Technical Working Group 1B: Climate Change Networking

Main Points

The objective of this technical working group was based on the work of climate change networks currently operating in the Arab Region.

It was proposed that there is a need to come up with some structure on how these Networks can be interlinked and what kind of operational modalities should these Networks have.

What is a Network?

It is a group of institutions, experts, etc. with a very clear hub in order to exchange info, knowledge…

Do we need a Network?

- There is no need to create a new network for the regional initiative, we should rather build on existing ones.
- Many networks are dealing with the same issues, doing the same work. So there’s a need to do an inventory of all networks, assessing each one’s qualities and weaknesses, know which what can do what, and thus assign tasks to each network.
- Networks should work on distinct levels:
  - policy level
  - regional level.
  - UN specialized in Climate Change adaptation
  - Technical level: specialized ex: in water resources, like AWARENET, UNU…

Who is the targeted audience?

- A Network should mainly target the public and the youth, this can be done through and in the same manner as social communication networks (Facebook, twitter…)
- Networks should also involve Policy makers (Professional networks) in order to exchange information and allowing filling the lack of data among experts in the fields. ex: AWARENET is restricted to individual experts

Who should be involved?

- Some networks have a link with shared water, so we should involve more than the Arab region at least for the water resources component (ex: the Nile basin)
- Plus some Arab countries are affected indirectly by climate change through neighboring countries not necessarily Arab
- But difficulty to get data from other countries, so we should involve international organizations like UNDP, UNEP… (ex: ICARDA has a water network)
What is the relationship between networks?

- Coordination should be the main issue. It should be done not only through exchange of reports, but merely an exchange of experiences, trainings, etc…
- The role is to gather info from all networks and disseminate to all networks.

How to maintain a sustainable and successful network?

- There should be a clear **program**, a **driver**, and **adequate support**

**Program**: Scope already set in the regional initiative, which is assessing the vulnerability of the Arab region towards the impacts of climate change

**The driver for coordination**: creating a demand and maintaining it is the most important task. It can be legal( mandate, decree) or other types, but should most importantly be regularly updated.

**Support**: The support should be on the regional level, and the adequate financial resources should be under the umbrella of the Arab League and UN organizations.

* A presentation about the AWARENET Network was delivered during the session