

# The PRE - COP28 Conference, Alexandria September 11-12, 2023

## Statement

The Pre-COP28 Webinar, September 11-12, 2023 was organized by the International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC), Regional Action for Climate Change (RACC), STS, Japan, Nizami International Center (NGIC), African League of Young Masters (ALYM) and hosted by Alexandria University. The webinar was attended by 520 participants. Many international scientists and experts and policy makers have joined conference physically or virtually during the two days activities. Egyptian climate change and sustainable development experts representing several universities government authorities and non-governmental organizations. Speakers who participated in the conference from: Jordan, USA, Mauritius, Belgium, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, India, Uzbekistan and Egypt. Graduate student's members of African League of Young Masters (ALYM) from Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Chad, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Kenya and Egypt. The conference webinar was joined by 1,236 Viewers and we received more than 400 comments.

### **The following topics were presented and discussed during the webinar:**

- 1) Overview: Climate Change and Where We Are
- 2) Forecast where are we going? The day after COP28.
- 3) Main elements: Food Security/Genetic Resources/Agro-management techniques/Food chain dynamics- Agriculture 0.4. Potential Carbon sequestration-The energy transition- Water resources/ Water use efficiency (Optimization) - Biodiversity collection/Utilization/Gene Bank- Pollution (Land & Sea).
- 4) Vulnerable dryland (Projection for the future of the impact of climate change on the livelihood of the inhabitants in relation to global peace & stability.
- 5) Youthful Views from Africa.
- 6) The politics of international cooperation.
- 7) Meeting Financing Requirements.
- 8) Concluding Remarks. The day after COP28

### **Brief Summary Statement**

1. The mounting evidence of extreme weather events underlined the severity of the impacts of climate change and we have not yet reached the 1.5 degrees that we targeted in the 2015 Paris accord.

2. The severity of the recent heat waves has further underlined the vulnerability of people in the drylands, especially in Africa and West Asia, where expectations are that a hot and dry area will get hotter and drier.
3. Many of the poor and vulnerable populations in these areas depend on agriculture, pastoralism, and artisanal fishing that are likely to be further affected by climate changes with erratic rainfall and cycles of droughts and floods.
4. There are ways in which we can harness the revolutions in remote sensing and spectral analysis for better soil and water and nutrient management. We can also mobilize the biotechnology revolution to provide the poor farmers with better seeds that will produce plants suitable for the local agro-ecology and the changes that agro-ecology is undergoing. Furthermore, such plants can also be made more drought and salt tolerant, as well as growing in a shorter period, and that can provide higher yields and better nutrition. All this should help the poor and the vulnerable confront the challenges that they are already facing and will continue to face.
5. Water scarcity and the erratic availability of rainfall remain major challenges.
6. The hydrological cycle, which affects all fresh water, is closely interacting with the forces of climate change. That hydrological cycle is now being disturbed by human activity, and its protection is essential if we are to avoid far-reaching negative effects on human societies.
7. Protecting the hydrological cycle as a “Public Common Good” requires new economic thinking both in “valuation” and in creating the incentives that will lead to better human interaction with the hydrological cycle.
8. Tackling that set of problems is bound to assist these poor dryland nations, especially in Africa, in pursuing their efforts on a sustainable development path.
9. All of this has to be included in a proper adaptation and resilience strategy for the poor and vulnerable people in the dry areas. And as these include some 80% of the poorest people on the planet, such measures will require significant international financing.
10. International Collaboration will be needed to confront global Climate Change and to promote new and more appropriate methods of mobilizing resources, for all the investments required for the whole world.

The International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC), Nizami International Center (NGIC), and African League of Young Masters (ALYM) indorsed the resolution of the Webinar at Alexandria University to consider this as continuous initiative to be organized annually before future annual Climate Change Conference of the parties.

## Speakers:

- **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** served as the first female President of Mauritius from 2015 to 2018, and is recognized as a distinguished scientist in the field of biodiversity
- **Yves Leterme** was Prime Minister of Belgium 2008, 2009-2011
- **Ambassador Walter Fust** Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC, (Swiss) Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- **Zlatko Lagumdžija** was Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002; deputy Prime Minister 1993-1996, 2012-2015
- **Jeffrey D. Sachs** is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development and in the fight against poverty.
- **Dr. Mahmud Duwayri**- Former Minister of Agriculture Jordan, Director of Food production and protection, FAO
- **Dr. Rattan Lal**- Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science, Director, CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration Past President, International Union of Soil Sciences Adjunct Professor, University of Iceland, and IARI, New Delhi, India. IICA Chair in Soil Science, and Goodwill Ambassador for Sustainable Development Issues, San Jose, Costa Rica. The Ohio State University, USA
- **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, Co-Chair of the Board of Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), Emeritus Librarian of Alexandria, Former VP of the World Bank.
- **Dr. Adel El-Beltagy**, Professor, Arid Land Agricultural Graduate Studies & Research Institute (ALARI), Ain Shams University, Egypt. Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC)
- **Dr. Theib Oweis**, Former Leader, Water Management Program of ICARDA, Independent consultant in Water, Agriculture, and Environment, Jordan.
- **Dr. Aliaa Rafea**, Professor, Anthropology, Ain Shams University, Chair, the Human Foundation. Egypt
- **Dr. Mostafa Foda**: Convention Biodiversity Expert (CBD), Egypt.
- **Dr. Wang Tao**- President, Lanzhou Branch of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Director General, Northwest Institute of Eco-environment and Resources, CAS Director and Professor, Key Lab.of Desert and Desertification, CAS 320 China
- **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**- Director, ICAR-National Academy of Agriculture Research Management (NAARM), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, India
- **Dr. Sameh Kothb**, Associate Professor, Soil & Water Use Dept. National Research Center, NRC, Egypt

- **Dr. Muhtor Nasirov**, International Relations Office, Samarkand state University, Uzbekistan, General Director of Kyrgyz Agricultural Research Institute.
- **Dr. Salah Soliman**, Professor of Pesticide Chemistry and Toxicology, Alexandria University, Egypt
- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa** was 73rd President of the UNGA; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018, Minister of National Defense 2012-2014
- **Dr. Omar El Arini**: Former First Chief Officer of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol. Assisted Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Setting up the adaptation fund Board, Member of the Green Climate Fund.
- **Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid**- Former Minister of Agriculture, Emeritus Professor, Arid Land Agricultural Graduate Studies and Research Institute (ALARI), Ain Shams University Former President, Agriculture Research Centre, Egypt
- **Dr. Ismail Abdelgalil**, Former President of Desert Research Center, DRC, Egypt
- **Dr. Abdelghani El-Gindy**, Dean, School of Desert Agriculture, Vice President-Salman University, Sinai.
  
- **Dr. Hassan El-Shaer**, Ex- Vice President of DRC  
 Prof. Animal Nutrition & Rangelands Utilization.  
 The President of the Egyptian Center of Excellence for Bio- saline Agriculture. Desert Research Center (DRC), Egypt
  
- **Dr. Usama El-Beairy**, Former Dean, Arid Lands Agricultural studies and Research Institute (ALARI), Ain Shams University, Egypt.