

## The Charter of the Climate Justice Network in the Middle East and North Africa

Serves as a regulatory law for the network in addition to the foundational law.

### **Introduction :**

Despite the fact that the Middle East and North Africa region contributes to less than 5% of global historical emissions, it is one of the most water-scarce regions and is experiencing warming at a rate nearly twice the global average. This will have more significant implications for the vulnerable and poorer communities in the Global South, which endure the most of the climate change catastrophe, whether they reside in arid regions or near the sea, on mountains, or in green valleys.

Issues such as rising temperatures, water stress, and the threat to agricultural and food security have become a daily reality in the region, alongside an increase in climate-related disasters. The significant rise in temperatures has become a direct and tangible danger to human health. All these repercussions exacerbate social inequalities and stand as a barrier to achieving social justice. Unfortunately, lives are lost, homes are destroyed, crops are damaged, livelihoods shrink, and cultural heritage is erased.

For this reason and others, the issue of climate justice must be an integral part of any narrative related to climate change, and one of the prominent faces of climate injustice is the burden borne by poor countries and marginalized and impoverished populations, typically shouldering the brunt of climate disasters. At the same time, their experiences and needs are often not included when governments, companies, think tanks, and other elites discuss climate solutions, which often leads to entrenching inequalities.

The concept of climate justice connects the impacts of climate change with notions of justice, equality, human rights, and the preservation of the rights of the most vulnerable and affected groups. This is done by addressing the shared burdens of the phenomenon and its connections with other forms of justice, such as environmental justice and social justice. Climate justice includes maintaining a safe climate for future generations; equitable distribution of costs and global remaining budget among countries; meeting the basic needs of each individual in areas such as housing, transportation, energy use, and other essential needs.

### **The first chapter - Who We Are.**

The Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa is an independent non-profit civil society organization that does not have any political, union, doctrinal, religious, or ideological affiliation. It is a regional alliance of non-governmental networks and organizations in the Middle East and North Africa region, fighting for environmental preservation and climate justice. The network aims to enhance the meaningful participation of civil society in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate crisis mitigation, and all international, regional, and national agreements related to the environment and climate.

The network was founded during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in 2021 in Glasgow, and its first preparatory committee meeting took place in Sharm El Sheikh during the 2022 UNFCCC meeting. It is considered the largest alliance of organizations working on climate action and climate justice in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa also brings together experts and academics from civil society organizations, media institutions, and advertising agencies to promote policies and programs related to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. While maintaining its non-governmental status, the network welcomes the participation of national, regional, and international governmental bodies working in the fields of the environment, sustainable development, and climate action as observer members.

## Chapter Two - General Objective of the Network:

The Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa is a non-profit civil society association established as an attempt to introduce fundamental concepts of climate and social justice to various groups, including communities, journalists, researchers, civil society actors, political parties, and policymakers. It aims to clarify the basic concepts of climate and social justice, the nature of the relationship between them, and the reality of this relationship in the Arab region. The network seeks to educate and engage diverse stakeholders on how to participate in regional and global climate action and enhance the meaningful involvement of civil society in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and all agreements related to environmental protection and climate change in the region.

In summary, the general objective of the Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa is to serve as a non-profit platform that educates, advocates, and fosters collaboration among various stakeholders to address climate and social justice issues in the Arab region, with a focus on regional and global climate action and participation in relevant international agreements.

## Chapter Three - Network Objectives:

The Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa places the right of current and future generations to a healthy environment at the forefront of its program objectives and initiatives. For and through this right, the network works towards the protection and preservation of the environment, combating climate change, raising awareness, highlighting the urgent need for achieving climate justice, and promoting values and behaviors of sustainable development. The network also aims to ensure that measures and policies related to climate change are fair, taking into consideration the diverse needs of various groups and communities.

- Rights of Affected Communities: The network seeks to defend the rights of local communities and the impoverished who are disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Achieving Social Justice: The network works towards improving the fair distribution of benefits and burdens in adapting to the impacts of climate change, with a focus on achieving social equality.
- Encouraging Inclusivity: The network emphasizes the necessity of including all social and economic groups in decisions and policies related to climate change, with a focus on inclusivity and not excluding any particular group.
- Addressing Discrimination and Environmental Racism: The network tackles discrimination and environmental racism, aiming to ensure that climate change measures do not negatively impact specific groups.
- Policy Impact: Network members participate in decision-making processes to influence the development of government and international policies in the field of climate change, aiming to have a positive impact and steer decisions toward climate justice.
- Supporting Marginalized Communities: Providing technical and financial support to marginalized communities to empower them in facing the challenges of climate change.
- Focus on Fair Technology: Emphasizing the fair and appropriate use of technology for all, without negatively impacting communities.
- Promoting Transparency and Participation: Enhancing transparency in decisions and encouraging effective public participation in climate change issues.
- Increasing Awareness and Education: Raising awareness about climate change issues and the necessity of climate justice through awareness campaigns and education.
- Preserving Biodiversity: Protecting endangered plants and animals and preserving biodiversity.
- Improving Air and Water Quality: Working to reduce air and water pollution and improve the quality of natural resources.
- Promoting Renewable Energy: Supporting the use and development of renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

- Encouraging Sustainability in Agriculture: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices and reducing the use of harmful pesticides.
- Waste Management: Encouraging recycling, exploring waste reduction, and addressing the issue of plastic pollution.
- Climate Monitoring and Adaptation: Working to understand the effects of climate change and developing strategies for adaptation.
- Protecting Wilderness Areas: Working to protect sensitive wilderness areas and natural reserves.
- Promoting Community Engagement: Supporting and enhancing community participation in environmental conservation initiatives.
- Innovation and Research: Encouraging scientific research and innovation in the fields of environmental conservation and climate change.

#### Chapter Four - Network Areas and Mechanisms of Operation:

- Conducting Regular General Meetings: The network organizes periodic general meetings to discuss reports on environmental and climate issues and their impact on sustainable development in the Arab world. Additionally, it holds subcommittee meetings to address issues of particular interest or concern specific groups of Arab countries.
- Issuing Periodic Reports: The network publishes regular reports on the environment and climate in the Arab world, with a focus on assessing progress towards achieving sustainable development goals. These reports also evaluate the Arab contribution to environmental and international agreements and efforts.

These mechanisms demonstrate the network's commitment to open dialogue, collaboration, and continuous evaluation of efforts in addressing environmental and climate issues in the Arab region.

Advocacy for Regional and Global Environmental Issues: The network actively advocates for regional and global environmental issues, representing the concerns and interests of the Arab world.

- Advocating for regional and global environmental issues.
- Capacity building, training and qualification.
- Establishing partnerships and cooperation regionally and internationally
- Investing in qualified and trained human resources and competencies.
- Engaging in the field of international, African and Arab cooperation.
- Sponsoring campaigns and projects under various titles and objectives related to the environment, sustainable development and climate.
- Volunteering to take all possible preventive and remedial measures against environmental pollution in its various forms and degrees
- Submitting position papers on some climate change developments periodically.
- Discussions for youth and women to adopt proactive measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Participation in conferences, programs and exhibitions related to environmental and climate matters
- Organizing campaigns, camps and exploratory trips.
- Engaging and contributing to various regional and international dynamics related to the environment and climate action.

Chapter Five - Thematic Committees of the Network: The Administrative Council establishes the following committees of members:

- Finance Group
- Loss and Damage Group
- Mitigation and Adaptation Group
- Just Transition Group
- Global Stock take (GST) Group
- Health Group
- Transport Group
- Plastic Group
- SDG Group (Sustainable Development Goals Group)
- UN Habitat Group
- Agriculture Group
- Capacity Building Group
- Ambition Working Group (Ambition WG)
- Campaigns and Advocacy Group
- Minamata Group on Mercury
- Nationally Determined Contributions Group (NDS)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group (IPCC WG)
- Communication and Partnership Group

Chapter Six: Network Structures:

1- General Assembly 2-Executive Office 3-Administrative Council 4-Council of Experts

**1- General Assembly:**

The General Assembly serves as the highest reporting body, consisting of member organizations. It convenes annually and whenever necessary. Membership grants the right to participate in all activities organized by the association, attend general assembly sessions, contribute to voting processes, and submit candidacy applications for election to the association's structures. Membership status can be revoked by submitting a resignation or through dismissal in case of violation of the network's regulations.

The regular General Assembly is held every four years, and it can be convened exceptionally with a specific agenda, initiated by two-thirds (3/2) of the Administrative Council or upon request by the majority of Executive Office members.

**2- Executive Office:**

The Executive Office consists of 5 to 7 members elected by the General Assembly every four years and is eligible for renewal. The Executive Office includes the "Executive President" serving as the "General Manager of the Administrative Council," along with a "Secretary-General," a "Treasurer," and "Advisors." The Executive Office oversees the general administration of the organization, including administrative and financial affairs, and meets at least four times a year.

Members of the Executive Office are elected every four years and are eligible for renewal, providing an opportunity for change and rejuvenation within the organization.

**2.1 Responsibilities of the President:**

The President is responsible for managing the network and is entrusted with the following tasks:

- Maintaining the unity of the network and adherence to its principles and objectives.
- Chairing meetings of the Executive Office and the Administrative Council and ensuring the implementation of their decisions.
- Presiding over the General Assemblies, along with the General Manager of the Administrative Council.
- Representing the network before administrative, judicial authorities, and other entities.
- The President of the network may officially delegate, in writing, specific responsibilities for monitoring and overseeing a particular file to a member of the Executive Office or the Administrative Council through a special meeting record.

**2.2 Responsibilities of the Secretary-General:**

The Secretary-General is entrusted with the following tasks:

- Editing meeting minutes and maintaining the archive.
- Informing the members about the activities of the association and sending notifications and correspondence.

### 2.3 Responsibilities of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer is responsible for the following tasks:

- Managing accounts and maintaining financial documents.
- Preparing and signing the annual financial report.
- Organizing, recording, and controlling accounting documents in special registers and summarizing them at the end of the fiscal year.
- Signing all accounting documents, supporting documents, and all checks related to expenses, in collaboration with the President.

## **3- The Board of Directors and its Responsibilities:**

### 3-1. Composition and Term:

The Board of Directors is composed of 7 to 15 members, elected by the General Assembly every four years, with the possibility of renewal.

It includes an "Executive Director" serving as the "Chief Executive Officer," a "Deputy Director," the Secretary-General and their deputy, as well as advisors. The Board meets at least four times a year, with the presence of the Executive Director, to discuss the network's policies and programs.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected every four years, with the possibility of renewal, allowing room for change and renewal. The Board of Directors, wherever possible, should reflect geographical balance, gender equality, and representativeness of youth. Members of the Board represent the network and not their regions or organizations.

### Duties of the Board of Directors:

- Appoint and oversee the organization's employees, whether volunteers, trainees, or paid staff.
- Develop a long-term vision for the organization and devise strategies to achieve that vision.
- Make key decisions that impact the organization's future and contribute to achieving its goals.
- Monitor the performance of the CEO, provide guidance, and support to ensure goal attainment.
- Identify priorities and key areas for focus to achieve specified objectives.
- Review the overall performance of the organization and evaluate the achievement of set goals and desired outcomes.
- Ensure that all activities comply with local and international laws and regulations.
- Contribute to financial resource mobilization strategies and support to fund the organization's activities.
- Provide guidance and development of internal policies, ensuring effective implementation.
- Engage with the public and stakeholders, ensuring their understanding of the organization's goals and activities.
- Promote transparency principles in the organization's operations and regularly provide reports.
- Offer support and advice to executive management and staff regarding decision-making and administrative matters.
- Participate in special committees or task forces to discuss and address specific issues or challenges.

The General Manager, who also serves as the CEO, plays a crucial role in overseeing the operations and leadership of the network, ensuring compliance with its principles and objectives. They lead key meetings, represent the network externally, and have the authority to delegate specific responsibilities to other members when necessary.

### The Responsibilities of the General Manager (CEO):

- Maintaining Network Unity: Preserve the unity of the network and adhere to its principles and objectives.
- Chairing Executive Meetings: Preside over meetings of the executive office and board of directors, ensuring the implementation of decisions.

- Leading General Assemblies: Lead general assemblies, accompanied by the general manager of the board.
- Representation of the Network: Represent the network before administrative, judicial authorities, and other entities.
- Delegation of Authority: The network president may officially delegate, in writing, a specific file to a member of the executive office or the board of directors. This is monitored through special meeting minutes.+

#### **4- Climate Justice Expert Council:**

The Expert Council serves as a consultative body tasked with studies and assignments designated by the executive office.

Members of the Expert Council are appointed by the executive office based on their recognized expertise and distinguished academic and scientific backgrounds.

#### **5- Climate Justice Youth Council:**

The Youth Council collaborates with regional and global youth organizations to exchange experiences and ideas, collectively raising awareness about climate change issues.

Members of the Youth Council are selected from the network's youth members who have the ability to motivate teams and direct efforts toward achieving common network goals.

#### **6- Climate Justice Women's Council:**

The Women's Council works to represent the interests of women and vulnerable groups in the context of climate change, enhancing women's participation in decision-making related to climate change at national and international policy levels.

Members of the council are chosen from women within the network who have the competence to monitor the impact of environmental and climate policies on women and women's communities. They provide recommendations for improvement and monitor the implementation of relevant policies to ensure they meet the needs and rights of women.

#### **7- Chapter 7: Funding**

Climate Justice Network Mena is funded through:

- Grants provided by national, regional, and international non-governmental entities and institutions.
- Member subscriptions as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Returns and deposits collected from donations.
- Sponsorship of programs and activities from partners, companies, organizations, and individuals.
- Income from any activities and services performed by the network.

#### **8- Chapter 8: Dissolution of the Network**

In the event of the network's dissolution, the General Assembly appoints a committee to carry out the liquidation procedures. Any remaining assets are then handed over to a charitable association or an organization with similar objectives.

#### **9- Chapter 9: Nature of the Network**

The Climate Justice Network for the Middle East and North Africa is an independent non-profit civil organization. It does not adopt any political, union, doctrinal, religious, or ideological affiliation. The network is subject to financial accountability practices applicable in the field. Any surplus in capital is invested in new initiatives or existing programs that serve the network's goals and orientations.

## **10- Chapter 10: Membership in the Network**

Membership in the network is open to all non-governmental / community organizations interested in promoting sustainable development and concerned with environmental and climate issues. The following conditions must be met:

- The organization must be non-profit and affiliated with one of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Fill out the membership application form.
- Submit a copy of the registration certificate proving the organization's existence for more than a year; or a recommendation letter if there are regulatory restrictions in some countries.
- Membership is revoked in case of non-compliance with the network's laws and orientations or in case of resignation.

## **11- Chapter 11: Network Registration**

The network is legally registered in the Kingdom of Morocco, and it can be registered in one of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa through its members in that country, who represent the executive office. It can also be registered outside this region in one of the European Union countries, North American countries, or the United Kingdom, as needed.

For this purpose, a law, charter, or regulatory document for the network is prepared to comply with the laws of the country where the network is intended to be registered.

[The Charter, similar to regulatory legislation, outlines the purpose of the network and regulates internal and external relationships.](#)

[The members of the Administrative Council and the Executive Office have approved it.](#)

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