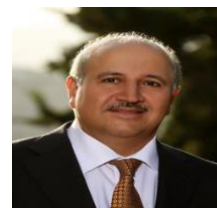


## Glasgow Climate Conference... What does climate change mean for Jordan?



Dr. Hazim El-Naser  
Chairman of the Middle East Water Forum  
Former Minister of Water and Irrigation / Jordan  
Former Minister of Agriculture / Jordan  
Former Member of the Jordanian Parliament

This article was published also the Jordan Times Newspaper

<https://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/hazim-el-naser/glasgow-climate-conference-what-does-climate-change-mean-jordan>

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) began in Glasgow City of Scotland with the aim following up promises and achievements since the Paris Agreement, which are considered to be modest in terms of reduction of gas emissions or the allocation of the needed financial resources by the UN Green Fund, as it failed to reach the 100 billion dollars target by 2020.

The most important goals of the Glasgow conference are the commitment of industrialized countries (mainly G20) to reduce gas emissions with a very ambitious goal of zero gas emissions by the mid of the Century, and to keep global warming below the 1.5°C by the 2030s, in comparison to pre-industrial levels. . The second goal is the commitment of mainly the G20 to help developing countries provide at least \$100 billion to the Green Fund for projects that reduce global warming and provide advanced technology to poor countries to adapt to climate change with active participation of all stakeholders.

With the exception of the Arab region and some Central African countries, the impact of climate change for the rest of the world means flash floods, melting of glacier, warming of oceans water temperature and the associated consequential impacts on the environment, population life, health, fisheries and agriculture, a matter of importance for industrialized countries in protecting their environment and economic interests.

In the case of a country like Jordan which is considered to be one of the scarcest water countries in the world, in terms of per capita availability of renewable water resources, climate change simply means more water shortages and suffering from lack of water supply-a life time challenge Jordanians will most probably have to live and struggle with it for many years to come . Due to climate change impact temporal and spatial rainfall will have a significant impact on the availability of water and the continuity of irrigated and rainfed agriculture with all associated negative impacts on water and food security. The resulted high temperature rates, increase intensity of heat waves and the severity of drought, and will definitely lead to high evaporation rates, increase water demand for the agriculture sector by about 18%. Such additional needed water supplies as a result of climate change, will not be compensated in anyway due to lack of affordable and easily accessible water supplies.

In addition to these external factors, there are many national elements and improper practices which accelerate the impact of climate change on our fragile environment i.e. excessive groundwater overpumping, expansion of irrigated agriculture at the expense of groundwater

precious reserves, logging, poor management of dams' water storage, expansion of traditional energy (fossil fuel) production and use at the expense of renewable energy, improper land planning, weak programs to enhance climate change resilience and adaptation, and finally, the inability to benefit from Green Fund financing programs in water, environment and agriculture sectors.

Jordan is at a crossroads in this regard, and needs to draft as quick as possible a working strategy to address climate change impacts across the various targeted sectors. Out of it, sectoral policies to be developed, programs and action plans to increase awareness, resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts. Linking such a strategy throughout the region with regional cooperation projects, considering climate change regional impact dimension, will add important value to the implementation of the strategy under consideration. As conflict adds to environmental degradation, and considering the political and conflicts statuses surrounding Jordan including the issue of influx of refugees, such a strategy with regional link becomes a must.

Jordan needs to establish a Jordan National Center for Climate Change (JNCCC) that works in an integrated manner and to coordinate between different sectors, universities, NGOs and the private sector to come up with nationwide projects under the envisaged national strategy programs to address climate change impacts including ways and means in how to tap into the Green Climate Change Fund. The JNCCC will coordinate the needed financing to implement projects arising from strategy's programs and plans. It will be more useful to have the JNCCC under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning for better coordination, prioritization and integration among the target sectors.