

BACKGROUND

The United Nations in Kuwait celebrated the United Nations Day 2021 by organizing an exhibition and Youth For Climate Action Dialogue & an official UN Day celebrations attended by the Foreign Minister (23-24 October) to highlight the efforts of youth towards climate action in Kuwait, the exhibition was based around the Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action and was held at the UN House, many youth activists, NGOs, SMEs, and government institutions were invited to showcase their initiatives and how they contribute to preserve the environment, biodiversity of Kuwait, Promote Renewable Energy and invest in Waste management solutions. The UN Day official event was supported by a series of activities leading to the day, such as greening the UN House and contributing to a cleaning initiative. In parallel, a documentary, a video and a set of flashes were produced to mark the occasion. These were developed in collaboration with renowned film makers, the Ministry of Information and prominent landmarks in Kuwait (Kuwait Towers, Avenues, Boursa, Hamra, & Kuwait Fund) and the movie theaters.

THE EXHIBITION AND DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES

- Promote climate related SDGs and 2030 Agenda, the decade of action and Leave No One Behind
- Explore KNDP aspirations/priorities and propose solutions from participants (Challenge vs. solution)
- Encourage individuals to commit to climate action in their daily life
- Support the Secretary General's call for Local Action, Global Action, & People Action.
- Spur ambition & action in key sectors & develop concrete plans that are achievable and impactful
- Promoting behavioral change and strengthen private sector engagement
- Capturing the public imagination with positive vision and inspiring a deep sense of compassion, empathy, solidarity & unity.
- Involve volunteer groups, develop a network (UN platform) & build a community of practice.

During the Exhibition, workshops with youth groups and speakers from various fields were invited to present and speak on topics of interest to the youth. The first session conducted was on topic of Renewable Energy with presenters who introduced awareness rising initiative in Kuwait public transportation system and traffic situation to be safe, convenient and efficient, eco-friendly and inclusive. The second presenter primarily focused

on renewable energy and its research process in the context of Kuwait and spoke about solar energy and its potential in Kuwait. The third presenter gave a brief introduction on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and its inter-dynamic of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including economic, social & environmental. The second session had a concentration on Biodiversity with presenters speaking of threats to biodiversity in Kuwait. Another presenter spoke about the effects of climate change and human activity on burrows of *Uromastix aegyptia* in Kuwait. The last presenter from the second session spoke about steps towards more sustainable dairy farming in Kuwait. The third session was about Waste Management and had 3 presenters, the first presenter spoke about their local initiative of removing waste from the sea and ocean. The second presenter spoke about the recycling and the importance of focusing on SDG 11. The third and last presenter spoke more about the SDGs and their importance and a brief idea about them.

Furthermore, instalive session were held in parallel, tackling various subject of interest and hosting a number of innovative solutions, ideas and suggestions. In short, the exhibition was an opportunity to introduce local initiatives and activists to one another and to the public, providing them with a platform to network, and to support coordinating their efforts through building a Community of Practice where complementarity is key towards an environmental and climate action working group in Kuwait with the intention of further collaboration.

THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Key Objectives

- The NDP - Agenda 2030 priorities
- Bring together key actors to develop an effective and coordinated mechanism for accessible sharing of information and ensure communities' meaningful participation in the process. These actors (local activists, UN agencies, local NGOs, traditional and other emerging media actors locally, private sector, and mandated government institutions).
- Institutionalize the CoP as the inclusive platform for multi-sector and multi-purpose community engagement coordination and learning.
- Ensure the sustainability of the CoP for the strategic and some operational undertakings on community engagement in the country.
- Facilitate innovations within CoP through cross sector/multi sector learning, information/knowledge sharing on good initiatives and good practices, lessons learned, common tools and strategic coordination.
- Provide tools and technical support to actors and government where required, to strengthen their capacity on information exchange, improve available feedback mechanism and enhance the level of participation of the community and accountability to them.
- Ensure consistency and clarity in providing information and advice to the community by working with relevant government agencies and clusters, to ensure the voices of concerned parties are accessible to policy and decision makers.

2. Composition

The CoP is an inclusive cross-sector coordination and technical support group that brings together all those working on community engagement in the topic of environment and climate action such as UN agencies, local NGOs, International Community and Embassies private, local government agencies (i.e. EPA, PAAF, KISR), and local communities and cooperatives

3. Core Group

A Core Group, composed of a number of individuals representing organizations/ institutions & international community would be created to provide overall guidance & advisory recommendations on the plans, strategies and initiatives of the overall CoP, as part of preparedness, it will provide advice on behalf of the CoP, as appropriate and necessary, to the concerned listed groups

Member organizations of the CoP should appoint maximum two persons to act as the official representatives. The first will act as the lead while the second as the alternate focal point.

4. Chairmanship

To have a rotational chairmanship within the CoP. The chair organization will be responsible for calling the meeting and facilitating discussions.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Office will support the CoP in the and will maintain the overall coordination. An agenda would be created and agreed before each meeting by the CoP and chair organizations. Chairmanship will be on a three-month rotation. The Core Group, in consultation with the CoP, will determine the next chair.

In an event of an emergency, UN RCO will take the overall coordination lead and will be responsible, in consultation with the members, to propose priority agenda and activities.

The chairmanship is rotational every 4 months.

5. Frequency of the Meetings

Would be determined by members of core group. Suggested monthly, initially at the UN House.

6. Types of Meetings

Aside from the face-to-face regular meeting (once a month for the Core Group and quarterly for the whole CoP), depending on current/ ongoing initiatives/ activities the group is working on, setting up a teams meeting conference among all identified members would be encouraged for further coordination (in case of emergency situation).

If necessary and needed, establishing or using social media platforms, including the use of Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn, can be explored by the CoP as well.

The CoP will maintain an up-to-date directory of all members including mobile numbers, email addresses and other contact details.

(Members would be added to a WhatsApp group to simplify communication.)

CORE FUNCTIONS & DELIVERABLES

Considering the diversity and inclusivity of the membership of the CoP, in terms of roles, responsibilities and functions, most members are expected as much as possible to support and complement each other such as on:

1. Effective Coordination

- Support the establishment of the CoP Youth4Climate Action core group and suggest potential members.
- Support the preparation of a joint platform for communication – voting – suggesting topics and projects.
- Members should provide inputs to the regular situations reports produced for Community Engagement that summarizes the activities of group members and share it for inclusion in the reports.
- Members should participate and attend meetings to identify key coordinated preparedness activities as part of mainstreaming coherent system. Members should:
 - a.) Agree on the system and arrangements for coordination.
 - b.) Identify level of cooperation in the core group.
 - c.) Identify and agree on arrangements for planning including but not limited to coming up with campaigns & issuing recommendations.
 - d.) Discuss and facilitate an annual Youth for Climate Action Forum each October to be discussed and prepared by Youth
 - e.) Share information both to members and the community to further enhance and raise awareness about Climate Action in Kuwait.
 - f.) budget

2. Technical Support

- Support would be provided by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Kuwait and different UN Agencies to enhance the participation of activists and members of CoP group.
- Members would be encouraged to invite the youth (including with disabilities) to participate and provide them with insights and activities that would include them in the process of meeting, reporting, and recommendations.

3. Advocacy

- CoP should work with the UNCG for wide coverage and delivery of the key messages and expand channels for cooperation in the climate action field. (UNEP, UNHABITAT, FAO, UNDP)
- Members should agree on and identify direct support to local youth groups on the issues and initiatives. (UNV, UNICEF, UNDP)
- Members should agree and identify local Youth and school students, champions on community engagement in various agencies to help mainstream and replicate good practices on climate action, youth encouragement and community participation.
- Members should agree and identify ways to advocate and prepare reports that would be reviewed and translated into recommendations for UN/Government consideration.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1

Bring together various local youth initiatives, NGOs, Private and Public sectors, and Activists to cooperate on climate action issues.

2

Provide a platform that would enhance climate action locally through student in schools & would create a dialogue between the youth and other actors to raise awareness about issues of concern.

3

Prepare reports on the climate change topic in the country and provide recommendations to be taken to solve mentioned issues.

4

Include the youth in the implementation process of solutions to climate change issue.

5

Facilitate an annual Youth for Climate Action Forum - a community led forum to show case progress in Climate Action in Kuwait.