Arab Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change

ملتقى المؤسسات العربية الداعمة
Arab Foundations Forum

Arab Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change
Commitment & Pillars of Action

Building on the International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change, the Arab Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change calls on all funders across the 22 Arab countries, regardless of mission, to come together and commit to urgent action on climate injustice.

The actions of countries both outside and inside the region have led to Arab nations suffering disproportionate impacts of climate change, intensifying economic and social inequalities between and within communities.

The Arab region is warming nearly twice as fast as the global average. Studies predict the region could become 4°C warmer by 2050 if it continues on the same trajectory, potentially affecting 575 million people, including putting 70% of people in low-income countries at risk. We are already experiencing the increasingly disastrous effects of climate injustice, such as water scarcity, desertification, floods, sea-level rise, and rising temperatures, while also facing protracted conflicts, insecurity, and governance challenges. These challenges threaten the right to live and grow in healthy environments for more than half the population now and for many generations to come.

The Arab region faces significant challenges related to its dependency on fossil fuels, with economic risks as countries seek to diversify their economies and transition to renewable energy sources. The climate and conflict nexus makes the region particularly vulnerable to the compounded impacts of environmental degradation and socio-political instability. The region suffers from a lack of comprehensive climate data, hampering the ability to design and implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Additionally, many countries have limited capacity to finance and implement the large-scale adaptation initiatives that are required.

We recognize that philanthropy in our region has a vital role to play in mobilizing resources, fostering innovation, supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts, filling the data gap, and leveraging our influencing power to curb the negative effects of climate injustice. Guided by our commitment to advance the public good, we must ensure that the transition to a sustainable and low-carbon future is just and inclusive. This transition presents opportunities for the Arab world— new industries, sustainable livelihoods, and improved environmental health—but it also poses risks. We must work quickly and collaboratively to safeguard those who are most vulnerable to the economic, social, and environmental impacts of climate injustice.

We recognize that while all countries in the region are affected by climate injustice within differing contexts, it is this diversity of experiences and perspectives that provides us with a unique opportunity for sustainable regional impact. Our collective efforts must align with global frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, while being tailored to the specific needs and realities of the Arab world.

The above background is an urgent call to action. We believe that wide-scale collaboration through its framework will allow us to catalyze the transformative change needed to build a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future. This commitment is a process of change and recognizes that signatories will have different starting points depending on capacity and resources.

We invite all philanthropic organizations in the Arab world to join us in this vital commitment to climate action.

We, the undersigned organizations, commit to action as follows:

Pillar 1 - Education and Empowerment

We will ensure that all stakeholders we engage with are informed of the systemic causes and impacts of climate injustice and are prepared with proactive measures to tackle it. We understand that this work needs to be informed by context-specific data and analysis of the impact of climate change on communities and their priorities. Narrowing the data gap is key for evidence-based and participatory education and empowerment that will enable all philanthropy practitioners, regardless of roles and responsibilities, to address the climate crisis effectively.

Pillar 2 - Commitment of Resources

We will commit diverse, risk-tolerant, timely, flexible, and coordinated resources to accelerate local efforts that address the root causes of climate injustice and adaptations to its impacts. We understand that while funds and the purposes they serve are varied, they can all be deployed intentionally, consistently, and guided by local actors towards their defined impact goal. We acknowledge the value of our long-standing faith-based institutionalized giving practices, namely *Awqaf*, which has traditionally been used for the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of the environment, and the need to revive these practices.

Pillar 3 - Integration

Within the design and implementation of our programs, we will actively seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a net-zero world while supporting adaptation and resilience for our local communities. To advance integration, we will capitalize on our knowledge of diverse sectors and programmatic experience to assess the impact of climate injustice from an intersectional lens and enable a holistic approach to adaptation and resilience. Our approach will address the root causes of climate injustice in responding to our society's most pressing current and emerging needs and ensure that the shift to a green economy benefits all, especially marginalized groups. We will foster cross-sector collaboration, driving sustainable and resilient impacts through collective a

Pillar 4 - Endowments and Assets

We will consider climate justice in the sourcing and management of our endowments and assets, as well as our investment decisions. Our investment strategy will be responsive and aligned with local efforts for a just transition and reducing dependence on fossil fuels with a commitment to divest from extractive practices. When possible, we will leverage our collective influence and power to advocate for policies that support climate-just investments from governments, and to advance environmentally sustainable practices in the private sector.

Pillar 5 - Operations

We will take action to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations by adopting energy-efficient practices, promoting the use of renewable energy, encouraging sustainable resource use, and implementing waste-reduction strategies across our operations. We will foster a culture of justice and environmental responsibility while cultivating an inclusive and sustainable work environment that prioritizes sustainability, climate resilience, and social equity.

Pillar 6 - Advocacy and Policy Change

We will collaborate with diverse stakeholders to amplify the voices of vulnerable and less powerful populations, ensuring our outcomes are equitable and inclusive. We will prioritize support to evidence-based advocacy, capacity building for CSOs and environmental movements, and the use of philanthropic platforms to elevate underrepresented voices. We will facilitate engagement in key decision-making processes, engage with policymakers, and build national and regional coalitions keeping in mind the specific context of the Arab region.

Pillar 7 - Transparency and Accountability

We will collect and publish information and data annually on the measures we have taken in support of all pillars to share our progress, identify areas for improvement, and develop a culture of accountability that promotes learning and encourages the community to raise ambition.