

# Arab Youth Sustainable Development network (AYS DN)

report on participation in  
**COY17 and COP27**  
- Sharm El- sheikh ,Egypt



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## About Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN):

The Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN) team participated in COP27, which was held from November 6-18, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The conference brought together representatives from various countries and organizations to discuss and negotiate solutions to combat climate change. AYSDN, as a youth-led organization, played an active role in the conference, highlighting the importance of youth engagement and participation in the global effort to combat climate change.

### AYSDN Goals:

Our main goal is to empower and engage Arab youth in sustainable development and climate action. We aim to raise awareness among Arab youth on environmental and sustainability issues, and provide them with the skills and resources to take action. Additionally, AYSDN works to bridge the gap between Arab youth and decision-makers, and to advocate for the inclusion of youth voices in sustainable development and climate policy.

### AYSDN Delegation:

AYSDN delegation at COP27 included a group of 6 representatives. The delegation was led by the Executive Director and included youth activists, entrepreneurs, and young leaders in the field of sustainable development and climate action. The delegation had extensive planning and preparations prior to the conference in order to be able to effectively communicate the needs and goals of the Arab youth in the discussions and negotiations that took place at COP27.

# COP27 Reflection

It was a tremendous experience participating at COP27 and organizing a side event on the role of Arab Youth in Climate Action which have involved Young People from the region .



I feel very proud that we have managed to brought Young people whom were their first time participated at COY17 and COP27.

**Tareq Hassan- CEO**



My experience at COP27 was an eye-opening and transformative journey. I had the privilege to interact with some of the most passionate and dedicated climate change advocates from around the world. Their stories and experiences were incredibly inspiring, and they reminded me of the urgent need for action.

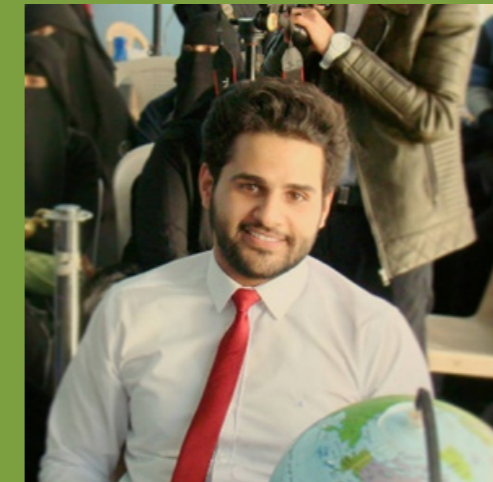
One of the highlights of my experience was witnessing the remarkable efforts of Arab youth in fighting climate change. From implementing sustainable practices in their homes to promoting energy-saving habits in their communities, their determination and commitment to the cause was truly impressive.

COP27 ignited a fire within me that I am determined to keep burning. The powerful advocacy of Arab youth has motivated me to continue to engage and empower young people in the Arab region to take an active role in the fight against climate change. I

believe that by working together, we can overcome the common enemy of Climate Change and build a more sustainable future for all.

**Ala Mustafa – Programs Manager**

# COP27 Reflection



I am a young man experienced with more than 5 years in humanitarian, development projects, partnership, fundraising, research & data analysis, management, administration, organizational capacity building, policy development, advocacy, team leadership management, climate change and accomplishments in coordination.

The both conferences (COY17-COP27) brought together young leaders and representatives from various countries to discuss the implementation of the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The main focus of the COY17 was on the role of youth in climate action and the importance of their participation in decision-making processes.

As a country contact point, I was responsible for coordinating and communicating with the delegates from my country, as well as representing their interests and concerns at the conference. I also had the opportunity to participate in various workshops and panel discussions on a range of topics related to climate change and youth engagement.

One of the highlights of the both conferences (COY17- COP27), for me was the opportunity to meet and network with young leaders from around the world. I learned about the different initiatives and projects being implemented in other countries and shared information about the work being done in my own country. This was a valuable experience as it allowed me to better understand the global efforts to combat climate change and the different approaches being taken by different countries.

In addition to the workshops and panel discussions held on both (COY17-COP27), I also had the opportunity to attend various side events organized by different organizations. These events provided valuable information and insights on various topics such as carbon pricing, sustainable transportation, and renewable energy.

Overall, my participation in COY17 as a country contact point was a valuable and as an observer in COP27 was enlightening experiences. I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented my country and to have had the chance to learn and network with other young leaders from around the world. I look forward to continuing to work toward climate action and the engagement of youth in the decision-making process.

**Ameer Shana – Program Coordinator**



I am environmental specialist with master degree in climate change, excited to work and advocate for mainstreaming the issues of climate change, sustainable development and women empowerment and gender equality. I am Interested in the environmental and climate change aspects, where young people are the most enthusiastic group in the climate issue and who do not work for money but to play our role to ensure that we have a better

world to live in, a clean and sustainable planet for future generations, keeping in mind that the government cannot do it alone.

I actively participated in COP27 which was a great chance for me to enhance my knowledge and experience in areas of climate change and mainstreaming gender issue and youth engagement in climate action.

### Maram AL-Nabhani – Partnership officer

I participated in the COP27 conference and it was an effective participation as it grew from my capabilities and experiences in the field of climate and climate change and its impact on our planet and I attended many sessions and conferences on various issues related to climate, as well as I visited the pavilions of the different countries participating in the conference and learned about their method of work and ideas to work on future projects as well as the implemented and ongoing projects to limit climate change and reduce emissions so that the planet regains its vitality. I was so happy to get involved and interact with some climate advocates. And we exchanged our ideas and experiences, which created a great enthusiasm within me to work with all my energy in this field.



COP27 was a great motivation for me and created in me the determination to work to reduce climate change and find solutions derived from nature, as well as work to find real solutions for climate justice. From that, we must all move and work hard to reduce climate changes and develop the capabilities of Arab youth, and the Yemeni government must develop the capabilities of Yemeni youth and support them to work in this field, and the most important thing is to work to educate all Arab societies about climate issues and reduce and combat climate change.

I was also a delegate for the country of Yemen in the COY17 conference and benefited a lot from it, and developed a lot of ideas and topics related to climate. I also attended many of the courses that were in the conference, including the climate issues course, the climate change reduction course, the achievement of climate justice course, and the youth capacity building course. I was very happy to meet many of the Arab youth leaders participating in the conference, and we exchanged ideas, experiences, and our future goals in climate issues.

### Ahmed Fuad – Leasing Officer



I am a young man with more than 6 years' experience in humanitarian work, with master degree in MBA at Strategic Management (IIUM, MALAYSIA), enthusiastic to work in humanitarian works such as Educational projects, Climate change and SDGs projects .

I have attended both of the conferences (COP17-COP27) at Sharam - Alshaikh, EGYPT. It was an effective participation for me as it grew my capabilities and experiences in the field of environment and climate change to advocate people for working together to prevent climate change issues .

Being part of the COP27 was an exhilarating and incredible experience that changed my life in every way. The most fascinating thing for me is the time when you discover yourself especially in a challenging task like COP27 with people having magnificent experience. Cop27 was an amazing conference where you see how youths from all around the world can step up to play a part in international climate change issues!

I have been chosen as one of Yemeni youth delegate at COY 17, it allowed me to strengthen my capacity and connect with other young leaders and activists from around the world and finalize the Global Youth Position Statement.

From the beginning of my climate activism, I have prioritized climate education as my main agenda, and it was my target in COP27 as well. COP27 is so much more than just a conference, it is where climate enthusiasts meet to exchange ideas and find solutions for a better future. I believe being a youth advocate is not a limitation, but rather an opportunity to speak up for our generation and share our concerns with international leaders.



I participated on climate justice protest in the second week of the conference. It wasn't planned, it was spontaneous, and the one-minute video was taken by the media in CBC channel , so that was a really good thing as being at this platform helped elevate my voice and convey our message.





I had been engaged and enrich my knowledge in the climate education discussions and events in this conference for most my time. Even though climate education wasn't officially discussed as a particular agenda item, but climate education was present throughout the side events, events hosted in different pavilions and other places. I have learned much information about Climate change issues that vulnerable countries are facing and the consequences of these issues

which mainly affecting them .I have attended CLIMATE FRESK training workshop where I have been selected as one of CLIMATE FRESK facilitator which was as a motivation step for me to move forward for making awareness for the Arab youth in order to enlighten and educate them on how to prevent climate change issues .

I met so many new, like-minded people, built a network, raised my voice, become involved in discussions etc. This process was such an amazing learning opportunity for me and I think I have made a good use of this opportunity. COP27 gave me a boost in my morale, I have become more inspired to work for the goal I have been dreaming of achieving. I am privileged to have knowledge about the climate crisis to seek justice for the communities same my country YEMEN who are mostly impacted. And that because, we are very vulnerable to climate change; we are facing the effects of the climate crisis every single day and need urgent funding to adapt to it .

It was an amazing opportunity to be in the same space as 44,000 other people who were passionate about the same things I was.

Finally , I'd like thank MR.TAREQ HASSAN for providing me this amazing opportunity and guiding me the entire time. I do feel my voice was partially heard, and would like to attend Cop28 next year to continue delving into the negotiations about preventing climate issues .we will have more opportunities to influence things during COP28. Also I must be there to give a voice to the activists in the UAE, learn about their situation. We hope that education will feature in the official programme and negotiations at COP28 next year in UAE. To support this to happen, some of our work at COP27 included meeting with education activism and attending education workshops to discuss how we can priorities education further at COP28, and will continue to work with UAE and other partners to priorities education in the run up to, and at COP28, particularly looking at how we can support young people to meaningfully engage and shape education commitments. It about how young people and education ministries can meaningfully collaborate on climate education policies.

**Musheer alsharabi -Operation Director**

## AYS DN at COP27:



We were thrilled to host an insightful session at the Children and Youth Pavilion at COP27, titled "The Role of Arab Youth in Climate Action". The session aimed to highlight the vital role of Arab youth in promoting climate action, and provided a platform for youth experts to share their experiences and knowledge with the participants.

The session was a powerhouse of inspiration, featuring 5 dynamic speakers from Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco. They shared their unique perspectives on the challenges faced by Arab youth in climate action, the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes, and the opportunities for youth-led initiatives in the Arab region. The attendees were able to gain valuable insights and practical steps that they can take to engage in climate action at different levels. The speeches by youth leaders and experts were truly inspiring, showcasing the powerful impact that young people can have on climate action. The session left the attendees feeling motivated and empowered to take action in their own communities and countries. It was a powerful reminder that the future of climate action lies in the hands of young people and the importance of investing in and empowering them.



## Speaking Engagements:

Members of the AYS DN delegation participated in speaking engagements at COP27, such as panel discussions, media interviews, and side events. They shared their experiences, challenges, and solutions for engaging Arab youth in sustainable development and climate action. AYS DN Delegation emphasized the importance of involving young people in the decision-making process and provided recommendations on how to achieve this. They also highlighted the need for greater investments in youth-led initiatives in the Arab region and the importance of building the capacity of young people to lead sustainable development and climate action.

## 1

### Side Event on “Climate-Energy-Health Nexus: an opportunity for young green entrepreneurship”



The Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) organized a side event at COP27 that aimed to highlight the role of young people in the Climate-Energy-Health Nexus. The event brought attention to the importance of promoting ‘green economy’ and ‘green entrepreneurship’ among young people as a way to address high youth unemployment rates and the impacts of climate change in the region.

During the event, a representative from the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYS DN) Mr. Ala Mustafa was invited as a panel speaker to talk about his experience in green entrepreneurship and the needs of young people to implement their green ideas across the region. Ala also shared the challenges that he has encountered when he worked to establish his Green Start-up. The event also explored the role of start-ups and innovative technologies in the context of a Climate-Energy-Health-Nexus, and called on governments and the private sector to recognize the key role of youth as drivers of sustainability in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP).



## 2

### The Launch of the Aajal Project

Youth4Nature organized an impactful side event at COP27, where they launched the Aajal Project. This groundbreaking initiative is aimed at capturing the perspectives and understandings of West Asian youth on climate justice in the region. It was the first-ever regional gathering and drafting of youth-led climate justice principles!

The event featured a dynamic panel discussion with youth activists from West Asian countries including Lebanon, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. They shared the challenges they face in continuing their climate activism within their communities, and the various barriers that prevent or hold them back from taking meaningful action.

Mr. Ala Mustafa from AYS DN also participated in the event, adding valuable insights on the key points that should be taken into consideration by governments to promote climate action amid conflicts and financial insecurity. The event was successful in highlighting the priorities and concerns of West Asian youth when it comes to climate justice and provided a platform for their voices to be heard. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of engaging and empowering young people in the fight against climate change.

3

### UNESCO Designated Sites – Climate Actions – Youth4Alliances & Partnerships



The Head of AYSDN has Participated as speaker at the event on “UNESCO Designated Sites X Climate Actions - Youth 4 Alliances and Partnerships” which was held on November 16, 2022 from 14:30 – 15:30 PM Cairo Time in UNESCO Pavilion at COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt.

The event aims to introduce UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks as learning platforms for socio-ecological resilience and climate adaptation, map the potential alliances and partnerships bringing together Youth regional communities to be agent of changes in the policy and science behind climate change and its impact on biodiversity, and pave the way for inter-generational alliances and dialogues across the regions geared towards new initiatives within and beyond the Arab biosphere reserves.

The event was held in the form an interactive dialogue between the panellist from different youth networks to draw the pathways to better sustain biodiversity conservation and climate actions through solid alliances and partnerships among youth communities in the Arab region. AYSDN’s head Mr. Tareq Hassan has shared the AYSDN’s achievements, Partnerships and how the network has played a key role in the MENA region in term of advocate , engage, empower more youth and young people from the Arab World in Climate Change , Social , economic topics .



4

### UNDP pavilion in the gender, innovation and technology session

AYSDN’s Program Assistant Ms . Amina Bin- Talib has participated as speaker at the United Nations Development Program UNDP pavilion in the gender, innovation and technology session to help reduce the risks of climate pollution in Yemen.

5

### Media Interview with AYSDN



An interview broadcasted by Belqees TV channel with Maram alnabhani



AYSDN’s Partnership officer Ms. Maram Al-Nabhani. During my participation in COP 27, she conducted two tv interviews. Her interview broadcasted by Belqees TV channel as a member of Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network who participated in COP 27 during which she talked about our participation in such important international conference of the parties to UNFCCC, and also she discussed our role as youth in the issue of climate change including the challenges the Arab youth facing in the climate action. In addition, she discussed climate change drivers, its impacts and the available solution to address the climate change impacts.

Considering AYSDN was a platform and a chance through which we could participated in this conference so that our capacities are strengthened and to improve our knowledge related the climate change as well as enhancing and raising awareness about climate change, and to make our voice heard as youth and as nations affected by the negative climate change impact. These issues were among the key issues that she discussed during the interview

She also conducted another interview with Yemen Shabab TV channel during which the importance of the conference, Yemen participation in COP 27 and the outcomes were discussed. In addition, thry discussed the importance of awareness raising regarding the risks and effects of climate change.

## AYS DN PARTICIPATION IN A CLIMATE PROTEST AT COP 27

AYS DN team participation in a protest pause to push developed countries to fulfill their commitments towards climate justice for developing countries:

On Nov 3rd, 2022, we participated in a protest that aimed to push developed countries to fulfill their commitments towards climate justice. The protest was organized by a local environmental group and was held in Sharm El Sheikh.

The protest began at 1:00 pm with a gathering of participants in front of the international Conferences Hall in Sharm El Sheikh. We were given signs and banners to hold, and we were also provided with information about the cause we were supporting. The organizers of the protest also gave a brief speech about the importance of taking action to address climate change and the role that developed countries need to play in addressing this global issue.

The protest began with a march through the streets of the International Conferences Hall In Sharm El Sheikh, with participants holding signs and banners and shouting slogans calling for climate justice. The march was peaceful, and we were well-received by the community. We received honks of support from passing cars, and many people came out of their homes to join us in the march. The protest ended at In Front of International Conferences Hall where there was a rally with speeches from local leaders and activists. They spoke about the urgency of taking action on climate change and the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments to reduce carbon emissions and support developing countries in their efforts to address climate change.

Overall, the protest was a success, and I believe that it helped to raise awareness about the importance of climate justice and the role that developed countries need to play in addressing this global issue. I hope that this protest will lead to more action from developed countries to fulfill their commitments toward climate justice and address this critical issue.



An interview by CBC CHANNEL with Mr. Musheer Alsharabi during the protest



An interview by CBC CHANNEL with Maram Alnabhani during the protest

## AYS DN Activities:

During COP27, the AYS DN delegation also participated in various other activities, such as networking events, negotiations, bilateral meetings, and side events organized by other organizations. They used these opportunities to build connections with other youth-led organizations, experts, and decision-makers, and to advocate for the inclusion of youth voices in sustainable development and climate policy. They also had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other youth-led organizations and to exchange ideas and best practices. Additionally, they used these opportunities to build relationships with other delegations and organizations attending COP27 in order to foster collaboration and cooperation in the future

AYS DN delegation participated in the Arab Group Meetings to discuss the negotiations, strategies and positions of the Arab countries on climate action. They also had the opportunity to share their perspectives and advocate for the inclusion of youth voices in the Arab countries' positions.



## Arab Group Meetings

## Meeting with the Yemeni government representatives



AYS DN delegation met with the Yemeni government representatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in sustainable development and climate action in Yemen. They also shared their perspectives on how to support youth-led initiatives in the country.



### Side Event on “Youth and Climate Finance”

AYSDN delegation participated in a side event that discussed the role of youth in accessing and utilizing climate finance, and the barriers that youth face in this regard. The delegation shared their perspectives and experiences on how to support youth-led initiatives in accessing climate finance.

### Networking Reception for Youth-Led Organizations

AYSDN delegation participated in a networking reception for youth-led organizations attending COP27. They used this opportunity to build connections with other youth-led organizations, and to discuss opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in the future.

### Participated in Climate Action Arab world meeting

AYSDN delegation participated daily with CANAW meetings during COP27



### AYSDN TEAM PARTICIPATION AT COY17

Egypt hosted the Youth Conference in its seventeenth session, from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of November 2022, which will be held on the sidelines of the COP27 Conference of the Parties, which is held on the sidelines of the COP27 Summit of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, which Egypt is hosting this year in Sharm El-Sheikh. AYSDN team have participated at COY17 which was a varied and intense program in which workshops were held to build skills and capacity building in order to empower youth and bring their voices officially to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to shape youth governmental climate change policies.

It also dealt with many topics and various inspiring and successful experiences from around the world. It was an opportunity for us, as young people of different nationalities, to exchange culture and learn about their successful experiences, which made them a motive for us to transfer them to our country, as we are in dire need of such experiences. The conference also discussed the basic issues for every citizen, such as water, food and energy, which are discussed in the COP 27 conference.

## Conclusion:

Overall, AYS DN participation in COP27 was a success in terms of raising awareness about the importance of youth engagement and participation in sustainable development and climate action, and providing a platform for youth voices to be heard. The delegation was able to build connections with other youth-led organizations, experts, and decision-makers, and to advocate for the inclusion of youth voices in sustainable development and climate policy. Our session was well-attended and provided valuable insights and information on the challenges and opportunities for Arab youth in sustainable development and climate action. The delegation's participation in other speaking engagements and activities at COP27 further reinforced the message that youth engagement and participation is vital for achieving sustainable development and addressing the impacts of climate change.

AYS DN participation highlighted the importance of investing in youth-led initiatives in the Arab region. Our delegates' presence reinforced the message that Arab youth are not only affected by climate change but also have a vital role to play in addressing it. This also demonstrated that Arab youth are capable of leading sustainable development and climate action in the region.

In conclusion, AYS DN participation at COP27 was a significant step towards achieving the organization's goal of empowering and engaging Arab youth in climate action. The delegation's presence at the conference helped to raise awareness about the importance of youth engagement and participation in climate action. Additionally, our participation helped to build connections and collaborations with other youth-led organizations, experts, and decision-makers, which will be crucial in achieving the organization's goal of empowering and engaging Arab youth in climate action.

challenges facing the Arab region. The hackathon could include mentorship from experts and professionals in various fields, as well as prizes for the most promising ideas.