



# THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN SHAPING THE MENA ENERGY TRANSITION - PROJECTIONS ON COVID19 RECOVERY OPPORTUNITIES

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# AGENDA

- Situation
- The Need for Sustainability
- Covid-19
- Civil Society Role
- The need for civil society
- Barriers of Civil Society and Youth Engagement
- Regional Initiatives
- Civil society post Covid-19
- Climate Action post covid-19

# SITUATION

Civil society has been a central force in political and economic reforms.

Arab countries are characterized by young population

By 2030, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities, and a third of the world's population will be housed in cities with 1 million or more inhabitants.

# THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

To meet the needs of a rapidly growing, younger, digitally savvy population, we must push the frontier of our current thinking to create sustainable opportunities.

Since energy resources in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are depleted and the civil society is asking to keep it in ground. Then of energy sources, the best way to preserve it is to rely upon sustainability.

# COVID-19

Covid19 has upended climate meetings until next year but countries, especially major emitters, must deliver strong commitments on climate ambition this year that put the world on a 1.5oC degree pathway

The transformative changes needed on the other side of this pandemic centre on substantial climate ambition today: rapid & full decarbonisation, agroecological farming, protecting & restoring ecosystems, a Just Transition for workers, & finance for adaptation & Loss and Damage

# CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE

- keep the push for low carbon development strategies and policies.
- Awareness sessions that show the link between Covid19 response and climate action
- Support the strategies that invest in green energy infrastructure - including energy efficiency and low and zero carbon energy supply technologies
- Governments need to follow a participatory approach and engage civil society; partnerships lead to real climate action.

# BARRIERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Securing funding
- The ability for building partnerships
- Mobilization obstacles
- Some stakeholders are not aware about the benefits of clean energy technologies.

# REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- The African Union and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) agreed to work closely to advance renewable energy across the continent to bolster Africa's response to COVID-19.
- CAN-Arab World work on just transition and renewable energy.
- Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, RCREEE has The Arab Program for Sustainable Energy Youth™ (APSEY) and other programs
- FES regional energy and climate project
- Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean - RES4MED - promoting clean energy solutions in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries.



# CIVIL SOCIETY POST COVID-19

- Trillions of \$\$\$ are on the table in national capitals for recovery plans. This recovery cannot mean the resurgence of polluters & high-emitting sectors. The protection of workers' health and jobs must come first with a focus to rebuild better and safer zero carbon future.
- Civil society should be stronger, united and pushing for their demands.
- Make sure that governments keep their commitments and work for ambitious NDCs.
- Fossil fuel is cheap. Advocacy, lobbying, and raising awareness areas of work of civil society on RE
- Strengthen the link between national and international & building power bottom-up approaches

# CIVIL SOCIETY POST COVID-19

- Provide youth with the tools to build and engage in impactful projects and offering them access to networks.
- Empowering civil society is by targeted funding
- Supportive policies for gender equality.
- Ensuring universal access to affordable electricity by 2030 means investing in clean energy sources such as solar, wind and thermal.
- Adopting cost-effective standards for a wider range of technologies could also reduce the electricity consumption by buildings and industry.
- Expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide clean energy in all developing countries is a crucial goal that can both encourage growth and help the environment.

# CLIMATE ACTION POST COVID-19

- Cop26 and all regional climate weeks are postponed for next year.
- The right time to be a movement driven rather than a moment one.
- An opportunity for creating green jobs in renewable energy.
- The need to empower youth to explore innovative ideas to tackle emerging development challenges





**Thank you**