

**MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE @ NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
(26 October 2022)**

COP 27 and the Middle East – From Climate Pledges to Implementation?

ABSTRACT

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022. The location in Egypt, part of a wider Middle East region vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, offers a better opportunity to reflect regional concerns, challenges and diverse national circumstances. This public discussion aims to examine the current state of climate action and implementation gaps in the Middle East.

- What are the key climate change challenges facing the Middle East countries?
- What are the climate adaptation implementation gaps in the Middle East?
- How will variant national circumstances shape Middle East countries' contribution to climate mitigation and global energy transition?
- What are the specific climate policies and aspects of governance that contribute to more effective climate mitigation and adaptation?
- How can Middle East countries adapt to extreme weather events?
- What is the current state and gaps of climate finance in the Middle East?
- How can Middle East countries seize the opportunity to voice their regional climate concerns and interests at COP 27?

The Middle East Institute, in collaboration with the Middle East Centre of the London School of Economics and Political Science, will host two panels to tackle these and other questions.

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PROGRAMME DETAILS

Wednesday, 26 October 2022	
4.00pm – 4.25pm	<p>Panel 1: Adapting to climate change: Where the Middle East Stands Today</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>COP27 in Egypt has been dubbed the COP of implementation, during which nations are expected to show how they will, through legislation, policies and programmes, begin putting the Paris Agreement into practice in their home countries. The first panel will shed light on key climate threats faced by Middle Eastern countries, examine the progress made in adapting to climate change, and aim to identify climate adaptation gaps in areas such as food, water, and finance, as well as offer possible solutions.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr Aisha Al-Sarihi <i>Research Fellow</i> <i>Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore</i></p> <p><u>Panel Members:</u> Dr Nadim Farajalla <i>Director of Climate Change and Environment Program</i> <i>Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs,</i> <i>American University of Beirut</i></p> <p>Mr Moustafa Bayoumi <i>Research Fellow</i> <i>Energy, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy</i></p> <p>Dr Deen Shariff Sharp <i>Visiting LSE Fellow</i> <i>Human Geography & Environment, The London School of Economics and Political Science</i></p>
4.25pm – 5.00pm	Q & A Session

5.00pm – 5.25pm	<p>Panel 2: COP 27 and beyond: Will the GCC leave hydrocarbons behind?</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Oil and gas resources and revenues gained from their export have long helped the Gulf Cooperation Council member states provide basic needs and cushion the adverse impacts of climate change, including the growing need for cooling, water desalination, and securing food supplies. While the GCC countries have joined the global community in transiting to cleaner energy sources and reach net-zero emissions by mid-century, whether they progress in their climate mitigation and adaptation commitments without hydrocarbons remains to be seen.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr Michael Mason <i>Director of the Middle East Centre London School of Economics and Political Science</i></p> <p><u>Panel Members:</u></p> <p>Prof Waleed Khalil Al-Zubari <i>Professor of Water Resources and Coordinator of the Water Resources Management Program, College of Graduate Studies, and the UN Water Learning Center for the Arab Region hosted by the Arabian Gulf University (AGU)</i></p> <p>Mr Tanzeed Alam <i>Managing Director Earth Matters Consulting</i></p> <p>Dr Suad Al Manji <i>Head of risk management department The Ministry of Education, Oman</i></p>
5.25pm – 6.00pm	Q & A Session
6.00pm	Session Ends

Speakers

Panel One



Dr Nadim Farajalla started his graduate academic studies in irrigation engineering by attaining an MS from Utah State University in Logan, Utah, and then an MS and a PhD in environmental engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

He has worked in the private sector, first as a senior scientist at Stone Environmental, Inc., in Montpelier, Vermont, and then at Dar al-Handasah (Shair and partners), Beirut, as a Senior Environmental Engineer on projects which focused on water resources and associated infrastructure; environmental impact studies and management plans, hydrological studies and erosion assessment and mitigation. Dr Farajalla founded and headed the Land, Water and Environment Department at the consulting firm SETS International with projects in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, and Oman.

He is the director of the Climate Change and the Environment Program at the American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs.



Mr Moustafa Bayoumi is a Research Fellow – Energy, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA). Before joining AGDA, he worked as an Associate Researcher at the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), where he led sustainable development policy research. He holds a Masters' degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University, Sweden. His research interests include energy transitions and adaptation to climate change impacts in the MENA region.



Dr Deen Sharp, PhD CUNY, is a Visiting LSE Fellow in Human Geography & Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the Geography and Environment Department. He was previously a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the co-director of Terreform, Center for Advanced Urban Research. He is the co-editor of *Beyond the Square: Urbanism and the Arab Uprisings* (Urban Research: 2016) and *Open Gaza* (American University in Cairo Press and Terreform: 2022). He has published in top-ranked journals, including *Progress in Human Geography*, and *Urban Studies*.

Panel Two



Prof. Waleed Khalil Al-Zubari is Professor of Water Resources and Coordinator of the Water Resources Management Program, College of Graduate Studies, and the UN Water Learning Center for the Arab Region hosted by the Arabian Gulf University (AGU). He serves as a member on the Permanent Advisory Committee of the Water Resources Council in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He obtained his MSc degree in 1987 in the field of groundwater systems mathematical modelling from Ohio

University and PhD in the same field from Colorado State University in 1990. Since joining AGU in 1990, he has taught many courses in Water Resources Management and Planning in Arid Regions and Hydrogeology, published more than 100 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, conferences, and seminars, and supervised more than 45 MSc and PhD theses. He also serves as a visiting professor for Paris Sorbonne University at Abu Dhabi (PSUAD) and an external examiner for many universities in the region. His research interests include the water-energy-food security nexus; water resources governance, planning and management; use of numerical models in the management of groundwater systems; and the impacts of climate change on the water sector. He served as the Editor-in-Chief of the regional Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the GCC Water Science and Technology Association (wstagcc.org) and as Chairman of its Scientific Committee.



Mr Tanzeed Alam is the Managing Director and Founder of Earth Matters Consulting (EMC), a firm that was established in 2017 to address the climate crisis and human development challenges. He leads a team of experts to provide strategy and policy advisory services on climate change and sustainability for businesses, governments and non-profit organisations. EMC has

clients from the Middle-East, Europe and Asia.

EMC has a partnership with PwC Middle-East, where Tanzeed has been advising them on ESG issues, including assisting a major real estate developer and sovereign wealth fund in the region on their climate change efforts. EMC's other major clients have included the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Engie Middle-East, Neom, the Red Sea Development Company, the Government of Dubai, GIZ, the UK Government and HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, as part of her successful campaign to become President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Tanzeed's previous positions include: Climate Change Convener for the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network (funded by the European Commission); Director of Climate Change & Sustainability Policy for World-Wide Fund for Nature UAE; Science Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Energy & Environment for the UK's independent scientific academy, the Royal Society; Project Manager CarbonSense. He has a post-graduate MSc in Conservation from University College London and BSc (Hons) in Zoology from the University of Edinburgh.



Dr Suad AL Manji is the head of the risk management department at the Ministry of Education in Oman. She holds a PhD in Geography (Disaster Management and Community Resilience) from the University of Leeds; an MSc and a BSc, with distinction, in Geography from Sultan Qaboos University, and Diploma in Education from Sultan Qaboos university.

Dr Suad has published a few papers in disaster management, and her recent publication, "The Role of Omani Women in Disaster Management in Oman", was published in Arabic.
