingly, participating stakeholders agreed on the following shared understanding of climate security for the Arab region:

#### REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY DEFINITION

Climate security is a new concept used to describe and understand the combined impacts of climate-related change on natural resources, ecosystems, socio-economic development, and political stability of a country and, therefore, of a region. It aims to emphasize the catalytic effect of climate-related change as a risk multiplier that can lead to multiple threats on human welfare, economic resilience and national security that most immediately affect vulnerable groups, and that necessitate integrated, cross-sectoral mitigation and adaptation efforts.

A second question was raised to obtain participants' feedback on the main climate security aspects that pose threats to sustainability in the Arab region in the next 10 years. The decrease in food security, water scarcity and stress, and forced migration and displacement were identified as main threats to sustainability in the Arab region. On the other hand, energy security, economic loss, and gender inequality were identified as representing the least threats to suitability in the region (Figure 1).

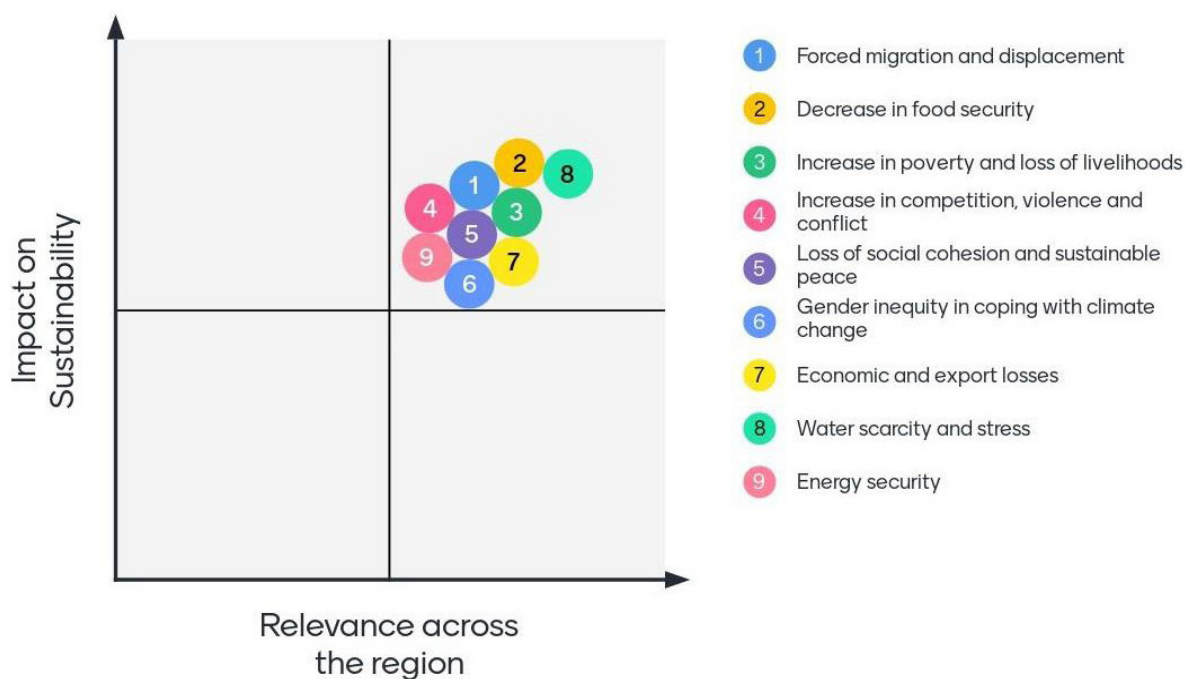


Figure 1: Results of interactive exercise threats to sustainable development

The exercise results reflect that participants underestimated economy, energy security, and gender inequality as threats of sustainability in the Arab region. This gives an indication of the need for raising awareness to demonstrate the real role of these aspects in supporting sustainability in the region and in creating synergies with the other sectors.

The second exercise titled «**Assessing the Knowledge**» aimed at assessing participants' knowledge regarding the impacts of climate change on water, food, energy, economy, livelihoods, and human security in the Arab region. In general, a good level of knowledge was demonstrated by most of the participants. However, the largest knowledge gap was related to the impacts of extreme weather events on creating disasters, and the effect of climate change on the loss of biodiversity. According to the obtained results, participants were found to underestimate the following impacts:

- The percentage of all disasters caused by extreme weather events.
- The impact of climate change on the extinction of endangered species.
- The impact of climate change on losses in vegetation cover, particularly forests.

Again, these results show the need of building awareness about the impacts of extreme weather conditions in creating disasters, and the significant impacts of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity.

## 2.2 Visioning, Strategizing and Planning

### 2.2.1 Task Force Methodology

Visioning, Strategizing and Planning steps of the Dialogue process were implemented during the 2nd and 3rd days of the workshop. As a first step, participants were grouped into four Task Forces under the following themes:

- Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress
- Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security
- Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security
- Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality

This grouping aimed to facilitate the engagement and participatory discussions under each theme; hence, the Task Forces contributed their feedback in their respective key areas, while always maintaining a focus on the inter-linkages between the different topics through a nexus approach. The Task Forces were also requested to maintain a regional focus wherever possible, taking into consideration the connections with and between the three major agendas, namely: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

A series of participatory activities were conducted to engage the participants in the Dialogue steps.

On the second day, the four Task Forces worked on the **Visioning and Strategizing steps** through a participatory methodology to identify and rank technical, institutional, and political challenges that hinder the operationalizing of climate security policies in the region, in addition to developing a shared vision to build an integrated climate security policy for the Arab region. For the highest ranked challenges, each Task Force worked to identify and rank key strategic objectives that contribute to overcoming the challenges and achieving the vision. The third day of the workshop focused on the **Planning step** to identify and rank key strategic actions for the highest technical, institutional, and political strategic

objectives; also, to develop detailed action plans for the highest ranked strategic actions outlining the connection with particular SDGs, implementation activities, time frame, and key partners to be engaged in the implementation.

Figure 2 shows the implemented methodology (steps and activities) for the Stakeholder Dialogue. The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying and prioritizing climate security challenges, strategic objectives, and strategic actions under each task force. A voting approach was used for this purpose, where participants voted via Zoom polls to rank the identified challenges, strategic objectives, and strategic actions. While ranking was essential to enable the targeted development of action plans for a selected number of issues within the limited timeframe of the event, this workshop-internal ranking process does not necessarily represent a final prioritization of objectives and activities for implementing climate security in the region. Many of the identified objectives and activities that could not be further unpacked during this workshop due to time constraints, or that may be among the medium and lower ranked items, are also of regional importance and will inform future action planning.



**Figure 2: Methodology of the Stakeholder Dialogue**

### 2.2.2 Developed Climate Security Vision 2030

One important output of the Dialogue was a shared vision on climate security, jointly developed by all involved stakeholders, that will serve as a working definition for the Regional Climate Security Network. To arrive at a shared vision, the Task Forces were provided with a draft vision and asked to either agree with OR amend from the draft vision presented to them. Accordingly, a comprehensive vision was produced, after obtaining participants' feedback, to improve the response to climate security challenges in the Arab region in the next 10 years. The revised vision considers the main cross-cutting issues among the four Task Forces to ensure synergies and integration. As a result of discussions, the four Task Forces agreed on the following vision statement:

## 2.2.3 Task Force Work

### 2.2.3.1 Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress

The members of the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress identified a lack of reliable data on water and climate security, and water as an important shortcoming across the region. Deficits were noted in the domains of data acquisition, sharing and accessibility. This includes historical data, which forms an important baseline for climate change scenario planning. In terms of data analysis, the task force members mentioned a lack of assessment and modeling instruments, including those based on modern technologies such as GIS and remote sensing, as well as lack of capacity to analyze data, for example in hydrological watershed analysis. Moreover, participants agreed that stronger prediction tools were needed to predict future climate change events, floods, and droughts (the Task Force members noted that the Task Force's title focused on water stress should be amended to include flooding events). Better analyses and models, including watershed analysis, represent important tools for planning, but can also inform climate security investment decisions. A lack of regional data, information, and knowledge-sharing between countries and institutions makes it difficult to calculate impact across sectors and to develop cross-sectoral monitoring mechanisms to understand the interlinkages between the different effects. The establishment of regional monitoring networks was mentioned as a means for organizing joint data generation and sharing. Moreover, the development of a regional database for data sharing was identified as an important objective. To facilitate regional data collection and sharing, regional data regulations are needed regarding the standard, format, frequency, and collection of such data.

The Task Force participants acknowledged a lack of understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of risks, and thus a lack of integrated, multi-dimensional risk assessment using a systems approach. The members highlighted that research and policies were developed through a compartmentalized silo approach, and that problems were not analyzed from different dimensions, using a systemic approach. Scientists in the water sector too often focus on their own specialized field of expertise without drawing necessary connections for integrated, nexus thinking. Thus, there is lacking capacity, as well as a lack of an institutional framework, for regional climate security planning and implementation, the formulation of water regulations, and climate security as a concept and approach. A more integrated framework to water and climate security would include integrated visioning, planning, and management tools for coastal, urban, and rural areas.

Integrated planning is made harder by institutional shortcomings, such as a lack of cooperation between stakeholders, including ministries and other institutions working in the field of climate change, as well as by lacking coordination between regional and national organizations, including NGOs and donors. The participants believed that climate change needed to be mainstreamed among all stakeholders to eliminate unclear divisions of responsibilities among them (e.g., drinking water, wastewater, irrigation water) in addressing water and climate security. Poor institutional capacity could be addressed by capacity building and training for climate security professionals, including capacity building on how to establish innovative and strong regional partnerships. A lack of communication and awareness-raising among institutions across the region currently hinders proper regional conflict management, while more public awareness raising and media campaigns for water and climate security are also needed to advocate for social and behavioral change. New channels of communication are needed to get the climate security message out across the region.

On the political level, the participants highlighted the need for an enabling environment that fosters regional cooperation and the development of regional policies and legal frameworks (including customary laws). Limiting factors mentioned in this context were political will and commitment. The Task Force members proposed establishing an interface and platform between policy-makers, scientists, NGOs, and innovators to support an enabling environment for joint policy-making, planning, implementation, enforcement, monitoring and research and that would also enable regional reporting. Regional climate security policies and action plans should follow a triple bottom line approach to reflect the environmental, social, and economic value of water. Laws should be adequately enforced to ensure progress, perhaps even through regional enforcement agencies. Law enforcement is often hindered by a lack of capacity and institutional responsibility for water regulation. Legal instruments to enhance sustainable and climate smart water management can involve punishments, such as pollution charges, as well as incentives, such as tax reductions or tradable pollution permits. The task force members deliberated the establishment of proper financing structures and policies, arguing that climate change should be mainstreamed into budgeting, while there should be reallocations of budget at the national level towards climate change-related activities. Financial instruments such as a regional strategic financial plan and green climate fund, eco-taxes, end-user finance, the coordination and streamlining of donor finance, business models and revenue streams to encourage investors, as well as financial incentives were discussed. The important role of the private sector and public-private partnerships was highlighted, while participants believed that proper regional regulations and compliance, as well as incentives, were needed to create a secure environment for private sector investment.

An important observation regarding the deliberations of the climate security and water stress Task Force was a limited focus on water-based disasters and security risks as an institutional challenge. As a climate change induced increase in extreme weather events is expected for the region, the development of proactive, regional DRR strategies and mechanisms is of central importance. Better and more integrated assessment and early warning systems and tools related to water-based disasters that threaten human life, health and livelihoods should be implemented to improve concerted and cross-sectoral regional emergency coordination. Recent flooding and flash flood events have unveiled significant shortcomings regarding both early warning and response systems for DRR in the Arab region. Unplanned migration and its effect on water security, as well as changing needs for water and sanitation services, need to be taken into account in regional policy-making and planning. Another threat to regional security that may be exacerbated through climate change effects is the distribution of transboundary water resources, which affects millions of lives and livelihoods and can lead to a sense of inequality and insecurity. The development of more efficient and equal sharing mechanisms of transboundary water through bilateral and multilateral agreements is an important factor in ensuring sustainable peace and security in the region and represents both an institutional and a political challenge. Water scarcity and stress, the over-abstraction of water, and an escalating water crisis should be recognized as serious drivers of competition and conflict that must be met by increased water use efficiency and the use of non-conventional water sources. In recognizing water as a socio-economic good, enhanced research on water economics and productivity, as well as sustainable financing mechanisms for innovative water technologies for irrigation, water reuse and treatment are required.

### 2.2.3.2 Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security

The group on Climate Security and Food Security also noted a gap between knowledge generators on the one side, and policy-makers and the general public on the other. The group members agreed that data collection and sharing remained a technical challenge in the Arab region. Successfully transferring technical knowledge from researchers to various stakeholders necessitates that knowledge is presented in more accessible formats to raise awareness and to sensitize the public on what changes and transformations are really needed. The format of existing data was also mentioned as a challenge in this task force, as information on climate change impacts that exists in many countries lacks adequate triangulation with socio-economic vulnerabilities and risks. Task force members mentioned the need to provide support – both regionally and internationally – for researchers and scientists in the region to produce census-based, user relevant climate outlook products in real time to support decision-making processes. To promote the collection and sharing of data, forecasts, risk information, impact assessments and early response mechanisms, the task force proposed establishing a Data Sharing Center to allow for data collection, transfer, dissemination, and communication, and to make data more accessible to the public. Beyond this, the task force members recommended building resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research, and training by rendering information on risk accessible to all stakeholders and boosting intersectoral approaches that help uncover dynamics that can shape vulnerability and resilience.

A lack of inter-disciplinary approaches and multi-disciplinary teamwork were also highlighted in this task force. As there are significant differences among Arab countries in food production systems, a regional understanding of these diverse systems should be fostered. Institutional fragmentation, sectoral approaches, and the lack of integrated policies between different sectors were seen as important challenges in addressing climate change in a concerted manner. The Task Force saw the need to further develop the capacities of Arab decision-makers on regional climate change and disaster negotiations, for example through establishing a climate change and disaster negotiations team under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. Integrated approaches would also involve cross-sectoral finance mechanisms to build climate resilience.

The Task Force members identified a lack of political will to address climate security in the region. Even though regional governments have formally committed to implementing the SDGs, task force participants saw a discrepancy between the SDGs and national policy strategies, as well as the lack of mechanisms and activities to achieve the SDGs on the ground. Sectoral policy-making is not compatible with the national sustainability strategy of the country that requires an integrated policy approach. There is a lack of interlinkages between current policies on water, energy, agriculture, and other sectors, while scattered policies are not advancing the national sustainability strategies in the region. The Task Force thus recommended a better integration of different sectors and the adoption of a nexus perspective and a multi-disciplinary approach to strengthen governance in tackling climate security. The recommendation was to adopt an intersectoral approach to respond to climate change impacts and disaster risks that would involve policy-makers from various government sectors, representatives from civil society and academic institutions, the private sector, and the media for better coordination. Targeted coordination could reduce the overlapping of initiatives with stretched resources and to efficiently explore and use financing options. Moreover, climate change adaptation should be mainstreamed into policies as a priority in local, national, and regional policies. The process of mainstreaming could start with reviewing existing policies across the region and then to compound these

approaches with a view to building resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research, and training and boosting intersectoral approaches to uncover dynamics that can shape vulnerability and resilience. The Task Force also recommended mainstreaming gender into climate-related policies by increasing collaboration between different institutions and promoting the exchange of ideas between multiple stakeholders and existing gender equity mechanisms and women's councils at the regional and national levels.

A lack of financing to help the agricultural sector transition to more sustainable and climate-smart food production was noted by the Task Force members. The Task Force specifically emphasized the importance on youth as the transformers of modern food production systems. Enabling young people in terms of capacity development, technical knowledge, and access to investment financing to implement more climate-conscious food production and processing systems was seen as being of key importance. The Task Force participants also pointed to the importance of local and traditional knowledge and concepts that could be used and rediscovered to transition to more sustainable food production systems.

The Task Force placed particular importance on participatory decision-making processes and stakeholder engagement. Public hearing sessions were named as one mechanism to actively engage civil society in climate security-related planning and decision-making. The Task Force members recommended institutionalizing public participation to define the political frameworks through evidence-based approaches, including private sector, academia, and end users to define the political framework of food security or climate security.

An important note on the connections between water stress and food security is that climate change may exacerbate water security and escalate the water crisis across the region, increasing the competition for water allocation between different sectors. Especially the agriculture sector will feel a reduction in water availability, which, again will lead to production losses and an increase in food security. Therefore, an integration of climate security-related policy-making and planning approaches between the water and food sectors in the region is absolutely necessary. In the context of protection vulnerable groups, a special emphasis should be placed on the needs and livelihoods of small farmers, who may be worst placed in facing climate change-related impacts and risks. Besides capacity development in using sustainable technologies as well as support in marketing and value-added strategies, small farmers will need support in improving their resilience to climate change impacts. For this reason, improved recovery and social protection frameworks for small farming enterprises should be developed. In the production, trading and distribution of food, virtual water plays an increasing role in the Arab region. Recognizing that 50% of food consumed in Arab countries is imported, food trade and cooperation in food production and distribution among neighbors within the Arab region needs to be improved. As with water insecurity, Arab political leaders need to be aware that food insecurity might become a source of competition and conflict among Arab countries in the future.

### 2.2.3.3 Task Force on Climate Security and Energy

The Task Force working on Climate Security and Energy also identified a lack of studies on linkages between different sectors affected by climate security, with special focus on socio-economic elements of climate security. The Task Force members mentioned an insufficient understanding of the impact of climate change on different sectors across the region. Researchers and decision-makers still think and work in silos, both at national and regional levels. Integrated assessments are currently hindered by lack of data, data-sharing mechanisms, and know-how. Research and development challenges that were discussed also included lacking linkages to industry and innovative business models for public-private partnerships. Task Force members expressed that raising awareness of climate security as a regional issue and funding priority, and awareness of existing financing issues among developers, consumers and investors were important strategic objectives. Overall, the capacity of financing sectors to provide climate-related finance models needs to be enhanced and innovative financing models developed. This includes particularly models for efficient public-private-people-partnerships (PPPs) and the up-scaling of risk transfer mechanisms (captive insurance, bonds, derivatives) and government balance sheet finance. The Task Force members agreed that a better identification of market baselines and climate finance opportunities would be a good starting point.

The silo thinking and lack of coordination between ministries and regional bodies extends beyond data and knowledge-sharing into the institutional sector. Here, the lack of coordination mechanisms to bring together cross-sectoral teams with representatives from different stakeholders is hindering an integrated, nexus-based approach to climate security planning, decision-making, and implementation in the field of energy. The Task Force identified a lack of capacity or ability to work across different levels of policy-making, from the community / local level to the regional level. Institutional capacity is further weakened in countries that are recovering from conflict. The Task Force members emphasized a lack of implementation capacity among regional institutions, including the capacity to integrate green technologies into different sectors, as well as a lack of energy regulations at different levels. For this reason, the role and capacity of regional and national institutions and entities to initiate and sustain policy dialogues on climate security issues among different stakeholders needs to be strengthened. Meanwhile, gaps and common nexus areas in related regional and national strategies that require cooperation among different actors need to be identified. The group discussed different possible umbrella institutions, such as LAS, under which enhanced regional communication about climate security and energy could take place to receive more formal political and institutional commitment.

In the political context, the Task Force members mentioned a lack of political ownership and advocacy of climate challenges in the region. Political instability and turnover can lead to a lack of coherence in policy approaches as well as insecure and unpredictable markets. Energy subsidies distorting real electricity prices across the region were mentioned by several Task Force members, while socially sustainable ways of removing energy subsidies were discussed. The Task Force members also emphasized a large gap between scientists and decision-makers, hindering a strong and targeted political representation of climate security based on scientific facts that could help bring climate security to the top of the political agenda. New languages of climate security could increase the political attention climate security is given in financing mechanisms and budgets. A lack of capacity, appropriate languages, and green finance models is mirrored in the banking sector. Thus, government entities (e.g., staff) should be empowered with tools and funding for coordinated actions on common climate security objectives to enhance regional capacity.



When it comes to energy policies with respect to climate security, there are significant differences among the countries in the region. While some countries are still relying on energy imports and are hoping for better renewable energy integration, other countries in the region are oil exporters, some are struggling with renewable energy capacities exceeding demand, while others are handling or recovering from conflict situations. The Task Force highlighted political instability as a priority challenge in the region and suggested to strengthen research on crisis-affected settings to be able to better predict and build back, enhance the focus and attention on these specific areas of research, and understand how a crisis incident would affect the energy sector and investment climate. Better short- and long-term modeling and scenario analysis for energy transitions should be considered to anticipate climate-related risks for financial planning, particularly in fragile states. Special financing pipelines for climate security investment opportunities and political guarantee mechanisms for climate security investments at national, regional, and international levels were discussed as further objectives. The Task Force decided that the development of risk mitigation schemes specific to renewable energy projects would be an important activity to pursue.

#### **2.2.3.4 Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality**

In the Task Force working on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality, there was a consensus in the group that there is a lack of understanding among policy-makers of the complex social impacts of climate change and their multi-disciplinary nature. One reason was the lack of availability of cross-sectional and integrated knowledge about climate security and the fact that such research is often skewed towards technical or natural science topics, which leads to an exclusion and under-representation of female scientists in climate change research. Participants highlighted that the development of climate security narratives should be based on diverse knowledges, including knowledges of marginalized or underrepresented people, such as rural communities, ethnic or minority groups, as well as women. For this to happen, more inclusive scientific research approaches and methodologies were needed, as well as disaggregated data according to categories such as sex, age, geographical location, nationality, migrant or refugee status, disability, etc. Only where data collection was based on common understanding of the complexity and integrated nature of the concept, would such data help foster a real understanding of the complexities and multi-disciplinary context of climate security as a policy approach. Research should be designed to give underrepresented knowledges a space to be heard through more participatory research methodologies. Vulnerable groups, including people directly affected by climate change related effects and disasters, as well as women, refugees, migrants, differently abled people, and rural communities should be given the chance to directly contribute to knowledge generation about climate security.

Beyond, the generation of integrated knowledge, the sharing of knowledge was a problem that was mentioned by the Task Force members. In many cases, research and knowledge exist in disconnected entities, and there was a lack of regional sharing mechanisms. Regional data, knowledge and information should be shared with other network partners via a shared platform, as well as with other policy-makers and the wider public through wider-reaching outreach mechanisms. It was also emphasized that much of the existing research and data needs to be presented to policy-makers in much more accessible formats. A regular and institutionalized process of making knowledge available and accessible could help bridge the gap between research, academia and policy-making, work against the current compartmentalization of knowledge generation and dissemination and contribute to well-

informed policy and decision-making on climate security based on shared, comprehensive, and nexus-informed regional data sets. Importantly, such knowledge compilation and dissemination should present knowledge from a variety of cross-cutting disciplines, including social and gender-based research and studies that create a particular platform for diverse knowledges.

On an institutional level, this would mean more cross-cutting work and less compartmentalized silo approaches were needed. As climate change policy-making is often located within environmental ministries, these ministries often take single ownership of climate change narratives, as well as related processes of scientific data collection and approaches to policymaking. This means that data and decision-making foci are often solely based on the natural sciences and technical issues, while social data or social science approaches are being ignored or eclipsed. For social issues, including social cohesion and gender equality, to be heard and understood, new and more integrated narratives of climate security need to be developed and applied across institutions, political players and across Arab countries. The application of different definitions and understandings of climate security by different institutions was seen as one of the challenges blocking the way towards a regional climate security approach. Beyond a regional and institutionalized understanding of the integrated nature of climate security and institutional structures allowing for the integration of decision-making, planning and implementation processes, more participatory governance and decision-making tools would have to be developed and applied. Especially in the context of refugees, migrants, and people living in crisis or conflict settings, it is often others who speak for these groups, representing their interests. More participatory policy-making, planning and implementation approaches should allow for direct participation of vulnerable groups. To enable an identification of vulnerable groups, more complex indicator sets that combine physical, environmental, social and economic indicators are required.

The lack of political will to include social cohesion and gender equality as core topics in climate security was another challenge identified by Task Force members. In some instances, as mentioned above, this already starts with a lack of awareness and knowledge of the concept of climate security itself. Task Force members proposed encouraging governments to adhere to regional and global standards of climate security, social cohesion, diversity and equity. Moreover, policy approaches should be more proactive than merely adaptive and include projections and scenario-based information, so that research and policy-making could be proactive in the face of climate security threats, instead of only responding to or adapting to existing threats. There was also a sense that women are generally underrepresented in political leadership, but also in knowledge generation, decision-making, and administration regarding climate security. While female quotas would help a formal implementation of equality, capacity development measures that would help institutions work in integrated, cross-cutting ways would have to include targeted measures to specifically develop the capacity of women at all levels. The Regional Climate Security network itself could “lead as a good example” across the region for its diversity and gender equality.

### 2.2.3.5 Common Themes

Although the different task forces approached the topic from different angles of expertise, some common themes were reflected in the work of all four task forces. Challenges that were mentioned across the Board included a lack of knowledge and awareness about the concept of climate security, a lack of climate security data, insufficient regional data-sharing mechanisms, as well as missing capacity to combine existing data sets in ways that would allow for an integrated approach to climate security. Participants also believed that existing data was not appropriately disaggregated to make relevant links to socio-economic categories in assessing climate change effects. All task forces mentioned sectoral institutional approaches to climate security implementation as a challenge. A lack of communication channels and cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as a lack of capacity to apply a nexus-based policy approach were named as related challenges. Furthermore, participants saw insufficient sustainable funding mechanisms and business models hindering climate security research and implementation, while strategies to involve the private sector were missing. A lack of political will, insufficient political frameworks at the regional level, missing regional climate security thresholds and goals, and a lack of real commitment to climate security action were named by most task forces as significant political challenges.

The task forces developed a large set of creative action plans that will inform the work of the Regional Climate Security Network in 2021. These plans contained similar approaches to addressing the above-mentioned technical, institutional, and political challenges. All task forces suggested conducting additional research on climate security, using state-of-the-art technologies and innovative research methodologies, including digital innovation and more participatory research approaches that would actively include both genders, as well as marginalized and vulnerable groups in the generation of climate security knowledge, data, and information. To enable meaningful cross-sectoral analysis, research data would have to be disaggregated and new data generation protocols established. All groups proposed the assessment of existing information-sharing platforms in the region and the creation of synergies between them, while new platforms for regional data-sharing might have to be established. An ethics of sharing and collaboration would have to be introduced at the institutional level as well, while cross-sectoral, nexus planning was to replace sectoral, “silo”-dominated planning and implementation structures. All groups proposed capacity development – to deepen an understanding of climate security, to advance intersectoral, nexus-based research, and to establish integrated, cross-sectoral institutional arrangements and working styles. On both the political and institutional level, innovative and sustainable business and financing models were suggested, as well as better links to the private sector and civil society organizations. More political commitment to climate security was demanded across the Board, measured against regional benchmarks of climate security performance. More participatory, political and governance structures would enable a more proactive engagement of diverse stakeholders in developing and implementing a regional climate security framework. Moreover, more political leadership, particularly of women, was seen as an important step towards strengthening the climate security policy agenda in the region.

While the task forces made numerous critical points about developing more integrated approaches to climate change related events, the discussions showed that there is still some disconnection between the theoretical planning level and the real, practical impact of nexus-based planning on the ground. As the climate security approach focuses on the effects of climate change on people and their livelihoods, more tangible policy and

planning approaches are needed that model the impact of climate change related alterations in access to water, food or energy on people, poverty, security, migration and other socio-economic factors. Breaking down nexus-based climate security thinking into practical, multi-dimensional planning tools and approaches will be the work of the Regional Climate Security Network, as well as of future participatory stakeholder events. To ensure that a regional climate security framework can have real and tangible impact on the ground, an integrated and cross-sectoral understanding of climate security will have to be translated into real, everyday tools and mechanisms that policy-makers, planners and project managers across the region can apply on a daily basis. Moreover, the importance of transboundary resource-sharing agreements and mechanisms, a proactive planning agenda for disaster risk reduction and climate change induced migration, as well as a more inclusive protection of vulnerable groups, require further regional discussion.

## 2.2.4 Results of the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress

This section provides a detailed overview of the challenges, strategic objectives, and related actions developed by the different task forces. Again, the ranking exercises merely ensured the feasibility of the methodology across the limited timeframe of two days and do not necessarily indicate higher or lower overall priority of the mentioned issues and topics. More research and joint work will be needed to reassess the raised points and to develop a policy and action framework based on these valuable first inputs.

### 2.2.4.1 Main Findings

**Table 3** summarizes the main findings of the highest ranked results in the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress.

**Table 3: Main findings of the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress**

Dimension	Climate Security Challenge (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Objective (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Action (Highest Ranked)
Technical	Data sharing, acquisition, and accessibility	Creating regional network for data collection and monitoring	Developing online data collection, sharing platform
Institutional	Lack of finance to support climate security decisions	Developing a business model for designed and proposed solutions to encourage investors/ private sector	Creating the enabling the environment for Public-private-people-partnership (4 P)
Political	Lack of political will to support climate security decisions	Building regional commitments to climate security actions	Agreement on commitment among high political level in the Arab region

## 2.2.4.2 Visioning: Identification and Ranking of Climate Security Challenges

This section introduces the differently ranked regional challenges following the Zoom poll conducted within the Task Force, including higher, medium, and lower ranked items. The ranking was performed to determine which items should be focused on for the remainder of the workshop.

### I. Highest Ranked Challenges

#### A. Technical Dimension: Data sharing, acquisition, and accessibility

Better sharing and acquisition of data was cited as the highest ranked technical challenge. Reliable data is essential for policy-making and advancing climate security in the Arab region. Without reliable data, it will be difficult to assess climate change and make future predictions. For example, information on river flows, groundwater levels, and water quality is critical for assessing current and future water availability for different users. A triangulation of water-related data with social data, economic data, and environmental data needs to be performed and made available for all stakeholders to support proper planning and response to climate challenges.

#### B. Institutional Dimension: Lack of finance to support climate security decisions

Stakeholders highlighted the lack of finance as a priority challenge, linking this to the need for securing financial resources to support climate security decisions in the region, and to meet the pressing needs to respond to climate change challenges. Innovative financing mechanisms are needed to mobilize climate finance resources for climate actions. Therefore, Arab countries will need to build their capacity to access climate finance sources and manage these resources.

#### C. Political Challenges: Lack of political will to support climate security decisions

This challenge is agreed among stakeholders as the key political challenge that hinders the operationalizing of climate security in the Arab region. Political players will have a key role in adopting climate security policies and strategies and in promoting collaboration and cooperation across the region. In the Arab region, weak political commitment to the climate security agenda was observed by most stakeholders. Therefore, governments have to acknowledge climate change as an urgent issue and to show commitment towards climate security. On the other hand, political unrest, and economic crises in parts of the region are believed to have direct influence on the political support of climate security policy in the Arab region.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Challenges

**Table 4** summarizes the medium and lower ranked climate security challenges identified by the Task Force.

**Table 4: Medium and lower ranked challenges in the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress**

Medium Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Lack of qualified expertise and persons specialized in water-climate security nexus	Lack of knowledge transfer between different actors (governmental and research institutions, NGOs, etc.)	Lack of proper International cooperation for transboundary water in the Arab region
Lack of applying hydrological analysis & assessment instruments to inform planning decisions	Lack of coordination and cooperation between stakeholders, including regional and national organizations, donors and NGOs	Lack of proper interface between political leaders and technical experts leading to the misperception of facts
Lack of regional climate change prediction models for the Arab Region	Weak enforcement of related laws and regulations	Lack of policies that foster the participation of the private sector, innovators, and NGOs in decision-making process
Poor utilization of state-of-the-art technologies & digitalization infrastructure (remote sensing, etc.)	Weak institutional framework and institutional capacity to support climate security decisions	Weak operationalizing of regional strategies (Moving from strategies to policy to actions)
Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Limited implementation of integrated multi-dimensional risk assessments and analysis	Weak regional, integrated legal framework (laws, policies, and regulations) for climate security	Uncertainty in defining priorities for conflict areas and fragile regions
Limited implementation of flood protection and infrastructure	Lack of public awareness in water-climate security topics	Political instability in the region
Lack of application of systematic nexus approach in identifying and analyzing challenges	Lack of integrated vision, management, and planning for coastal, urban, and rural areas in response to climate change	Focus on short-term goals for decision-making
Water quality and pollution (which has direct influences on the other sectors, specifically domestic water supply and agriculture)		Missing ability to perceive and treat water as a socio-economic good
Limited utilization of water management technologies, including water-saving technologies		Weak coordination mechanisms for individual, internal, and international planning

Additional climate security challenges that were discussed in the group, but not specifically included in the working tables, were the missing early warning systems for water-related stress and disasters across the region, as well as the lack of training and capacity development for operating state-of-the-art technologies and applying integrated, nexus-based research, policy, and planning approaches.

### 2.2.4.3 Strategizing: Developing and Ranking Strategic Objectives

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic objectives for the highest ranked challenges under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

#### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Objectives

##### A. Technical Dimension: Creating regional mechanism for data collection and monitoring

Stakeholders suggested creating a regional mechanism or platform for data collection and monitoring as an important strategic objective. Such a shared platform for climate security information covering technical, socio-economic, and political information is needed to collect and share reliable information across the region, for example, producing and maintaining summary documents for the water sector, and providing information that articulates on-the-ground solutions. Additionally, it was suggested to create a regional mechanism for information-sharing and exchange between sectors.

##### B. Institutional Dimension: Developing business model for designed and proposed solution to encourage investors/private sector

Encouraging private sector participation in climate security decisions is the first ranked strategic objective under institutional dimension. It aims at mobilizing green investment, promoting green private sector development, and harnessing skills and knowledge for addressing climate security. Efforts include developing clean technologies, reducing water use, and improving the climate resilience of cities and communities. To achieve this objective, it is important to understand the barriers to private sector engagement in climate security topics, to promote sound business models and to adopt a holistic approach that includes support for the enabling policy environment for investment and business.

##### C. Political Dimension: Building regional commitment to climate security actions

Regional commitment is agreed among stakeholders as the key political strategic objective that helps in operationalizing climate security policies in the Arab region. The Arab countries will be best equipped to address climate security if they identified joint commitment on climate security issues. For example, an enhanced cooperation for integrated regional water management between countries sharing the same water sources could ensure conservation, sustainable utilization, and could avoid conflicts.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives

Table 5 summarizes the medium and lower ranked strategic objectives.

**Table 5: Medium and lower ranked strategic objectives of the Task Force on Climate Security and Water Stress**

Medium Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Building a common database for data sharing	Creating a regional dedicated fund for climate security and water security	Promoting regional agreement to support climate security
Establishing data sharing framework supported by data regulation, including standard format, frequency, and collection guidelines	Mainstreaming climate change into national budgeting Public budget reallocation to climate change activities	Establishing and strengthening regional legal frameworks for climate security
Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Building strong prediction tools (models & decision-support systems) to identify the future climate events, floods and droughts	Defining regional strategic financial plan to support water security interventions	Developing periodical and concise reports on the impact of climate change on the economy
Enhancing communication tools and channels between stakeholders	Providing financial incentives to investors/private sector	Establishing an interface and platform between decision-makers and scientists, NGOs, and innovators to support an enabling environment
Creating a technical task force/committee composed of technical experts to facilitate creating regional network for data collection	Creating an enabling environment (policies and regional legal frameworks) to encourage investors/private sector	
Promoting social change to cope with climate change challenges	Designing end-user financing mechanisms to encourage water security solutions	
Promoting the use of economic assessment tools and instruments	Generating basic revenue for regional climate security measures	
	Eco-tax for water usage	

Additional strategic objectives the Task Force members discussed that are worth-mentioning are the application of participatory research, policy-making, and planning approaches to ensure a stronger engagement of the private sector and civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of climate security strategies and actions. Further, targeted legislation and incentives would have to be developed and put in place to ensure water management approaches are in line with the climate security concept.



## 2.2.4.4 Planning: Identifying and Ranking Strategic Actions and Detailed Planning

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic actions for the highest ranked strategic objectives under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Actions

#### A. Technical Dimension: Developing online data collection and sharing platform

The collection and sharing of climate data could be improved by building a regional database/platform. This can be done by enhancing the coordination between countries including governmental institutions, academic institutions, and NGOs. It is important to highlight that some of these efforts have already begun, as several Arab countries are part of the European Climate Assessment and Dataset, which collates daily observations from weather stations, performs quality control and analysis, and disseminates the results. **Table 6** summarizes planning results of the proposed strategic actions.

**Table 6: Planning results and proposed strategic actions for the technical dimension**

Technical Dimension	CS Challenge	Data sharing, acquisition, and accessibility			
	Strategic Objective	Creating regional network for data collection and monitoring	Relevant SDGs: 6,13,16,17		
	Strategic Actions	Developing online data collection, sharing platform			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Formulating a reliable data/information-sharing protocol among all stakeholders at all levels	2-3 years	ICARDA, ESCWA, Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Water, All Stakeholders working in the water sector, Regional and International Organizations, AWC, LAS, CEDARE WMO	
		Establishing effective communication systems for data collection and ensuring access to reliable data and information			
		Enhancing cooperation through better regional data management			
		Employing modern technologies for data collection and management			
		Developing a professional and scientific water monitoring program			
		Employing science-based tools for modeling and decision-making			
Establishing standardized regional monitoring & evaluation water monitoring network/systems (effective assessment instruments)					
Availing IT mechanisms to all relevant institutions in the Arab Region and launch capacity building programs					

## B. Institutional Dimension: Creating the enabling environment for Public-Private-People-Partnership (4 Ps)

This action aims at promoting partnerships between public institutions, private sector, and people (communities) to address climate security issues and facilitate participatory planning processes and cost-effective climate security actions. To achieve this, a legal framework for public-private-people partnerships needs to be established. **Table 7** summarizes the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 7: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the institutional dimension**

Institutional Dimension	CS Challenge	Lack of finance to support climate security decisions		
	Strategic Objective	Developing a business model for designed and proposed solutions to encourage investors/private sector	Relevant SDGs: 6,8,13,17	
	Strategic Actions	Creating the enabling environment for public-private-people-partnerships (4 Ps)		
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Assessing the existing legal frameworks for public-private-people-partnerships to improve coordination	2 years	Local authorities/ district managers/ governors, Private Sector, Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Economy, Ministries of Finance, Water, and Environment
		Enhancing the investment environment for the private sector and facilitating active private sector engagement by reducing financial risks and creating securer investment environments		
	Removing investments barriers and availing attractive incentives to encourage private sector investments in climate security actions (such as tax exemptions for eco-friendly technologies)			
	Developing mechanisms to involve the private sector in decision-making processes for climate security planning			

### C. Political Dimension: Agreement on commitment among high political level in the Arab Region

Political commitment is key factor for the successful operationalizing of the climate security policy in the region. Without it, joint projects/initiatives between Arab countries will have a limited chance to be sustained and continue. Hence, such agreements are required to build climate resilience mechanisms at the regional level. **Table 8** provides an overview of the planning results of the proposed strategic actions.

**Table 8: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the political dimension**

Political Dimension	CS Challenge	Lack of political will to support climate security decisions			
	Strategic Objective	Building Regional Commitments to Action	Relevant SDGs: 6,13,16,17		
	Strategic Actions	Agreement on commitment among high political level in the Arab Region			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Establishing high-level political agreements/ commitments for climate security strategies.	2-3 years	LAS Sustainable Development Committee, country contributions, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Arab funding agencies (AFESD, Kuwait Fund, Saudi Fund, IsDB, Green Fund, GEF, WB, SDG-Climate Facility, etc.), RAED, AWC, CAMRE, AWMC, LAS	
Starting joint projects/initiatives among the Arab countries					
Developing, implementing and institutionalizing mechanisms to involve stakeholders (governmental institutions, NGOs, research institutions, etc.) in formulating joint agreements for climate security strategies, thus improving regional governance					

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Actions

**Table 9** summarizes the medium and lower ranked strategic actions.

**Table 9: summarizes the medium and lower ranked strategic actions.**

Medium Ranked Strategic Actions		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Baseline reconnaissance study to document the current settings of climate-water conditions in the region (hydrological, physical, etc.)	Enhancing private sector participation in decision-making processes regarding climate security	Political adoption of climate security policies and strategies
Developing a comprehensive River and Groundwater Monitoring Program	Creating successful business models that can be replicated across different sectors	Ensuring bankable projects to secure finance for climate security actions
Lower Ranked Strategic Actions		
Establishing a Regional Knowledge Hub for sharing and exchanging knowledge and information	Demonstrating the benefits of participatory actions, and sharing participatory methodologies with all stakeholders	Ensuring proper regulations to regulate private sector participation in climate security actions
	Creating incentives framework for encouraging private sector investments	Establishing M&E systems to monitor the performance (including transparent bidding processes)
	Creating a legal framework to exempt ecofriendly technologies from taxes	Empowering regional capacity in legal aspects of climate security
		Promoting stakeholders' participation and acceptance

## 2.2.5 Results of Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security

### 2.2.5.1 Main Findings

**Table 10** presents the main findings of the highest ranked results under the Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security.

**Table 10: Main findings of the Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security**

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Climate Security Challenge (Highest Ranked)</b>	<b>Climate Security Strategic Objective (Highest Ranked)</b>	<b>Climate Security Strategic Action (Highest Ranked)</b>
Technical	Lack of comprehensive system for data collection and sharing	Promoting coordination between data, forecast, risk information, communication and dissemination mechanisms, and preparedness and early response	Establishing a platform for data collection and sharing
Institutional	Sectoral policies are not compatible with the national sustainable strategy of the country	Adopting an intersectoral approach to respond to climate change impacts and disaster risks	Reviewing and mainstreaming policies with view to build resilience through knowledge advocacy, research and training and boosting intersectoral dynamics that can shape vulnerabilities and resilience
Political	Engaging all stakeholders when discussing climate security policies through public hearing sessions	Enhancing public participation to define a political framework of climate security	Diffusing systems for governance to shape the public policy

## 2.2.5.2 Visioning: Identification and Prioritizing of Climate Security Challenges

### I. Highest Ranked Challenges

#### A. Technical Dimension: Lack of comprehensive system for data collection and sharing

A lack of data collection and sharing systems was cited as the first ranked technical challenge. Information on food production and the main food supply chains (such as changes in agricultural yields and production for important crops, forage, and livestock) needs to be appropriately collected at the regional level. Although such information exists in many countries, there is a lack of adequate profiling of socio-economic data including vulnerabilities and risks. Triangulation of food-related data with climate data including weather and water data, socio-economic data (related to livelihood and income), in addition to human security data should be collected and made available for all stakeholders to better monitor and understand the effects of climate change.

#### B. Institutional Dimension: Sectoral policies are not compatible with the national sustainable strategy of the country

Individual sectors have aspirational policy positions; however, there is a lack of integrated sectoral strategy which takes into consideration the climate security topic. Many stakeholders reported that individual sectors do not specifically plan for climate security, but that it is often being carried out implicitly in response to urgent issues. Therefore, climate security should be an integral part of public sector management towards sustainable development. Governments have to ensure that the country's development policies, strategies, and action plans build resilience to a changing climate. Decisions will need to be integrated across sectors to ensure effective planning and response to climate security needs.

#### C. Political Challenges: Engaging all stakeholders when discussing policies through public hearing sessions

This challenge is agreed among stakeholders as the key political challenge that hinders the operationalizing of climate security actions in the Arab region. Stakeholder engagement represents a vital steppingstone in climate security planning as it can lead to practical outcome that can be implemented collectively. Climate security involves many cross-cutting issues including human security, water, agriculture, energy and environment, and needs shared responsibilities and coordinated action between different actors, including governmental organizations, donor agencies, and local communities. Hence, appropriate engagement of all stakeholders is highly needed at all levels to promote climate security.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges

Table 11 presents the medium and lower ranked climate security challenges.

**Table 11: Medium and lower ranked challenges in the Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security**

Medium Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Poor integration between the sectors (nexus approach)	Lack of integrated policies between different sectors	Lack of appropriate and equitable water allocation mechanisms between users.
Dealing with climate change needs a multi-disciplinary team as it hinders many sectors together	Lack of transparent, cross-sectoral finance mechanisms to build climate resilience and support agriculture sector	Absence of coordination to mobilize international and regional support to help national and local governments for climate security
No consistent methodologies are used to conduct risk assessments, leading to lack of comparability within sectors and countries with similar risks in the Arab region	Absence of clear role of private sector in climate security decisions.	Lack of political will on making commitments for climate security policies/strategies. Although policy-makers may show commitment, but on ground actions are not sufficient to achieve the goals.
Lack of consistent monitoring of climate change variables that impact crop production (temperature, wind and relative humidity, etc.)	Projects are tailored, based on donor strategies not on the country's actual needs and strategies	Negotiation capacities in climate change and disaster reduction, allocation of financial resources, is essential to advance climate security decisions in the region
Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Relying on traditional methods of agriculture that does not take into account the climate change impacts (low water-use efficiency in many agricultural uses)	Overlapping in roles and responsibilities of different actors with respect to risk assessment, risk management and the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies and actions, and enhancing governance	Absence of clear policies that regulates import and export activities which take into considerations the virtual water topic
Technical limitations for adopting modern agricultural technologies (requires high experience, high initial costs/investments)	Lack of support, both regionally and internationally, for researchers and scientists in the region to produce consensus-based, user relevant climate outlook products in real time, to support decision-making processes.	Poor mainstreaming of climate change adaptation as a priority in local, national, and regional policies
Climate change impacts on the ecological systems differ from country to country, and between geographic areas. This variability should be considered prior to designing climate security policies.	Defragmentation of institutions tackling climate security at national scale.	Incompatibility of food security target and policies.
	Poor coordination between institutions related to food, agriculture, irrigation, environment in formulating climate security decisions	

### 2.2.5.3 Strategizing: Developing and Ranking Strategic Objectives

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic objectives **for the highest ranked challenges under the three dimensions** (technical, institutional, and political):

#### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Objectives

##### A. Technical Dimension: Promoting coordination between data, forecast, risk information, communication and dissemination mechanisms, and preparedness and early response

A coordination mechanism is needed for data collection, sharing, and making the data available to stakeholders. The collection of data can be improved by expanding the collaboration between countries in the region to improve the coverage and comparability of data. Science-based data collection methods should also be designed taking into consideration disaggregated data collection to reflect location, gender, age, and socio-economic status, as these factors greatly affect exposure to, and the ability to cope with, climate risks.

##### B. Institutional Dimension: Adopting an intersectoral approach to respond to climate change impacts and disaster risks

Sound climate security planning is important for building resilience to climate change. National governments have a key role in developing climate security strategies and play an important role in promoting collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders. Adopting an intersectoral approach for climate security planning is highly needed for better coordination and for reduced overlapping between sectors. Such an approach should include policy-makers from various government sectors, representatives from civil society and academic institutions, the private sector, and the media.

##### C. Political Dimension: Enhance public participation to define a political framework of climate security

Engaging stakeholders (governments, academia, private sector, end users) to develop, review, and approve a political framework for climate security is needed to guarantee effective planning and implementation of climate and food security policy. This can be achieved by shifting from conventional decision-making 'silos' towards collective decision-making processes which promote stakeholder participation and engagement. Thus, it is required to provide evidence-based engagement mechanisms benefiting from the regional experiences and success stories.



## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives

Table 12 provides an overview of the medium and low climate security strategic objectives.

**Table 12: Medium and lower ranked strategic objectives in the Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security**

Medium Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Establishing a data center where all data can be shared by different sectors based on their levels and needs	Enhancing governance system to ease communication and accessibility away from the individual scattered institutions	Developing and applying reliable participatory approach for climate security decisions through including all stakeholders and beneficiaries
Maximizing synergies and minimizing tradeoffs when dealing with climate security solutions.		Promoting legal framework to regulate public participation
Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Formulating a shared vision for a regional integrated climate security framework.	No additional strategic objectives identified (but raising awareness was mentioned in the discussion)	Identifying clear mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in climate security

## 2.2.5.4 Planning: Identifying and Ranking Strategic Actions and Detailed Planning

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic actions for the highest ranked strategic objectives under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Actions

#### A. Technical Dimension: Establishing a platform for data collection and sharing

A regional online database of past, current, and planned DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction), CCR (Climate Change Risks) and related initiatives is proposed to be established to enhance documentation and sharing of climate-food security data and information. The database would also help bridge the information gaps between different countries and sectors. This can be done by establishing a Coordination Unit (under the AWC) to lead the development of the platform, and enhance the coordination between countries including governmental institutions, academic institutions and NGOs. **Table 13** summarizes planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 13: Planning results of the proposed action for the technical dimension**

Technical Dimension	CS Challenge	Lack of comprehensive system for data collection and sharing			
	Strategic Objective	Promoting coordination between data, forecast, risk information, communication and dissemination mechanisms, and preparedness and early response	Relevant SDGs: 2,4,6,13,17		
	Strategic Actions	Establishing a platform for data collection and sharing			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Establishing a Coordination Unit (under the AWC)	2-3 years	Regional/Int. organizations, LAS, AWC, Academia, research centers, the private sector, governments	
		Assessing the state-of-the-art in the countries to establish the baseline with regard to institutional, legal and technical dimensions			
		Preparing a draft for an enabling environment (legal and institutional dimensions) to establish a mechanism for operationalization			
		The legal/institutional recognition by the countries of the Coordination Unit			
		Defining the gaps in the existing data sets and protocols			
Preparing a work plan for closing the existing gaps					
Development of protocols for data collection and data-sharing and generation of information					

**B. Institutional Dimension: Reviewing and mainstreaming policies with view of building resilience through knowledge advocacy, research and training, and boosting intersectoral dynamics that can shape vulnerabilities and resilience**

A supportive policy at national and regional levels is essential for effective decision-making. Basic conditions for effective development such as the rule of law, transparency, and accountability, as well as participatory decision-making structures are conducive to effective development and adaptation actions. In addition, new or revised climate security policies and structures are needed at all levels. A clear but coordinated governance structure is also essential to mainstream and build resilience through research and capacity building programs. **Table 14 presents** the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 14: Planning results of the proposed action for the institutional dimension**

<b>Institutional Dimension</b>	CS Challenge	Sectoral policies are not compatible with the national sustainable strategy of the country			
	Strategic Objective	Adopting an intersectoral approach to respond to climate change impacts and disaster risks	Relevant SDGs: 6,11,13,17		
	Strategic Actions	Reviewing and mainstreaming policies with view of building resilience through knowledge advocacy, research and training and boosting intersectoral dynamics that can shape vulnerabilities and resilience			
		<b>Key Activities</b>		<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Supporting researchers and scientists in the region to mainstream effort to produce consensus-based, user relevant climate outlook products in real time, to support decision-making processes.		2 years	
		Promoting the exchange of ideas between multiple stakeholders and existing gender equality mechanisms and women councils at national levels			
Promoting innovation in the private sector with regard to the agricultural sector					
Building resilience of vulnerable communities including women and youth through development of transparent cross-sectoral finance mechanisms					

### C. Political Dimension: Diffusing systems for governance in order to shape the public policy

The strengthening of governance systems for climate security is an important step, but equally important is the dissemination of the results to raise awareness and encourage people to be more involved. Additionally, dissemination programs will need to show how participation is important in planning and developing climate security policy frameworks. **Table 15** provides an overview of the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 15: Planning results of the proposed action for the political dimension.**

Political Dimension	CS Challenge	Engaging all stakeholders when discussing policies through public hearing sessions		
	Strategic Objective	Enhancing public participation to define a political framework of climate security	Relevant SDGs: 2,6,7,8,13,15,17	
	Strategic Actions	Diffusing systems for governance to shape the public policy		
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Developing plans to show how participation is important in planning and developing policy frameworks	2-3 years	Academia, NGOs, organizations, private sector, policy advocates
Information campaigns and looking for political support				

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Actions

Table 16 summarizes the medium and lower ranked strategic actions.

**Table 16: Medium and lower ranked strategic actions in the Task Force on Climate Security and Food Security**

Medium Ranked Strategic Actions		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Establishing a Coordination Unit with regional/international concerned organizations: operationalization of coordination framework	Empowering planning institutions/ organizations/units to act as a regulator for sectoral strategies/ plans on climate security in general and climate and food especially	No additional strategic actions included in voting, but the development of incentives was discussed
Better collection and sharing of disaggregated data and analyses related to the circumstances of vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk people	Evaluating cross-cutting regional and national strategies with climate and food security strategies (SDGs)	
Lower Ranked Strategic Actions		
No additional strategic actions identified	Building resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research, and training by making information on risk accessible to all stakeholders and boosting intersectoral approaches that help uncover dynamics that can shape vulnerability and resilience.	No additional strategic actions identified
	Developing a comprehensive assessment process specific to the Arab region in order to advance regional development goals and objectives, and help the institutions concerned develop risk maps and conduct scientific assessments.	
	Assess mega projects against nexus approaches to ensure sustainability.	

The task force members also discussed the importance of improving trade between Arab countries in the context of clean energy provision.

## 2.2.6 Results of the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security

### 2.2.6.1 Main Findings

**Table 17** summarizes the main finding of the highest ranked results under the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security.

**Table 17: Main findings of the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security**

Dimension	Climate Security Challenge (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Objective (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Action (Highest Ranked)
Technical	Securing finance for climate security actions from capital markets	Better identification of market baseline and finance opportunities	Developing risk mitigation schemes specific to renewable energy projects
Institutional	Low coordination between governmental institutions/ ministries	Enhancing capacity of government entities and empowering them with tools and funding for coordinated actions on common climate-security objectives	Matchmaking between government institutions, private sector, funding institutions, academia and research think tanks
Political	Political instability and market un-predictability	Improving regional and national policies and strategies to enhance synergies between energy sector and climate security	Robust and coherent data and information platforms for enhanced communication between decision-makers and different interested parties on climate-security issues

A lack of availability and deployment of state-of-the-art technologies, as well as an insufficient sharing of knowledge among Arab countries were also discussed as challenges in this Task Force.

### 2.2.6.2 Visioning: Identification and Ranking of Climate Security Challenges

#### I. Highest Ranked Challenges

##### A. Technical Dimension: Securing finance for climate security actions from capital markets

Stakeholders highlighted the challenge of securing financial resources as a top priority in the region. Financial resources for climate-energy security are needed to ensure the operationalization of climate-energy security strategies through supporting the development and deployment of advanced technologies, as well as the enhancement of energy efficiency and renewable energy adaptation measures. To access these funds, local ministries will need to develop systems to track needs and expenditures in domestic budgets, working on attracting private sector investments, and coordinating with potential international funding sources for activities that reduce vulnerability to climate change.

## B. Institutional Dimension: Low coordination between governmental institutions/ ministries

Low coordination between governmental institutions concerning planning for climate-energy security was expressed by the stakeholders as the main institutional challenge. Overlapping roles and responsibilities between institutions could hinder the proper operationalizing of climate security strategies and actions. Within governments, inter-ministerial coordination is especially critical because adaptation responses often require activities involving multiple ministries and sectors. Hence, the institutional framework which governs coordination and collaboration between governmental institutions needs to be further developed. Across the region, enhanced coordination would include knowledge and information sharing.

## C. Political Dimension: Political instability and market un-predictability

This challenge was agreed among stakeholders to be the key political challenge. The Arab region has witnessed dramatic escalations of regional instability, which resulted in the widespread destruction of energy infrastructure in several countries where the energy supply chain is considered an attractive target in conflicts. Additionally, energy importer/exporter relations can be negatively affected by political instability. The energy sector is sensitive to political instability; the effects of this sensitivity have become more serious due to a lack of diversity in energy resources that could lead to significant economic loss and an increase in the vulnerability of countries.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges

Table 18 presents the medium and lower ranked climate security challenges.

**Table 18: Medium and lower ranked challenges in the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security**

Medium Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Lack of technical research and studies on linkages between energy and other sectors	Weak institutional capacity, especially in conflict regions	Highly subsidized electricity tariffs in some countries
Existing high and growing energy demand in the Arab region	Lack of institutional framework which supports working across levels (community to regional level)	Lack of political will and advocacy for climate security
Reliance on imported renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies	Weak implementation of green technologies as driver to enhance response to climate change	Political conflict leading to uncertainty in defining development priorities
Lack of appropriate evaluation and monitoring systems of renewable energy	Lack of capacity of domestic banking sector to work on green finance	Gap between political leaders and technical experts leading to misperception of facts
Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Insufficient energy grid and storage capacity	Lack of regulations and laws on renewable energy to attract investors	Frequent political turnover
High technical and commercial losses in the energy sectors		

### 2.2.6.3 Strategizing: Developing and Ranking Strategic Objectives

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic objectives **for the highest ranked challenges under the three dimensions** (technical, institutional, and political).

#### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Objectives

##### A. Technical Dimension: Better identification of market baseline and finance opportunities (e.g., climate finance)

Financial resources will be needed to effectively plan for climate security. The Arab region will need to better identify and analyze their financial needs for climate security actions, and to identify financing opportunities through national, regional and international cooperation. Private sector participation in climate investment should be strengthened through promoting competitive energy markets, and by mobilizing green investment, including developing clean technologies such as solar energy and energy efficiency technologies.

##### B. Institutional Dimension: Enhancing capacity of government entities and empowering them with tools and funding for coordinated actions on common climate security objectives

Capacity development is closely linked to investments which support the use, adaptation, and transfer of new technologies. The enhancement in capacity of governmental entities in climate-energy security activities and actions can be achieved by building local capacities in the design, implementation and use of energy technologies (renewable energy and energy efficiency), as well as capacities to energy management. Capacity-building is an accumulative learning-by-doing exercise. It is not just a process of absorbing information and skills brought by experts, therefore, effective partnerships are needed to enhance peer-to-peer learning across the region. The promotion of local knowledge and an improvement of communication among governmental institutions are also important.

##### C. Political Dimension: Improving regional and national policies and strategies to enhance synergies between energy sector and climate security

Coordinated policy approaches are required to overcome the gaps in national and regional policies and strategies which are linked to the climate-energy security. The integrated responses should be based on sustainable development strategies, and to take advantage of the multiple synergies between energy and other sectors. Hence, national, and regional policies and strategies need to be developed across different sectors to produce more synergized framework.



## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives

Table 19 summarizes the medium and lower ranked climate security strategic objectives.

**Table 19: Medium and lower ranked strategic objectives in the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security**

Medium Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Developing innovative finance and business models tailored to climate security	Strengthening the role of the national/regional institutions to initiate and sustain policy dialogue on climate-security issues among different stakeholders	Developing and utilizing political guarantee mechanisms for climate-security investments at national and regional levels
Overcoming financing barriers through public-private-people-partnerships (4Ps)	Establishing framework for better communication between institutions	Enhancing research on political economy of climate-security in fragile and crisis-affected contexts
Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Enhancing capacity of financing sector to provide more climate-related finance/services	Better identification of gaps and common nexus areas in regional and national strategies that require cooperation among different actors	Developing practices for internal climate risk reporting for public and private sector for green economy transformation
Raising awareness of financing issues among developers, consumers, and investors	Enhancing transparency on the impact of different initiatives and projects on climate-security, while enabling complementarity and avoiding gaps and overlaps	Improved short- and long-term modeling and quantitative scenario analysis for transition to consider climate-related risks for financial planning
Increasing government balance sheet finance for climate security solutions (leading by examples)		Developing pipeline of climate-security investment opportunities with consideration of socio-economic and climate benefits
Up-scaling risk transfer mechanisms (captive, insurance, bonds, derivatives)		

There was a discussion in the Task Force on whether the strategic objectives identified under the technical dimension might perhaps be more appropriately placed under the institutional dimension.

## 2.2.6.4 Planning: Identifying and Ranking Strategic Actions and Detailed Plans

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic actions for the highest ranked strategic objectives under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Actions

#### A. Technical Dimension: Developing climate-risk mitigation schemes specific to renewable energy projects

Climate risk refers to the risk of investment loss in a given country/region caused by natural threats, political instability, or changes in energy policy. Depending on the causes and scale of the risks, the effects of these risks could be at micro (project) level, or macro (country or regional) level. Clear mitigation schemes are needed to be developed to deal with the increased risks of renewable energy sector in the Arab region. A mapping of existing risk categories also needs to be conducted to identify risk-mitigation opportunities for developers, lenders, and investors. **Table 20** presents planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 20: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the technical dimension**

Technical Dimension	CS Challenge	Securing finance from capital markets			
	Strategic Objective	Better identification of market baseline and finance opportunities	Relevant SDGs: 1,3,7,11,12,13,17		
	Strategic Actions	Developing risk mitigation schemes specific to renewable energy projects			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Mapping existing risk mitigation schemes addressing different risk categories	1 years	Ministries and national institutions, Regional think-tanks, Financing institutions, Developers	
		Identifying opportunities for developers, lenders and investors			
Proposing appropriate risk mitigation schemes of relevance to the Arab region, based on mapping					
Initiating dialogue among financial institutions and countries allowing for adapting most appropriate schemes					

## B. Institutional Dimension: Matchmaking between government institutions, private sector, funding institutions, academia and research think-tanks

This strategic action aims at promoting coordinated activities between governmental institutions, private sector, funding agencies, and academic institutions to address climate-energy security issues and facilitate participatory planning processes and cost-effectiveness actions. This can be achieved by introducing and implementing collective decision-making processes which promote stakeholder participation and engagement. Additionally, legal frameworks for Public-Private-People-Partnerships need to be established. **Table 21** captures the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 21: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the institutional dimension**

Institutional Dimension	CS Challenge	Low coordination between governmental institutions/ministries		
	Strategic Objective	Enhancing capacity of government entities and empowering them with tools and funding for coordinated actions on common climate-security objectives	Relevant SDGs: 7,8,11,13,16,17	
	Strategic Actions	Matchmaking between government institutions, private sector, funding institutions, academia and research think tanks		
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Identifying key stakeholders	1 years	Ministries and governments, Financing institutions, Developers and investors, International and regional organizations, Research and academia, Civil society and consumer groups
		Exploring interest and drivers of key stakeholders		
		Identifying thematic areas for convening different actors		
		Creating focus groups among sub-sets of interested stakeholders for specific thematic issues		
	Organizing events and gathering platforms for discussions and coordination between interested stakeholders at national, regional and international levels			
	Reporting and dissemination of lessons learned and investment blueprints			

### C. Political Dimension: Robust and coherent data and information platforms for enhanced communication between decision-makers and different interested parties on climate-security issues

The collection and sharing of climate-energy related data and information need to be strengthened through establishing a platform for enhancing the collection, sharing and communication of data and information between different stakeholders. This can be done by enhancing the coordination between countries, including between governmental institutions, academic institutions, and other stakeholders. Additionally, it is proposed to create a Coordination Unit to coordinate and collect information, and to share it with policy-makers and other stakeholders. **Table 22** summarizes planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 22: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the political dimension**

<b>Political Dimension</b>	CS Challenge	Political instability and market un-predictability			
	Strategic Objective	Improving regional and national policies and strategies to enhance synergies between energy sector and climate security	Relevant SDGs: 3,6,7,8,9,12,13,14,15,17		
	Strategic Actions	Robust and coherent data and information platforms for enhanced communication between decision-makers and different interested parties on climate-security issues			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Mapping of existing data and information platforms	1 years	Academia and research think-tanks, International and regional organizations, Government stakeholders, Civil society stakeholders	
Convening task forces for different platforms to coordinate and collect information and share it with policy-makers and other stakeholders					
Facilitating funding for research and academia to carry out necessary activities					

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Actions

Table 23 summarizes the medium and lower ranked climate security strategic actions.

**Table 23: Medium and lower ranked strategic actions in the Task Force on Climate Security and Energy Security**

Medium Ranked Strategic Actions		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Conducting market assessment for gaps and opportunities for climate finance in the Arab region	Strengthening regulatory frameworks for enhanced coordination between ministries and relevant stakeholders	Strengthening governance of institutions for long-term predictability and rigor of guidelines, frameworks and planning for future projects and programs
Matchmaking between project developers and capital providers	Developing innovative approaches for capacity building for fragile and crisis-affected contexts	Enforcing regional agreements within a legal framework
Lower Ranked Strategic Actions		
Establishing policies in place to ensure return on investment for private sector	Streamlining communication frameworks between different government institutions	Strengthening synergies between regional and national actors on policy planning, implementation, and evaluation modalities
Streamlining administrative processes for accessing finance	Application of effective monitoring programs and techniques	Reforming energy subsidies regulations
Facilitating access to funds	Training on IPCC emission inventories and climate forecasting models	Strengthening Independent Power Production (IPP)
	Enhancing capacity of government entities to work on climate security issues	

## 2.2.7 Results of the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality

### 2.2.7.1 Main Findings

**Table 24** summarizes the main finding of the highest ranked results under the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality

**Table 24: Main findings of the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality**

Dimension	Climate Security Challenge (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Objective (Highest Ranked)	Climate Security Strategic Action (Highest Ranked)
Technical	Lack of availability of data and research pertaining to linking gender / social cohesion and climate security, and lack of analysis on interconnections	Making data accessible to policy-makers, translating data into policy briefs and guidelines	Establishing social cohesion and gender advisory role as part of the network
Institutional	Lack of women's leadership in decision-making, planning and implementation	Implementing women's quotas at different levels of organization	Advocating gender equality and participation of vulnerable groups in the network
Political	Political will to integrate gender and social cohesion within other policy frameworks, weak representation of women and climate change scientists, social scientists in decision-making	Developing regional benchmarks on gender, focusing on vulnerable groups, and inclusion of diverse types of knowledge	Producing shadow reviews on relevant and official reporting from the climate security perspective

### 2.2.7.2 Visioning: Identification of Climate Security Challenges

#### I. Highest Ranked Challenges

##### A. Technical Dimension: Lack of availability of data and research pertaining to linking gender / social cohesion and climate security, and lack of analysis on interconnections

The lack of data and research was cited as the first ranked technical challenge. Having reliable data is key for climate security planners/decision-makers. Reliable data can help to better identify and analyze gender/social challenges and decide on the most appropriate options to advance climate security actions. The Arab region suffers from the lack of reliable data that link gender and social cohesion to climate security which hinders the appropriate integration of the social dimension into climate security policies and approaches. Existing data should be triangulated, while properly disaggregated gender, social, and climate security data need to be collected through joint efforts and research and made available for all stakeholders to support proper planning in response to climate challenges.

### **B. Institutional Dimension: Lack of women's leadership in decision-making, planning and implementation**

There is a direct relation between women's empowerment and climate security. On the one hand, women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which could, in turn, exacerbate existing gender disparities. On the other hand, women have unique knowledge and skills that can help make the response to climate change more effective and sustainable. Stakeholders highlighted that women were underrepresented in climate security decision-making, most critically, in discussions and decisions about adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk management. A lack of meaningful participation of women would therefore undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of climate security policies. Further, given that empowering women through leadership is a prerequisite for sustainable development and for creating resilience to climate change, the poor representation of women in climate planning and decision-making processes slows down the progress towards achieving this goal as well. Therefore, women's participation in climate security decision-making should be promoted, especially towards the development and implementation of gender-sensitive policies and strategies.

### **C. Political Dimension: Political will to integrate gender and social cohesion within other policy frameworks, weak representation of women and climate change scientists, social scientists in decision-making**

Social cohesion and women's involvement are integral parts of climate security planning, as without it, shortcomings are expected while developing climate security policies. This topic needs to be mainstreamed during the development process of climate security policies to ensure integration with water resources, agriculture and food security, energy, and environment. Women should be equally represented in decision-making structures to allow them to contribute their unique and valuable perspectives and expertise on climate security. Thus, local governments need to incorporate social cohesion and gender perspectives into their national policies, action plans on sustainable development and climate security.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges

Table 25 summarizes the medium and lower ranked climate security challenges.

**Table 25: Medium and lower ranked challenges in the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion and Gender Equality**

Medium Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Disaggregated data covering all Arab states, lack of collaboration in data generation, and lack of information-sharing	Compartmentalization of decision-making "silos"	Political ownership of the responses to climate security agenda drivers, e.g., dominance of OECD member states, "richer" country narratives not conducive to integrated thinking
Lack of skills and capacities for integrating data and integrated decision-making.	Climate policy-making / implementation located within one local ministry (usually the Ministry of Environment) with limited coordination with other authorities	Political angle from which the issues are addressed affects impact. Humanitarian vs. development support (different lengths of funding and program cycles), streams of support are quite different for actors.
Gap in knowledge and awareness about the interconnections between different sectors	Lack of financial resources to support gender-sensitive planning and gender mainstreaming in climate security policies	Shaping of agendas creates power imbalances. Dominance of "donor countries" and organizations in setting the agenda. Lack of responsibility on the part of both "receiving end countries" and "donor countries", limiting capacities and proactive stance of some countries.
Diversity of women's knowledge, indigenous and local knowledge is missing from policy levels	Poor implementation of participatory planning which often excludes different stakeholders, and vulnerable groups	Lack of tools to address immediate disasters will happen more frequently couched within a longer-term strategy
Lower Ranked Climate Security Challenges		
Social cohesion is difficult to measure, indicators are harder to identify, hard to put numbers on social values, eclipses central role of people	Compartmentalization of discussions. Problems and challenges are expressed in economic terms / environmental terms, peak interests of certain ministries (e.g., economics / environmental). Central ministries shape narratives and responses.	Migration securitization
Set knowledge patterns within Ministries affects the "way of thinking and acting" on the topics	Ministries are not collaborating on the lower levels (below the level of protocols), day-to-day operations not sufficiently affected by signed protocols on collaboration between Ministries	Where women are present in politics, it is typically in the "gender appropriate" posts, not technical Ministries, limiting their impact on change
Research is compartmentalized, lack of scientific base on integrated thinking		Militarization happens for reasons of funding, climate security discussed at security council level, perspectives are focused on national security ("national security, military")
Social aspects are always seen as an "add-on" while taking climate security decisions.		Lack of women in policy and decision-making spaces, and leadership roles
Data approaches from international community household centric approach, while data needs to be available on other scales as well (e.g., within households)		Lack of women in politics, parliaments, political decision-making posts.



### 2.2.7.3 Strategizing: Developing and Ranking Strategic Objectives

The facilitated stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic objectives for the highest ranked challenges under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

#### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Objectives

##### A. Technical Dimension: Making data accessible to policy-makers, translating data into policy briefs and guidelines

Access to reliable data and making it available to policy-makers and other stakeholders is a priority strategic objective to support climate security actions in the Arab region. The collection of data can be improved by expanding the collaboration between governments, academic institutions, and international agencies. A systematic data collection approach is needed to collect social data, sex-disaggregated data, and establishing gender-sensitive benchmarks and indicators. Additionally, it was suggested to create a regional mechanism for information-sharing and exchange between sectors, and to develop easy to understand policy briefs and guidelines to be shared with relevant and interested stakeholders.

##### B. Institutional Dimension: Implementing women's quotas at different levels of organization

Gender equality and women's participation is one of the key aspects for sustainable climate security planning. It aims at promoting gender balance so that men and women have equal rights to participate in the decision-making process. One way to achieve gender balance is to introduce gender quotas by having a certain number of female representatives in the organization and committees within the Regional Climate Security Network itself. Gender quotas can help make decisions more effective and lead to more equal participation. Hence, women's quotas need to be expanded at different levels of organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) to provide an opportunity for women to participate in formulating climate security policies and strategies.

##### C. Political Dimension: Developing regional benchmarks on gender, focusing on vulnerable groups, and including diverse types of knowledge

A transparent, comprehensive, and publicly available regional gender benchmark is proposed to be established for the region to accelerate progress in closing the gender gap, and to measure actions on gender equality and women's empowerment. A set of indicators covering women's participation in climate security decision-making at the national and regional levels, as well as education in the fields related to climate change are needed to be identified for this purpose. The benchmarking system has to be grounded in key international gender principles, normative standards and needs to align with widely accepted gender frameworks.

## II. Medium and Lower Ranked Strategic Objectives

**Table 26** summarizes the medium and lower ranked climate security strategic objectives.

**Table 26: Medium and lower ranked strategic objectives in the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality**

Medium Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Training existing research institutions (academia, government research centers, etc.) on how to triangulate and share existing data	Network includes %50 of women / women centered organizations	Global and regional monitoring mechanisms, SDG reporting, tangible goals
Clear definition of terms, collection of disaggregated data (age, sex, geographical location, nationality, migrant /refugee status, disability, etc.)	Gender-sensitive budgeting in network-supported initiatives and projects, budget items directed towards identified tasks that directly benefit women, percentage of budget allocated to gender-based activities and capacity building for vulnerable women	Commitment from member states to put gender at the center of climate security discussions
Low Ranked Strategic Objectives		
Developing participatory processes of research and research methodologies that enable knowledge production by vulnerable and marginalized groups, e.g., through citizen science, by including local and indigenous knowledge and practices	Building a cohort of capable women that lead the network, creating capacity	Civil society monitoring, voicing public demands
Triangulating existing data with climate security issues and topics		Regional encouragement for national governments, as well as vice versa
Generating big data sets and indicators, mapping based on integrated indicators		Municipal level and grassroots activism, local government leadership

### 2.2.7.4 Planning: Identifying and Ranking Strategic Actions and Detailed Planning

The stakeholder engagement process resulted in identifying the following strategic actions for the highest ranked strategic objectives under the three dimensions (technical, institutional, and political).

#### I. Highest Ranked Strategic Actions

##### A. Technical Dimension: Establishing social cohesion and gender advisory role as part of the network

It is proposed to create social cohesion and gender advisory role within the established Regional Climate Security Network under the SDG-Climate Facility Project. This position will ensure integrating social aspects and gender equality in climate security decisions and policies, besides ensuring women’s voices are equally represented. Additionally, it will facilitate collection and accessibility to social and gender data and providing translation into relevant languages that are officially used in Arab countries including English, Arabic and French languages. **Table 27** presents the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 27: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the technical dimension**

Technical Dimension	CS Challenge	Lack of availability of data and research pertaining to linking gender and social cohesion to climate security, and lack of analysis on interconnections			
	Strategic Objective	Making data accessible to policy-makers, translating data into policy briefs and guidelines	Relevant SDGs: 1,4,5,10,13,16		
	Strategic Actions	Establishing social cohesion and gender advisory role as part of the network			
		<b>Key Activities</b>		<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Creating capacity among network members		2 years	Advocacy group within the network,  Early career researchers and students, consultants
		Developing a portal or database that remains accessible beyond the project			
		Drafting a concept note that lays out the different types of analyses, template on topics, data collected			
		Advocacy group within the network directs the paid officer			
Creating a part-time position					
Translation into relevant languages: English, Arabic, French					

## B. Institutional Dimension: Advocating gender equality and participation of vulnerable groups in the network

This action aims at strengthening the role of the established network as a model of the multi-disciplinary and participatory work which puts gender and social cohesion and inclusiveness in its center. Additionally, it aims at ensuring the mainstreaming of integrated nexus approach to guarantee gender inclusion and representation of marginalized groups in the network. This requires articulating how the inclusion of marginalized groups will be incorporated within the structure and membership of the network (internal policy). In addition to developing approaches to enhance outreach to vulnerable groups, the establishment of a monitoring process, measurement tools and indicators to ensure the integration of vulnerable groups was proposed. **Table 28** summarizes planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 28: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the institutional dimension**

Institutional Dimension	CS Challenge	Lack of women's leadership in decision-making, planning and implementation			
	Strategic Objective	Implementing women's quotas at different levels of organization	Relevant SDGs: 3,5,6,13,16		
	Strategic Actions	Advocating gender equality and participation of vulnerable groups in the network			
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>	
		Actively making visible conflict areas and vulnerable groups and hotspots	2 years	Civil Society Groups working on grassroots level, Organizational Consultants, Researchers, Socio-Economic and Environmental Scientists / Experts, Network Steering Committee (formulation of the policy), Private Sector, Media	
		Mainstreaming integrated nexus, gender inclusion, diverse knowledge, representation of marginalized groups becomes part of the Network's TORs and operations			
		At least %50 of the funding has to go into these integrated briefs			
Presenting research briefs, policy briefs, outreach outputs that demonstrate a new narrative, diverse knowledge and gender-sensitive approach					
Articulating how the inclusion and marginalized groups will be included within the structure and membership of the network (internal policy)					

### C. Political Dimension: Producing shadow reviews on relevant and official reporting from the climate security perspective

Shadow reports of official climate security reports and policy documents are proposed to enable civil society and other stakeholders to present and provide their feedback and opinions. Shadow reporting can be defined as a method through which civil society can supplement or provide alternative opinions to governmental reports. This would help develop new narratives of gender equality, social inclusion, and the diversity of knowledge for official/governmental reporting. Additionally, the process can strengthen the on-the-groundwork related to the climate security issues, as well as continue building awareness in civil society. Shadow reports can be utilized as tools for education in civil society, ways to provide the media with tangible documents, as well as resources in collaboration with other organizations that work in climate security topics. It is important to mention that shadow review requires financial resources to be operated; hence securing financial support for training researchers on writing shadow reports is needed. **Table 29** provides an overview of the planning results of the proposed strategic action.

**Table 29: Planning results of the proposed strategic action for the political dimension**

Political Dimension	CS Challenge	Political will to integrate gender and social cohesion within other policy frameworks, weak representation of women and climate change scientists, social scientists in decision-making		
	Strategic Objective	Developing regional benchmarks on gender, focusing on vulnerable groups, and including diverse types of knowledge	Relevant SDGs: 4,5,13,16	
	Strategic Actions	Producing shadow reviews on relevant and official reporting from the climate security perspective		
		<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Actors to be Involved</b>
		Hiring a communications expert, promoting the Network's advocacy role	2 years	Country representatives, Communications expert, researchers and Consultants, Determined responsible persons within the Network, Network Steering Committee
		Creating financial support and in-kind support for our outputs		
		Formulating checklists on gender sensitivity and inclusion for reports and policies (exercises, "how to")		
		Constructive languages for shadow reports, focused on interdisciplinary work		
		Workshops and exercises on reviewing reports and developing a new lens of evaluating reports		
	Teams from different countries producing reports on their countries			
	Training researchers on shadow reporting, hiring consultants on report writing			

## II. Medium Ranked Strategic Actions

Table 30 summarizes the medium ranked climate security strategic actions.

**Table 30: Medium ranked strategic actions in the Task Force on Climate Security, Social Cohesion, and Gender Equality**

Medium Ranked Strategic Actions		
Technical Dimension	Institutional Dimension	Political Dimension
Developing efficient communication channels in both English and Arabic that allow for review and effective dissemination of best practice studies and examples, through newsletters, making data visible, integrating existing bodies (e.g., AGIR) into the network	Network-internal gender and social inclusion policy on inclusion, enabling environment and process, %50 female member quota (at all levels, females in leading positions, Steering Committee)	Thematic teams that include different countries
Researching existing tools and platforms. Cross-referencing existing tools that collect all information, data-sharing platforms.	Training and capacity development activities organized by the Network for Network members and key partners, advocacy capacity building	Incentives and competitions, most inclusive Network members

## 2.2.8 Closing Session

The closing session was moderated by **H.E. Dr. Hussein El-Atfy**, Secretary-General of the Arab Water Council. Dr. El-Atfy thanked all participants for their participation and commitment during the workshops. He emphasized the role of this event as a starting point towards sustainable climate security planning in the region. According to El-Atfy, a number of participants had shared their positive feedback regarding the Dialogue topic and had confirmed the significant need for integrated climate security in the national and regional efforts.

A summary of the main results and conclusions of the three-day workshop was provided and discussed with the participants. Additionally, the Regional Climate Security Network was launched as a regional think tank, and a platform that enables institutions across the Arab world – including government institutions, organizations and NGOs, UN organizations, the private sector, academia, research institutions, donor agencies and other strategic partners – to develop an Integrated Regional Climate Security Framework (IRCSF) for the Arab Region. More information about the network's structure, role and mandates can be found by accessing [rcsn.arabwatercouncil.org](https://rcsn.arabwatercouncil.org). The Arab Water Council has received numerous official expressions of interest from the following national and regional organizations to join the network:

- Ministry of Water and Environment Protection Authority, Yemen
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- National Water Research Center (NWRC), Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
- Stockholm Environment Institute, US Center
- Omdurman Islamic University, Sudan
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Egypt
- Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS), UN Women

### REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY DEFINITION

*Climate Security is a new concept used to describe and understand the combined impacts of climate-related change on natural resources, ecosystems, socio-economic development, and political stability of a country and, therefore, of a region. It aims to emphasize the catalytic effect of climate-related change as a risk multiplier that can lead to multiple threats on human welfare, economic resilience and national security that most immediately affect vulnerable groups, and that necessitate integrated, cross-sectoral mitigation and adaptation efforts*

### 3 Conclusions

The following section summarizes the main conclusions of the Regional Climate Security Stakeholder Dialogue.

#### 3.1 Achievements

Beyond the direct outputs mentioned under section 1, which include the shared climate security definition and vision, the identification of challenges, objectives, and targeted strategic action planning, as well as the inauguration of the Regional Climate Security Network, the event has led to additional achievements that will help facilitate regional collaboration on climate security:

- ▶ The event triggered a significant response, in terms of number of participants, participants' engagement, and positive feedback from participants.
- ▶ The Regional Stakeholder Dialogue succeeded in raising awareness about, and generating interest in, the concept of climate security.
- ▶ The Dialogue was successful at implementing a participatory approach despite the online environment in which it was carried out.
- ▶ The event helped create a new language and narrative of climate security that will not only inform the work of the Regional Climate Security Network, but that participants will hopefully carry into their own work in their respective institutions.
- ▶ The event managed to highlight the inter-connections between related key themes that form part of the climate security approach. AWC hopes to further foster this nexus approach and thinking throughout the future activities of the network.

#### 3.2 Climate Security Definition

To facilitate the development of climate security policy in the Arab region, and as a basis for the work of the newly launched Regional Climate Security Network, a mutual understanding on the definition of "Climate Security" is of key importance. The Dialogue provided excellent opportunity towards formulating an agreed upon definition of the Climate Security. Involved stakeholders agreed on the following definition:

#### 3.3 Participants' Knowledge

From the performed interactive exercises, it was clear that participants have a good level of knowledge on climate security related topics. Nevertheless, some knowledge gaps were identified as the following:

- ▶ Most of the participants under-estimated the role of economy, energy security, and gender inequality in advancing sustainability in the region.
- ▶ Most of the participants under-estimated the impacts of extreme weather events on creating disasters, as well as the impact of climate change on the loss of biodiversity.

Although such results are not sufficient to comprehensively assess participants' knowledge, it gives an indication of the need for building the stakeholders' awareness on the aforementioned topics to support sustainability in the region and to help create mutual understanding that generates synergies between sectors.



### 3.4 Cross-Cutting Climate Security Challenges

Results of the Stakeholder Dialogue have allowed the identification of cross-cutting challenges among the four thematic areas/Task Forces. The following section sheds light on the common cross-cutting climate security challenges that need to be considered to ensure synergy and consistency while developing and implementing climate security policy.

#### A. Technical dimension

- ➔ Collection, management and accessibility to climate-related data and information.
- ➔ Weak regional scientific research in the Arab region, specifically, regional climate change models, utilization of technologies and digitalization infrastructure.
- ➔ Relying on “traditional” technical solutions and practices for climate challenges (water, agriculture, and energy) which are inefficient in many cases.
- ➔ Poor sharing of knowledge and experience with various stakeholders.
- ➔ Lack of technical support to innovative green business.
- ➔ Lack of capacity for using advanced, state-of-the-art technology.

#### B. Institutional dimension

- ➔ Weak coordination between regional and national organizations including donors and NGOs for climate security actions.
- ➔ Poor implementation of integrated /nexus planning approaches for climate change adaptation and mitigation (silo approach).
- ➔ Weak institutional structures and capacity regarding climate security topics.
- ➔ Overlapping of roles and responsibilities between different agencies at national and regional levels with respect to climate security policies and climate resilience.
- ➔ Weak engagement of stakeholders in climate security policies and decision-making processes.
- ➔ Weak involvement of private sector in climate security policies and actions (models for PPPPs).
- ➔ Insufficient financial support for climate security actions, combined with lack of transparent, cross-sectoral finance mechanisms to build climate resilience.
- ➔ Weak law enforcement.

#### C. Political dimension

- ➔ Poor integration between regional policies and strategies (water, food, energy, social, and DRR) in the Arab region.
- ➔ National climate policies are not compatible with the regional and international policies in many cases, which create challenges in adapting national strategies with regional and national policies.
- ➔ Absence of transparent climate-monitoring frameworks based on integrated indicators.
- ➔ Weak political will on making commitments for climate security policies/strategies.
- ➔ Political instability and conflicts in many areas of the Arab region causing a major displacement of people.

## REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY VISION

*By 2030, the Arab Region will have the enabling environment that allows decision-makers, stakeholders, and the research community to proactively address and act on the emerging complexity of climate-related challenges to attain a regional stability, sustainability, social security and achieve the SDGs. This will be achieved by supporting the operationalization of an integrated policy framework for climate security nexus perspective that brings benefits across the SDGs and enhances the response to the identified challenges by enhancing synergies and minimizing trade-offs, mainstreaming the climate security concept in planning and budgeting, scaling up regional cooperation, participatory planning and partnerships, promoting interdisciplinary research, knowledge transfer, training, awareness-raising, digital transformation, and enhancing access to sustainable finance.*

### 3.5 Climate Security Vision 2030

A shared vision for the next 10 years (Vision 2030) was developed and agreed upon to improve the response to climate security challenges. The agreed vision considers the main cross-cutting issues among the four task forces to ensure synergies and integration.

### 3.6 Way Forward – Framework to Operationalize Climate Security in the Arab Region

Operationalizing climate security policy in the Arab region needs immediate action. Results of this Dialogue have provided a roadmap for shaping the future of climate security in the region. As demonstrated in this report, there are a number of cross-cutting action items that were jointly developed with the stakeholders to operationalize climate security. These actions are gathered and grouped under three broad titles, namely: management instruments, institutional role, and enabling environment as demonstrated in **Table 31**:

**Table 31: Framework to operationalize Climate Security in the Arab region**

Management Instruments	Institutional Roles	Enabling Environment
<b>I. Data management</b>	<b>I. Coordination mechanisms</b>	<b>I. Promoting an enabling environment</b>
Building a comprehensive and integrated database/ data center/data hub for climate-data collection, management and sharing (this includes climate information, disaggregated socio-economic information, DRR information, etc.)	Maximize synergies and inter-sectoral coordination between relevant actors (nexus approach).	Establishing linkages and integration with the international political frameworks, namely: The Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
Creating integrated Regional Monitoring Network to measure and follow-up on climate changes in the Arab region	Identifying regional institutional framework/umbrella for climate security planning (the established RCSN is an excellent opportunity for this)	Strengthening regional cooperation for climate security by promoting regional agreements and commitment across the region

<b>II. Science and research</b>	Promoting a participatory planning approach by involving policy-makers, civil society, vulnerable groups, and academic institutions in climate security planning	Focus on Disaster Risks Plans while formulating climate security decisions
Empowering scientific research by building strong prediction tool to identify future climate events	<b>II. Capacity building</b>	Tackling environmental-driven human mass displacement, poverty, social tension, and conflict while formulating climate security decisions
Introducing new climate research modalities that take into consideration the inter-linkages between technical, institutional, social, economic, and political topics	Enhancing the structure and capacity of Government entities to mainstream climate security considerations in their development plans, building capacity among stakeholders and end users, especially youth, women, and smallholder farmers	Enhancing the functioning of social protection and disaster relief systems at national and regional levels
Employing digital technologies for climate change modeling and decision-support systems	Strengthening the role of the national/regional institutions to initiate and sustain policy dialogue on climate-security issues	Ensuring that vulnerable groups are taken into consideration while formulating climate security decisions
Introducing modern technological solutions in water, agriculture, and energy sectors (technology transfer)	Enhancing gender equality, through encouraging women's roles and including gender at the core of climate security policy	
<b>III. Economic tools</b>	Improving awareness of the impacts of climate change at a range of levels, including policy-makers, operational staff within the various sectors, as well as civil society organizations and end users, empowering them with tools for coordinated actions on common climate security objectives	Securing political support for climate security based economic tools, laws, and incentives.
Enhancing access to financial resources and defining financing mechanisms for climate security policy and actions	Development of an agreed system for monitoring and evaluation of the regional climate security policy	
Developing business models for Public-Private-People-Partnerships (4 Ps) and encouraging investors/private sector for climate security actions	Designing economic support and social security programs for vulnerable groups and sectors, especially youth, women, and smallholder farmers	

## 4 Recommendations for Future Work of the Regional Climate Security Network

This final section offers the following recommendations for advancing the implementation of the Stakeholder Dialogue's results and taking first steps towards operationalizing climate security policies and actions in the Arab region. The newly founded Regional Climate Security Network would be one entity to advance on the first steps taken during the Dialogue, while future participatory stakeholder events could help expand on and break down the issues identified during this 3-day event.

1. Beyond the results of this first Regional Stakeholder Dialogue, further steps need to be taken to guarantee a successful operationalizing of the climate security policy in the Arab region. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to implement some of the recommended actions within the coming years to demonstrate success. Producing a basket of selected interventions to be implemented through the Regional Climate Security Network or the SDG-Climate Facility project, in coordination with partner agencies and other stakeholders would be a possible approach.
2. Mapping existing regional initiatives, assessing their strengths, and identifying gaps and opportunities.
3. Enhancing access to financial resources and defining financing mechanisms for climate security policy is critical to ensure sustainability. This requires strong collaboration between Arab countries and regional and international funding agencies.
4. The strategic objectives/actions emerging from the Dialogue are considered for operationalizing climate security policy in the region. These actions should be able to yield multiplier effects and trigger positive policy responses across the different sectors.
5. The identified medium- and low-priority challenges and objectives need to be further developed in more detail. It is believed that the Dialogue-based approach presented in this event would be a valuable and practical process to draw up more detailed climate security policy components.
6. It is strongly recommended to translate decisions into action plans through integrating relevant results into national and regional development plans and strategies.
7. Whilst the climate security policy remains at an early stage of development, it is inevitable that the primary efforts will focus on building capacity of stakeholders regarding climate security topics and synergies between sectors.
8. Climate security policy development requires extensive stakeholder involvement. This involvement needs to be structured to ensure that it is properly focused. The approach followed in this event was extremely useful in identifying which stakeholders can best have an input at a given stage.
9. The Dialogue tackled four thematic areas for climate security (water, food, energy, agriculture, and social cohesion). However, other sectors need to be assessed using a similar approach to this Dialogue. Perhaps some of the most important sectors are health, ecosystems, and land use planning. While during this event participants were grouped to work with other experts on their background of expertise, cross-thematic groups could lead to more integrated and cross-sectoral thinking and outputs in future events.
10. A successful operationalization of climate security policies requires strong coordination and cooperation of a wide range of national and regional organizations and

stakeholders. Keeping close coordination and communication with all stakeholders is important.

11. Strengthening the role of the established Regional Climate Security Network is crucial for advancing climate security policy in the Arab region. Therefore, exploring ways to maintain the network's sustainability with respect to technical and financial capacities is highly recommended.
12. An annual review of progress on climate security decisions is proposed to be established as part of the Regional Climate Security Network's regular work. This will build continuous momentum in support of implementation.
13. Follow-up and quality control are important components to ensure a smooth implementation of recommendations that have arisen from the Dialogue. Therefore, a clear follow-up framework should be established prior to implementing interventions to regularly reflect on the implementation progress.

## 5 General Recommendations for Researchers, Policy- and Decision-Makers

The Task Forces developed a large set of creative action plans that will inform the work of the Regional Climate Security Network in 2021. This final section offers the following recommendations for advancing the implementation of the Stakeholder Dialogue's results and taking first steps towards operationalizing climate security policies and actions in the Arab region. The event's output led to the formulation of the following policy recommendations:

### Data and Knowledge

- ➔ Data and databases already exist, but there needs to be an assessment of existing data and data sharing platforms, a gap analysis, and a triangulation of existing data with data related to climate security and sustainability.
- ➔ Additional data and knowledge need to be generated in a collaborative approach, with shared and standardized methodologies on data collection, data standards and formats, collection frequency, and analysis across the region. The collection of disaggregated data is important to enable a nexus analysis.
- ➔ To collect new and relevant data, innovative funding mechanisms, as well as new and professional data collection technologies are required (e.g., GIS, remote sensing, etc.), while data sets and indicators need to be integrated to allow for cross-sectoral analysis.
- ➔ There is a need to combine technical and social data, to include the social sciences in climate change research, and to implement more participatory research methodologies that allow for knowledge production by vulnerable or marginalized groups. Gender needs to be mainstreamed into research and data collection methodologies and female researchers empowered and enabled, to produce gender-relevant research results.
- ➔ There is a need for joint, regional data collection and research approaches.
- ➔ For both existing and new data, there need to be better streamlining and data-sharing processes. All groups suggested creating a regional data-sharing platform and knowledge hub that provides access to and enables regional sharing of relevant, real time data.

## Collaboration and Coordination

- ➔ While regional variations in climate impacts demand nationally targeted responses, there are regional processes that can only be addressed through a coordinated regional response.
- ➔ Enhanced communication and coordination between policy-makers and implementing agencies, both at national and regional level, is key to enabling a nexus approach to climate security policy-making. A successful operationalization of climate security policies requires strong coordination and cooperation of a wide range of national and regional organizations and stakeholders. Keeping close coordination and communication with all stakeholders is important.
- ➔ The limitation of climate change related research and decision-making to certain research centers and ministries (often environment) skews languages, data collection, and the development of solutions towards technical, science-based approaches. A collaboration between different ministries and sectors (including social, economic, agriculture, energy, and water) would help shape a new climate security narrative, meanwhile enabling the integrated, cross-sectoral approach needed to generate climate security benefits across the different SDGs.
- ➔ More regional collaboration is needed in the following contexts: 1) Defining terms, developing clear definitions and a shared regional agenda; 2) Setting clear regional benchmarks and objectives that Governments commit to and report progress on, and that create a regional incentive for action; 3) Drafting regional legal and regulatory frameworks for data-sharing and climate security policies and action; 4) Jointly collecting data and setting-up regional data and information-sharing platforms; 5) Developing innovative financing and investment tools that involve different stakeholders from all sectors; 6) Creating an enabling environment for sharing and capacity-building and setting-up more participatory governance mechanisms that engage civil society and grassroots actors, as well as regional and national organizations.
- ➔ New kinds of partnerships are needed for research, knowledge-sharing, financing, policy-making and implementation. Public-private-people-partnerships are a new way of collaboration that can help improve collaboration, efficiency and regional buy-in and commitment, and that can generate win-win situations for all involved parties.

## Innovative Tools and Strategies

- ➔ There is a need for better technical and operational tools allowing for data collection and analysis (including historical data), data-sharing, assessment, monitoring and the creation of prediction models, maps, scenarios, and decision-making tools.
- ➔ Tools and processes must be developed and institutionalized that make data, research outcomes and information more available and accessible for policy-makers, closing the gap between academia and policy-makers. Such tools may include the formulation of policy briefs and shadow reports, the creation of information hubs, or the organization of policy briefings.
- ➔ More participatory tools are needed for knowledge generation, policy formulation and decision-making. Innovative ways of including the public in climate security related issues, such as through public hearings, work with national and regional

organizations, and participatory stakeholder workshops must be developed, as well as expanding the work on establishing successful 4Ps.

- ➔ Decisions-makers need to mainstream gender and vulnerable groups (knowledge of marginalized groups, indigenous groups, etc.) into research, data collection, policy-making and implementation. Implementing gender quotas, funding research that includes vulnerable groups, and changing the language of formulated policies, reports and publications are possible ways forward.
- ➔ Enhancing access to financial resources and defining financing mechanisms for climate security policy is critical to ensure sustainability. This requires strong collaboration between Arab countries and regional and international funding agencies. Innovative business models as well as financing, investment, and incentive tools must be developed in collaboration with different stakeholders at both national and regional levels.

### Capacity Building

- ➔ Building capacity on understanding climate security knowledge, on how to improve intersectoral and nexus-based approaches, how to create inclusive, gender-sensitive and participatory approaches of knowledge generation and decision-making, on how to build regional partnerships, and on how to collect and share data are needed.
- ➔ Government staff should be trained on climate change, climate security, gender, participatory research and governance, IPCC emission inventories, innovative funding, the management of advanced data collection, monitoring, assessment, planning, and decision-support tools.
- ➔ Capacity should be raised among various stakeholders, including the financing sector, investors, the private sector, academia, project managers and civil society to understand climate security, sustainability, intersectoral and nexus approaches, thus generating common understanding and common languages among all involved stakeholders.
- ➔ Women and disadvantaged groups should be targeted for participation in capacity building approaches, to build a cohort of capable women in key institutions that can build and foster gender mainstreaming and socially inclusive agendas.



# Annexes





## 6 Annex 1: List of Participants

Plenary Session Participants		
Name	Organization	Country
Sujala Pant	UNDP RBAS	Jordan
Saddam Waheed	Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources	Iraq
Sherine Youssef	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Amgad Elmahdi	IWMI	Egypt
Mohamed Gad	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Egypt
Basil Yasin	PENRA	Palestine
Mohamed Hassan	LAS	Egypt
Mohamed Helal	Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)	Egypt
Nada Okasha	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)	Egypt
Mona Elagizy	CEDARE	Egypt
Khaled AbuZeid	CEDARE	Egypt
Nivin Abdelmeguid	World Bank	Egypt
Abdelaziz Tageldin	Economics Institute of National Planning	Egypt
Roula Khadra	CIHEAM Bari	Italy
Ali Ghanim	MWI	Jordan
Aly El-Bahrawy	Ain Shams University	Egypt
Shaddin Almasri	Arab Water Council	Austria
Camilo Tellez Robayo	UNDRR	Egypt
Khaled Alshatarat	Planning and Statistics Authority	Qatar
Wael Khairy	NWRC	Egypt
Ameen Alhammadi	Ministry of Water and Environment	Yemen
Tina Jaskolski	UNDP / AWC	Egypt
Rami Salameh	AWC	Jordan
Safwat Abdel-Dayem	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Mervat Hassan	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Jean DCunha	UN Women	Egypt
Vinay Nangia	ICARDA	Morocco
Mary Halim	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Heba AlHariry	AWC	Egypt
Badreddine Boutaghriout		Algeria
Omar Daraghmeh	KU	Denmark
Muath Abu Sadah	Palestinian Water Authority	Palestine
Paola Pagliani	UNDP	Jordan
Mohamed Bayoumi	UNDP	Egypt

Tarek El-Samman	AWC	Egypt
Walid Abderrahman	Arab Water Council	Saudi Arabia
Yara El Nagdi	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Dahlia Sabri		Egypt
Kamel Amer	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)	Egypt
Manal Ghonaim	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Mohamed Dawoud	EAD	UAE
Hala Yousry	Desert Research Center	Egypt
Sherif Dawood	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	Egypt
Oscar Ekdahl	WFP	Egypt
Mahmoud Abuzeid	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Hussein Elatfy	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Nada El Agizy	LAS	Egypt
Hossam Gebril	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Menna Essam	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Abdulkani Rageh		Somalia
Ali Karnib	Lebanese University	Lebanon
Mohamed Zaky Salem	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Egypt
Nuran Atef	UNEP-FI	Egypt
Raffaele Bertini	IOM	Egypt
Tharwat Mokalled	Ministry of Environment	Lebanon
Sihem Benabdallah	Center for Water Research and Technologies CERTE	Tunisia
Mohamed Ftouhi	RAED & CMED	Morocco
Maged Mahmoud	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)	Egypt
Wadid Erian	LAS	Egypt
Ghada Ahmadein	RAED	Egypt
Adel Farid Abdel-Kader	Independent	Canada
Siddig Eissa	UNESCO chair in water resources	Sudan
Dustin Schinn	UNDP	Jordan
Ghufran Dheyab	Ministry of Water Resources	Iraq
Ahmed Ali Ayoub Abdelmoneim	CIHEAM Bari	Italy
Warda Tlig	Arid Regions Institute	Tunisia
Ibtisam AbuAlhaja	Ministry of Agriculture	Palestine
Mohamed Awadallah	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Solène Coma	TPAD	Tunisia
Randa El Dieb	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Egypt

Ismail Hussein	Arab water Academy	Egypt
Noura El-Hariry	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Amnay Mehlaoui	Ghent University	Belgium and Morocco
Madiha	Research Institute for Groundwater, National Water Research Center	Egypt
Mohamed El Khayat	NREA	Egypt
Salam Abuhantash	PWA	Palestine
Hajj Attia Al-Habib	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development	Sudan
Mohammad Alkharabsheh	Norwegian Refugee Council	Jordan
Sandy Ardo	Ministry of Environment	Lebanon
Maria Christoforidou	Wageningen University and Research	The Netherlands
Manal Aziza	UNDP	Iraq

<b>Task Force I: Climate Security and Water Stress</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Amgad Elmahdi	IWMI	Egypt
Khaled AbuZeid	CEDARE / Arab Water Council	Egypt
Noura Hany	The Arab Water Council	Egypt
Saddam Waheed	Ministry of Water Resources	Iraq
Mohamed Bayoumi	UNDP Egypt	Egypt
Wael Khairy	NWRC	Egypt
Ameen Alhammadi	Ministry of Water and Environment Protection Authority	Yemen
Sandy Ardo	Ministry of Environment	Lebanon
Tarek El-Samman	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Walid Abderrahman	Arab Water Council	Saudi Arabia
Kamel Amer	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)	Egypt
Dahlia Sabri	Consultancy	Egypt
David Yates	NCAR	United States
Madiha Darwish	Research Institute for Groundwater	Egypt
Mohamed Dawoud	EAD	UAE
Vinay Nangia	ICARDA	Morocco
Mary Halim	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Salam Abuhantash	PWA	Palestine
Mahmoud Abuzeid	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Omar Daraghmeh	KU	Denmark
Ghufran Dheyab	Ministry of Water Resources	Iraq

## Task Force 2: Climate Security and Food Security

Name	Organization	Country
Roula Khadra	CIHEAM Bari	Italy
Ahmed Ali Ayoub Abdelmoneim	CIHEAM Bari	Italy
Aly Abousabaa	ICARDA	Egypt
Shawkat Jameel	Ministry of Agriculture	Iraq
Abdelaziz Tageldin	The Institute of National Planning	Egypt
Walid Abderrahman	Arab Water Council	Saudi Arabia
Hussein Elatfy	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Muath Abu Sadah	Palestinian Water Authority	Palestine
Hajj Attia Al-Habib	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development	Sudan
Ibtisam AbuAlhajja	Ministry of Agriculture	Palestine
Mohammad Alkharabsheh	Norwegian Refugee Council	Jordan
Mahmoud Abdelsalam bdulaziz Abdelhamid		
Mo'ath Etoom	Royal Jordanian Geographic Center -Department of Remote Sensing	Jordan
Aly El-Bahrawy	Ain Shams University	Egypt
Mouhab Alawar	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Italy
Sherif Dawoud	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	Egypt
Ismail Hussein	Arab Water Academy	Egypt
Rami Salameh	Arab Water Council	Jordan
Mohamed Zaky Salem	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Egypt
Elias Ghadban	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Lebanon
Maria Christoforidou	Wageningen University and Research	The Netherlands
Amgad Elmahdi	IWMI	Egypt

### Task Force 3: Climate Security and Food Security

Name	Organization	Country
Maged Mahmoud	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE))	Egypt
Dustin Schinn	UNDP	Egypt
Mohamed Bayoumi	UNDP	Jordan
Abdulkani Rageh	Directorate of Environment and Climate Change	Egypt
Rami Salameh	AWC	Somalia
Ahmed El-Samawy	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development	Jordan
Tharwat Mokalled	Ministry of Environment	Sudan
Qaim Hunehen	Ministry of Electricity	Lebanon
Mo'ath Etoom	Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre	Iraq
Mervat Hassan	Arab Water Council	Jordan
Bilal Rajab	DNV GL	Egypt
Mohamed Helal	Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)	UAE
Yacoub Marar	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources	Egypt
Heba Al-Hariry	Arab Water Council	Jordan
Ahmed Abderasoul	RCREEE	Jordan
Amr Elbanhaway	Ain Shams University	Egypt
Kamel Amer	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)	Egypt
Mona ElAgizy	CEDARE	Egypt
Aly El-Bahrawy	Ain Shams University	Egypt

### Task Force 4: Climate Security and Food Security

Name	Organization	Country
Martina Jaskolski	UNDP / Arab Water Council	Egypt
Yara El Nagdi	Arab Water Council	Egypt
Sujala Pant	UNDP	Jordan
Jean DCunha	UN Women	Egypt
Shaddin Almasri	Arab Water Council	Austria
Hanadi Bader		Egypt
Hala Yousry	Desert Research Center	Egypt
Camilo Tellez Robayo	UNDRR	Egypt
Raffaele Bertini	IOM	Egypt
Ghada Ahmadein	RAED	Egypt

## 7 Annex 2: Workshop Agenda



### Regional Stakeholder Dialogue

#### Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for the Arab Region

##### Zoom Platform

December 6-8, 2020

##### Workshop Agenda

Day 1 - Sunday, December 6, 2020

**Plenary Session I: Understanding the Context**  
**Main Platform**

**Moderator**  
**Prof. Walid Abderrahman,**  
Vice President, Arab Water Council

9:30 - 10:15

*Welcoming Remarks*

- **H. E. Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid**  
President, Arab Water Council
- **Amb. Nada Al Agizy**  
Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation,  
League of Arab States
- **Ms. Paola Pagliani**  
Regional Programme Coordinator,  
United Nations Development Programme Regional Hub

10:15 - 10:30

*Introduction on: Dialogue Objective and Agenda*

- **Prof. Walid Abderrahman**  
Vice President, Arab Water Council

10:30 - 10:45

**Presentation on "SDG-Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security Project Briefing". Ms. Sujala Pant,** Chief Technical Advisor and Regional Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme

10:45 - 11:00

**Presentation on "Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities in the Arab Region". Dr. Wadid Erian,** Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, League of Arab States

11:00 - 11:20

**Presentation on "The Integration of SDGs, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction". Dr. Adel Farid Abdel-Kader,** Senior Advisor Environment and Sustainable Development

11:20 - 11:30	<i>Open Discussion</i>
11:30 - 11:40	<b>Interactive Exercise:</b> <i>Climate Security for the Arab Region</i>
11:40 - 12:00	<b>Presentation on</b> “ <i>Climate Change Forecast in the Arab Region - Case from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i> ”. <b>Prof. Walid Abderrahman</b> , Vice President, Arab Water Council

**15 minutes**  
**Break**

**Plenary Session II: Setting the Stage**  
**Main Platform**

**Moderator**  
**Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem**,  
Senior Advisor and Board of Governor,  
Arab Water Council

12:15 - 12:30	<b>Interactive Exercise:</b> <i>Assessing the Knowledge</i>
12:30 - 12:45	<b>Presentation on</b> “ <i>Regional Climate Security Stakeholder Dialogue – Goal and Methodology</i> ”. <b>Dr. Rami Salameh</b> , Individual Consultant, Arab Water Council
12:45 - 13:00	<b>Presentation on</b> “ <i>Regional Climate Security Network</i> ”. <b>Eng. Heba Al Hariry</b> , Deputy Technical Director, Arab Water Council
13:00 - 13:15	<i>Open Discussion</i>
13:15	<i>End of Day 1</i>



## Regional Stakeholder Dialogue

### Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for the Arab Region

#### Zoom Platform

December 6-8, 2020

#### Workshop Agenda

#### Day 2 - Monday, December 7, 2020

#### Plenary Session I: Visioning, Challenges to Change Main Platform

9:30 - 9:45

Description of "Visioning" Steps

- **Dr. Rami Salameh**  
Individual Consultant, Arab Water Council

#### Moving to Task Force Platforms

TF 1 Moderator	TF 2 Moderator	TF 3 Moderator	TF 4 Moderator
Dr. Amgad El Mahdy, IWMI	Dr. Roula Khadra, CIHEAM-Bari	Dr. Maged Mahmoud, RECREE	Dr. Martina Jaskolski, UNDP

9:45 - 10:45

**Activity 1:** Identification of Climate Security Challenges (Technical, Institutional and Political)

10:45 - 11:15

**Activity 2:**  
**Interactive Exercise:** Voting and Prioritization of the Top 5 Challenges

11:15 - 11:45

**Activity 3:** Development of a Shared Vision for Climate Security for the Arab Region

#### Moving to Main Platform

11:45 - 12:30

**Activity 4:** Presentation of Results

12:30 - 12:40

Open Discussion and Feedback



12:40 - 12:45

*Conclusion and Wrap-up*

- **Prof. Walid Abderrahman**  
Vice President, Arab Water Council

**15 minutes**  
**Break**

## Plenary Session II: Strategizing, Setting Priorities Main Platform

13:00 - 13:10

*Description of "Strategizing" Steps*

- **Dr. Rami Salameh**  
Individual Consultant, Arab Water Council

## Moving to Task Force Platforms

<b>TF 1 Moderator</b> Dr. Khaled Abu Zeid, AWC	<b>TF 2 Moderator</b> Dr. Roula Khadra, CIHEAM-Bari	<b>TF 3 Moderator</b> Dr. Maged Mahmoud, RECCREE	<b>TF 4 Moderator</b> Dr. Martina Jaskolski, UNDP
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13:10 - 14:10

**Activity 1:** *Defining Strategic Objectives*

14:10 - 14:40

**Activity 2:**  
**Interactive Exercise:** *Voting on Top 3 Strategic Objectives*

## Moving to Main Platform

14:40 - 15:25

**Activity 3:** *Presentation of Results*

15:25 - 15:35

*Open Discussion and Feedback*

15:35 - 15:45

*Wrap-up of the Day*

- **Prof. Walid Abderrahman**  
Vice President, Arab Water Council

15:45

*End of Day 2*



## Regional Stakeholder Dialogue

### Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for the Arab Region

#### Zoom Platform

December 6-8, 2020

#### Workshop Agenda

**Day 3 - Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**Plenary Session I: Detailed Planning, Time to Act**

**Main Platform**

9:30 - 9:45

*Recap, 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Agenda and Description of "Planning" Step*

- **Dr. Rami Salameh**  
Individual Consultant, Arab Water Council

#### Moving to Task Force Platforms

TF 1 Moderator	TF 2 Moderator	TF 3 Moderator	TF 4 Moderator
Dr. Amgad El Mahdy, IWMI	Dr. Roula Khadra, CIHEAM-Bari	Dr. Maged Mahmoud, RECREE	Dr. Martina Jaskolski, UNDP

9:45 - 10:45

**Activity 1:**  
**Preparatory Planning: Defining Key Activities**

10:45 - 11:45

**Activity 2:**  
**Detailed Planning: Drafting of Proposed Plans**

11:45 - 12:00

**Activity 3:**  
**Interactive Exercise: Voting and Prioritization of the Top 3 Key Activities**

#### Moving to Main Platform

12:00 - 12:30

**Activity 4: Presentation of Results**

12:30 - 12:45

**Open Discussion and Feedback**

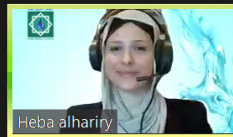
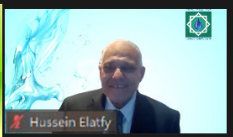

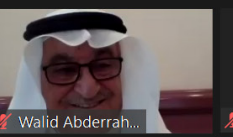
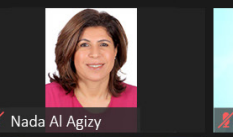



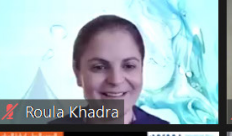

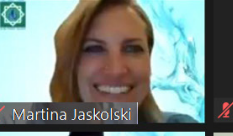

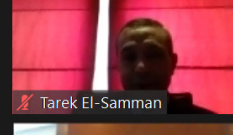



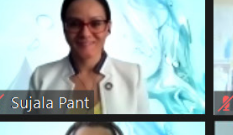

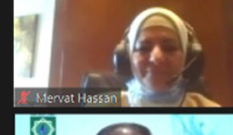


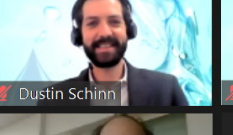
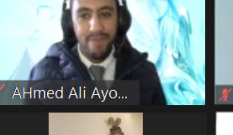


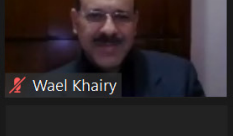
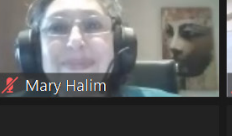
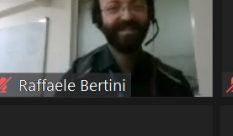

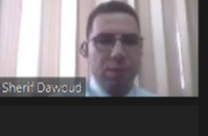
**15 minutes**  
**Break**

**Plenary Session II: Launching the Regional Climate Security Network**  
**Main Platform**

**Moderator**  
**Dr. Hussein Al-Atfy,**  
Secretary General, Arab Water Council

13:00 - 13:20	<i>Summarizing Main Findings and Conclusions</i>
13:20 - 13:40	<i>Launching the Regional Climate Security Network</i>
13:40 - 13:50	<b>Interactive Exercise:</b> <i>Workshop Evaluation</i>
13:50 - 14:00	<i>Closing Remarks (AWC, LAS, UNDP)</i>



 Heba alhariry	 Hussein Elatfy	 Mahmoud Abuzeid	 Walid Abderrah...	 Nada Al Agizy	 Rami Salameh
 Yara El Nagdi	 Maged Mahmo...	 Rouja Khadra	 Khaled AbuZeid	 Martina Jaskolski	 Hammou Laamr...
 Tarek El-Samman	 salam Abuhant...	 Amgad Elmahdi	 Hala Yousry	 Sujala Pant	 Muath Abu Sad...
 Mervat Hassan	 Shaddin Almasri	 Camilo Tellez R...	 Dustin Schinn	 AHmed Ali Ayo...	 Jean DCunha
 Hossam Gebriel	 Wael Khairy	 Mary Halim	 Raffaele Bertini	 Saddam Waheed	 Sherif Dawoud
<b>Paola Pagliani</b>	<b>Basma- Region...</b>	<b>Menna Ghonaim</b>	<b>Asmae H</b>	<b>Shawkat Jameel...</b>	<b>Dahlia Sabri</b>
<b>sherine yousef</b>	<b>Noura Hany</b>	<b>Meran Hosamel...</b>	<b>soheir mahfouz</b>	<b>Tharwat Mokall...</b>	<b>Ghufran Dheyab</b>
<b>Abdelaziz Tagel...</b>	<b>Sandy Ardo_Mo...</b>				



Report on the Results of the

# **REGIONAL CLIMATE SECURITY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE**

*"Towards an Integrated Climate Security Framework for  
the Arab Region"*

