

West Asia Statement

Statement of the West Asia Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA- 4) of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) and the seventeen Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-17)

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Introduction :

West Asia region coupled with its endowment of oil resources and other factors has made the region the scene of armed conflicts and rivalries that have swept the region and had serious impacts on the population and the environment including fossil fuel pollution. Water Scarcity, high employments rate, Air, water and soil pollutions, man and animal being killed, and numerous health effects are examples of many impact caused by armed conflicts in the region. West Asia also has one of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves. Hence, we need transition energy from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Our goal is to take the required measures to identify and assess potential economic, social and policy measures and human interventions that can be implemented to reduce anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) & pollution in different sectors at the national level mainly in the areas suffering from environmental disasters, building well-functioning local democracy which needs a strong and functioning civil society that has the resources to provide strong voices, and that is given the opportunity to participate in arenas where real decisions are made and introduce smart strategies to achieve sustainable green energy, housing, transport, building, agriculture and waste accessible to everyone as we are already suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change & pollution on vulnerable communities and the environment around them.

These impacts will only worsen & deteriorate without urgent actions, including transparent & partnership-based inventory, ambitious mitigation, adaptation, adequate finance, technological support, capacity building.

We, the participants of Civil Society Major Groups and Stakeholders representatives of West Asia agreed on the Following:

- We urge West Asia governments to declare the vulnerable areas in these states as environmentally deteriorated areas & mitigate the environmental, social, health & development impacts & avoid installing more class "A" & "B" projects in these areas.
- We urge governments & business to raise awareness on sustainable consumption patterns& change the lifestyles & implement the sustainable production guidelines for the manufacturers .
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- We urge Governments to mandate private business to adopt a mitigation hierarchy and respect human rights to anticipate and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize pollution & GHG emission levels in vulnerable degraded areas to reduce risks and impacts on workers, affected communities & the environment .
- We urge governments to request business to refrain from using coal, used oil, waste & used tires as sources of energy in the cement & industrial plants.
- We urge Government to assure that clients reduce pollution into the design of products, associated production processes, reducing or eliminating the use of toxic and hazardous raw materials & /or adopting an alternative production process to get “Cleaner Production” and “Resource Efficiency. ”
- We Urge governments, UN, international donors & business to assure that financial funds earned by governments be co-ordinated to integrate climate change adaptation with disaster risk reduction, resilience building and sustainable development strategies to reduce poverty and suffering & spent on real mitigation & adaptation measures & enhancing awareness of climate change that is related to the vulnerable communities, their degraded environment & to enhance the sustainable development of these areas & address the needs of vulnerable communities & refrain from giving it to the polluters who should pay for their GHG emissions & pollution “polluter pays” principle.
- We urge governments to encourage and support using the life cycle approach to support sustainable production not only through the final product but throughout its entire life cycle, with a sustainable value chain and encourage the production and importing of durable products.
- We urge governments to mandate businesses to avoid the generation of hazardous waste materials & avoid dumping their toxic wastes in areas & deteriorating the pollution of neighborhood air.
- We call on governments to support sustainable agriculture and social innovation to change consumers habits of unsustainable food consumption, food waste and the use of pesticides is of great importance to realize Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in West Asia and globally.
- We urge governments to adopt good governance which is key to reforestation/biodiversity & habitat loss prevention as well as to integrate organic agriculture and food to meet the mounting demands and reverse ecosystems degradation.

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- We urge governments to shift towards an innovative and sustainable transportation and use unleaded fuels internationally accepted technologies in West Asia, use of environmental friendly/cost effective traditional ways of transportation when possible in West Asia.
- We urge governments to build upon and enhance citizen science engagement and work with relevant stakeholders in the assessment, monitoring and development of policies, embracing the opportunities of building the capacity of grass roots organizations in support of sustainable development and recognize citizen education as a tool for social innovation.
- Urge the governments to promote and provide means for adequate engagement with MGS on environmental & sustainable development issues that potentially affect them & not to confiscate their rights to participate in the formulation of decisions of direct concern to environment and development and not to deny their right of access to means of redress.
- We urge UN to introduce and adopt some MRV neutral credible accredited mechanisms that will assure that all states do comply with their international responsibilities set in the treaties and/or protocols they signed & ratified and not violating environmental-related human rights.
- We Urge governments to engage MGS in the whole phases of climate change combat actions, pollution protection & sustainable development actions, plans & committees .
- We urge governments & corporations to conduct comprehensive full-scale ESIA or SEA if the proposed project's area houses many projects involving specifically identified physical elements, aspects and facilities that are likely to generate potentially significant adverse environmental and social risks and impacts with the engagement of real representatives of the local affected communities & stakeholders & get their FPIC .
- We urge governments to assure that businesses do commit to or set science-based emission reduction targets (SBT), which are aligned with the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to well below 2°C.
- We urge governments to implement the preventative nature deterrent and corrective policy known as the environmental & social mitigation & monitoring program (ESMMP) by a neutral accredited party with engagement of real representatives of local affected communities & stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.
- We urge governments to set up a reasonable technical measurement system including accredited laboratories & qualified technical staff to measure & monitor the sources of

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GHG emissions & pollution & to take the required corrective actions prior to environmental deterioration with engagement of MGS & support the implementation of an MRV system of GHG inventory & pollution.

- We urge governments to implement proper management such as, rules, regulations, environment assessment and hierarchy policy for zero waste management, reduction, segregation, treatment, reuse, recycle and compost of waste as necessary. In addition to reduce dependence on chemicals, encourage sustainable chemistry Innovations and encourage green innovative solutions for chemical treatment.**
- We urge governments with engagement of MGS to build a Climate Change Strategy & incorporated mix of policy instruments, including voluntary action, strategic investment, government regulations and market measures, enhance the national/international action on mitigation of climate change, adopt capacity-building on climate change, pollution & SDGs.**
- We urge the governments to make the national & regional media transparent, open & accessible to MGS & environmental defenders& work on capacity building of specialized environmental media.**
- We demand from governments Develop a strategic national Communication Plan (part of the roadmap) to raise awareness, create a knowledge repository, ensure coherent messaging and advocacy, connect communication platforms, and mobilize broad support.**
- We urge governments to reduce dependence on fossil fuel till it's completely phased out in West Asia and switch to renewable energies to protect resources (Land, water, Marine).**
- We urge governments to use economic instruments to promote green enterprises through financial support either from government or private sector for an innovative solution, technology transfer and sharing the best practice to change peoples' lives.**
- We urge governments to invest in the educational system with innovative educational methods that instill sustainability ethics and lifestyles in future generation , invest in Education for sustainable development programsand to launch environmentally-sound waste management practices to change public behavior from lower level.**
- We call government in West Asia not only to reduce plastic pollution but to ban single use plastic products as soon as possible.**



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