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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by ArabEuropean Forum for Dialogue and Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Climate Justice and Human Rights in light of the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in the United Arab Emirates

Climate change issues lie at the forefront of global concerns, due to their impact on life on our planet, and their direct and indirect link to the effective enjoyment of human rights, and the necessity to work towards the strengthening of the international synergy involved in reinforcing the commitment to climate protection and environmental preservation, as a means of guaranteeing the enjoyment of the full range of human rights enshrined in international law and called for by all international and regional conventions and legislation, and the need for countries to adhere to a human rights-based approach in the overall response to the crisis facing the world in terms of the development of legislation and policy making aimed at protecting the climate and achieving climate justice, as a means to achieve quality of life on earth and the protection and promotion of human rights for all in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner.

The Human Rights Council voiced its concern about the negative effects of climate change on humans around the world, and its far-reaching consequences for the full enjoyment of human rights, recognizing that it is a global problem that requires concerted international efforts. It also urged governments and states to affirm their global commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other relevant documents. It stresses the importance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in addressing the consequences of this phenomenon, in accordance with the principles that make it a comprehensive global framework for combating climate change, consistent with an approach based on the respect and promotion of human rights.

Climate change issues have come to the forefront in the Middle East and North Africa, due to the great challenge they represent because of the failing development programmes in many countries and the worsening conflicts, as they face many problems related to the dangers of climate change and the difficult living conditions that are a fundamental threat to decent livelihoods, rights, and the urge to balance development needs and climate in the short and long term, according to a strategy that ensures justice and equality to vulnerable groups, according to an approach based on the respect and promotion of human rights.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres declared his intention to make 2023 a "year of peace and action", in which the focus is on finding practical solutions to address the most pressing problems in all regions of the world, starting with working towards the convening and organization of the Climate Conference at its 28th session in the United Arab Emirates, stressing that this will be the "Climate Ambition 2023" summit and demanding a state of emergency and an end to fossil fuel subsidies, a phase-out of coal, protection of vulnerable communities and a \$100 billion climate finance commitment.

Meeting the needs of these countries will be a central issue in the negotiations of the periodic climate summits. Developing countries are victims of climate change caused by large and industrialized countries, they are modest contributors to causing this problem, which has necessitated action to call on rich countries to meet their international commitments to provide \$100 billion per year to help them adapt to climate change and avoid its devastating effects on the poorest and most affected countries.

As the 28th session of the climate summit is held in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023, there is great hope that we will emerge from it with decisions that help solve the climate problem and mitigate its devastating effects on the continent in general and on poor and developing countries in particular. Companies and individuals in this area bear the greatest responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, which account for 80% of global emissions, and for their increasing production and use of fossil fuels, as the greenhouse gas emissions of China, the United States of America, the EU, India, the Russian Federation, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia, Canada and the Islamic Republic of Iran exceed two-thirds of global emissions by 68%.

The United in Science report, published in 2022, also shows that climate impacts are heading towards an unknown zone of destruction, increasing global aspirations for a Climate

Conference summit in the United Arab Emirates to develop an effective strategy that brings about global changes and strengthens the commitment of states to adopt policies and legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the damage suffered by the countries most affected by climate problems, to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, particularly the least developed countries, and to establish a fund to compensate countries that suffer the most severe impacts of climate change. The EU should support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and deliver on previous commitments to reduce the risks of climate crisis.

The United Arab Emirates is firmly committed to hosting the Climate Conference at its next session, which will see the first global assessment to measure collective global progress on mitigation and adaptation and the means to implement the Paris Agreement, as well as its efforts and achievements in this area, and its promise to be the first country in the region of the Middle East and North Africa to achieve zero climate neutrality by 2050, facilitating the presence of over thirty agencies, funds, programmes and initiatives concerned with the environment and climate. The United Arab Emirates aims, in partnership with the United Nations, to provide a pioneering experience that meets global aspirations for protecting the climate and improving quality of life. The United Arab Emirates is committed to the development of five clean sources of electricity, the creation of sustainable and environmentally friendly cities, the leadership and implementation of an ambitious national plan to protect and promote the blue economy, the effort to build on the green economic model as a priority in the United Arab Emirates, the commitment to allocate \$164 billion to achieve climate neutrality, and the allocation of \$100 billion to support developing countries to counter the effects of harsh climate conditions. Moreover, the establishment of the "Climate Change Action Accelerators Project for the United Arab Emirates" as an independent and neutral entity for climate action will bring together members of the public and private sectors, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, as the first institution in the world concerned with strengthening the United Arab Emirates' commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, in addition to the signing of international agreements and initiatives to achieve sustainable development and reduce emissions with the Group of Twenty, the Group of Seventy Seven and the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the launch of several national environment and climate strategies, such as the National Energy Strategy 2050, the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2050.

In this context, we give the world's countries participating in the 28th session of the Climate Conference the following recommendations:

- To adhere to the human rights-based approach as a normative conceptual framework based on international human rights standards in the context of environmental and climate protection policies and legislation, and in line with the achievement of climate justice, from a human rights-based approach.
- To work on strengthening preventive measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to providing the necessary financial resources to address the effects of climate change on developing and most affected countries, and to promote joint international action to achieve the main objectives of climate protection and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- To work on enhancing the participation of civil society organizations in efforts to achieve climate justice, and to activate the role of young people and women in achieving the goals of global zero climate change.
- To benefit from the United Arab Emirates' pioneering experience in achieving zero emissions and to disseminate its strategy for achieving zero emissions by the year 2050.

Jusoor International Organization for Media and Development, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.