COVID-19 and the impact on the environment

Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 10:00-11:30 Beirut time (Virtual)

Background and objective

The current global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the path towards sustainable development and has had a substantial impact on many aspects of general life including the environment and natural resources we depend on.

The aim of this session is to highlight the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Arab Region which will inform policy makers to better respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build back better.

Questions to be addressed

1. What have been the major environmental impacts of Covid-19 in the region and how has the pandemic impacted progress towards achieving environmental SDGs? What are the efforts undertaken by the countries of the **Gulf Cooperation Council** at the level of environmental authorities to confront the pandemic?

2. What steps should be taken to minimize future risks due to the 'double whammy' of impact of zoonotic diseases and climate change in the region?

3. What policy measures can be recommended to adopt green recovery? How can decision-makers be convinced/influenced to take actions? What are tradeoffs from the **civil society** perspective?

4. What is perspective of the **private sector** in building back better during the post-pandemic and post-recovery phases?

Facilitator

- Ms. Aseel Al-Mkhaimer, Projects Manager at JOHUD, Jordan

Panelists

- H.E. Dr. Adel Khalifa Al Zayani, Head of Human and Environmental Affairs, GCC Secretariat

- Ms. Nezha Mejjad, Postdoctoral Researcher (Geochemistry, Environmental impact assessment, Sustainability, Blue growth, Open Innovation), Morocco

- Mr. Hicham Chanager, President of Cedar Association for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Algeria

- Dr. Abdulqader Alkharraz, Consultant on UNEP's COVID-19 Environmental Impact Assessment Project, Yemen

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