

# “Road to COP 28” Webinar „

Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network  
(AYSDN)

**Road to COP 28**  
Shaping Our Global Climate

**Speakers:**  
Ghadeer Taira (Communication and Advocacy Officer at AYSDN)  
ASHRAF ALASBAHI (Assistant Executive Director)  
AMER SHANA (Program Coordinator)  
AMINA BINTALIB (Program Manager)  
TAREQ HASSAN (AYSDN Chairman)

**Agenda:**  
1. Understanding COP 28  
2. The Importance of COP 28  
3. Overview of COP 28  
4. Key Themes of COP 28  
5. Preparations for COP 28  
6. Expected Outcomes  
7. Conclusion

04/11/2023 08:00 pm

Logos: COP 28, AYSDN

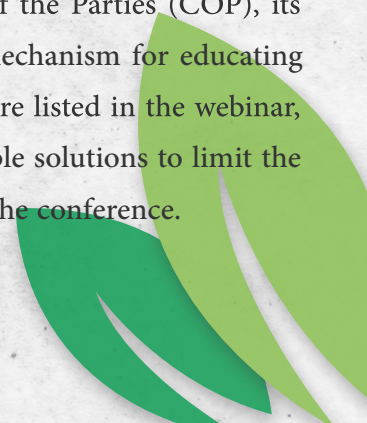
## Introduction:

Within the framework preparations for the activities of the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN) held an online webinar via Zoom platform on Saturday evening, November 2023, 4, entitled, “The Road to the COP 28” which included vital discussions regarding the conference, held next December in Dubai, with the participation of several member countries of the Convention on Climate Change, international and non-governmental organizations, and private sectors concerned with climate change.

Along with Arab Youth Network for Sustainable Development’s participation in the 28th Conference of the Parties held in Dubai, the network invited the public to attend this webinar about the conference hosted by strategic and academic experts:

- Eng. Tareq Hassan
- Mr. Ashraf Alasbahi
- Ms. Amina Bin Talib
- Ms. Ghadeer Taira
- Mr. Ameer Shana

The webinar covered the comprehensive meaning of the International Conference of the Parties (COP), its importance and role in reaching permanent outcomes on climate change and the mechanism for educating society and raising awareness about climate change. In addition, significant points were listed in the webinar, which specify the importance of the role of society and youth in developing sustainable solutions to limit the deterioration of the climate situations as well as the most important preparations for the conference.





## Webinar Discussion Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

### ١) Webinar opening:

Starting with a speech from Eng. Tariq Hassan, Chairman of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network, who noted the importance of youth's role in being critical to achieving positive and sustainable change, as he continued, "Youth can play an important role in raising awareness and education on climate change. Young groups can sensitize others to the importance of climate issues and their impact on daily life and the environment, streamline complex information and guide efforts towards sustainable development. They have the full capacity to cooperate with various stakeholders, such as government institutions, NGOs and companies, to implement projects and initiatives aimed at adapting to and reducing climate change such as participation in the COP, where they can form networks and share knowledge and experience to promote cooperation and innovation in this area."



### ٢) What is Conference of Parties (COP)?

After Hassan's speech, Mr. Ashraf addressed the meaning and date of origin of the Conference of the Parties by explaining, "COP ٢٨ is the abbreviation of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties, the annual meeting of States members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These meetings are held to discuss and take action to address global challenges related to climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in ١٩٩٢ and aims to strengthen international cooperation to address climate change and achieve sustainable development. Since then, Parties have held annual meetings (COP) to discuss the progress of the Convention's implementation and take new decisions to deal with emerging challenges. COP meetings are important opportunities for Member States to consult and negotiate ways of global cooperation to address climate challenges and achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change."

Ashraf also explained the YOUNGO Alliance, "YOUNGO is the acronym for Youth Non-Governmental Organizations, a non-governmental coalition representing youth organizations within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). YOUNGO was founded to enhance the role and participation of young people in climate change negotiations and its implications. YOUNGO is the official voice of young people in the United Nations climate change negotiation process. YOUNGO members participate in the Annual Meetings of the Parties (COP) and other negotiations on climate change, expressing young people's views and attitudes and drawing attention to their issues and demands. Generally speaking, YOUNGO is an important part of the international youth and climate change landscape and seeks to represent and promote the interests of young people in international climate change discussions and decisions."



### 3) Why is COP important?

Explaining the importance of COP, Ms. Amina stressed, "At the outset, it was not a focus of attention, even after the industrial wealth that resulted from high environmental emissions and the expansion of the ozone hole. But the Conference's importance is to strengthen international cooperation, bringing together representatives of States from all over the world, providing a platform for negotiation and dialogue on climate change issues, and helping to unite international efforts and share knowledge and experiences in combating climate change. The COP also takes important decisions on policies and actions on climate change. New conventions, protocols and amendments to existing conventions are being reached to strengthen global efforts in mitigating the impacts of climate change and promoting adaptation to climate change."

Amina stated that the importance of the Conference of the Parties was to provide a platform for negotiation and decision-making and to promote awareness, education and international cooperation on climate change, as the Conference of the Parties was an important occasion to strengthen global cooperation and make binding decisions to address climate change challenges and preserve the planet's health.

### 4) What are the corresponding campaigns for the twenty-eighth International Conference of the Parties?

Ms. Ghadeer explained that debate campaigns could take place at the Conference of the Parties COP28 which would relate to current climate change issues and challenges and ways to address them. The Conference of the COP28 's debate campaigns typically include requiring states to strengthen international cooperation and their commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, and promoting financing for a low-carbon, climate-resistant economy. Emphasis is also placed on the need to promote climate justice and support developing countries' adaptation to climate change and emission reduction.

### 5) Overview of COP:

Mr. Ameer put all the attendees at the webinar in a clearer picture of the upcoming Conference of the Parties, where the most important topics to be discussed during the Conference were outlined below:

- Assessing progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement: Progress in the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement will be reviewed and member States' commitment to their objectives and commitments ensured. This includes exchanging information and reports on emission reductions and promoting adaptation and financing.

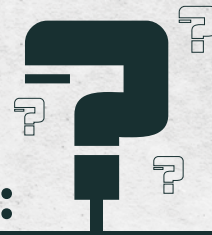




- **Stimulating international cooperation:** States will be encouraged to increase cooperation on climate change and to share knowledge, technology and experience. This includes strengthening global partnerships and promoting South-South, North-North and North-South cooperation.
- **Reducing gas emissions:** The conference will focus on promoting efforts to reduce harmful emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases. This includes sharing knowledge and successful experiences in achieving greater emission reductions and promoting environmental sustainability.
- **Adaptation and increased flexibility:** The conference will focus on strengthening States' and societies' capacity to adapt to and reduce the negative impacts of climate change. This includes developing and strengthening adaptation strategies, strengthening capacities and providing funding for their implementation.
- **Financial assistance:** Efforts to enhance financing to adapt to climate change and reduce emissions will be discussed and evaluated. This includes discussing new financing initiatives and strengthening financial cooperation between developing and developed countries.

Professor Amir added that there would be an interactive space for Yemen at the next conference.

## Audience Questions & Inquiries:



Audience and attendees of the webinar posed several questions to the presenters. The most prominent questions are as follows:

**Question 1:** Climate change was talked about globally, but there were no outputs, what are we waiting for from the COP28 ?

**Question 2:** In Yemen, there is difficulty in changing the climate, whether through advocacy or otherwise, what do we expect will change in our society ?

**Question 3:** What is our role after the symposium and conference ?





Eng. Tariq Hassan, Chairman of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network, replied to all questions:

COP has always had many outcomes that have greatly helped the cause of climate change, including the Paris Conference, which was adopted at COP XXI in 2015 and came into force in 2016. The Paris Agreement aims to achieve greater global cooperation to address climate change and reduce Earth's warming, and the signatories to the Convention have pledged to achieve greater reductions in carbon emissions and support adaptation to climate change.

Through the outcomes of the COP Conference, a few countries were forced to withdraw from the Conference because of the considerable pressure and money demanded of them for climate change projects around the world. Oil exporters in Saudi Arabia and the emirates are currently experiencing many international pressures as they will be forced to walk with systematic and targeted emission reduction standards in various ways.

For Yemen, we are striving for a paradigm shift in Yemeni society on climate change in terms of devoting awareness-raising sessions and electronic and public disturbances on the environmental issue and enabling young people to make clear and tangible change because their role will be to spread the goals of reducing the spread of harmful emissions.

A discussion took place among those who expressed satisfaction with the webinar's themes, which significantly benefited them from the climate conference next month.

## Conclusion

Audience and attendees were pleased to attend the AYSDN online webinar entitled, "Road to COP", which enhanced their knowledge about the annual International Conference of the Parties, and expressed the importance of their role in participating in reducing climate change and raising awareness in society through active participation in awareness-raising campaigns on social media sites and other future activities.

