

UNFCCC COP 27

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
06 – 18 November 2022

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE EURO-MED REGION

On 09 November at 17:45 - 18:45 CET (18:45 - 19:45 Egypt local time), HRH Princess Rym Ali, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, will welcome an array of experts that will delve on the social dimension of Climate Change in the Mediterranean. Displacement and migration are some of the current social dimensions of climate change that need to be addressed in regional mitigation and adaptation strategies. The ALF and its partners will promote the inclusion of this component in decision-making processes to prevent conflicts and to enhance social cohesion in the Euro-Med region.

ABOUT THE PANEL

Climate Change affects people and response measures depend on people to be successful. Thus, the social dimensions of climate change - the interplay between climate change as a global phenomenon and society in the bidirectional view of people both as victims and agents of action - are critical elements to efficiently address global warming. To date, however, the human factor is the missing variable in the climate change equation. The integration of the social dimensions into climate change policies and behaviours is essential to avoid the exacerbation of already existing inequities and vulnerabilities and build socio-ecological resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean.

BACKGROUND

The Euro-Med region is considered a hot-spot of Climate Change. Increasing temperature, changing precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events threaten people's livelihood and well-being, setting back progress towards the SDGs. Where climate change impacts intersect with areas of high vulnerability, it contributes to environmental displacement and migration flows undermining human security in all its dimensions. The wide range of links between climate change, forced migration and security in the Euro-Med provide a very powerful example of how the social dimensions of climate change should be addressed into climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Due to its mission to act as an Intercultural Dialogue platform that interconnects institutions and civil society in the Euro-Med region, the ALF can play an active and central role in supporting community-led climate-responsive approaches. Thus, in the COP27, the ALF aims at contributing to deepen into the debate the social dimensions of climate change, paying attention to the lives and livelihoods affected and considering people at the heart of transformative climate action.





EVENT OBJECTIVES

The panel aims at exploring the social dimensions of climate change, raising awareness on how global warming is directly affecting communities and cultures, especially poor and marginalised groups; underscoring the social aspects of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies; acknowledging social inclusion and equity as paramount in tackling climate change; encouraging participatory process to enable people to make decisions and allow to well-designed and inclusive policies; recognising the value of diverse forms of knowledge - scientific and interdisciplinary as well as traditional and local - in building climate resilience and bridging adaptive capacity gaps; confirming the role of the intercultural dialogue in promoting local communities' engagement and strengthening Euro-Med cooperation in developing a systematic agenda to anchor the social dimensions of climate change through key priority areas.

Chair: HRH Princess Rym Ali, President of theALF

Welcome remarks: Merna Shalash - Head of the ALF Egyptian Network (Partners for Transparency)

Panellists:

Ahmed Yassin - Environmental Consultant and Cofounder of Banlastic Egypt

Neringa Tumenaite - Doctoral Researcher at SOAS University of London & Advisor to the Mediterranean Youth Foundation

Rosalind Skillen - Climate activist & Outreach officer at Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Beadie Finzi - Director of Doc Society