



■ **Dr. Yasmin Radwan**

*Lecturer of Political Science and Director of the Quality Assurance Unit
Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Future University – Egypt*

The Impact of Strengthening International Cooperation to Address Climate Change on Enhancing Human Security

A Case Study of the African Union (2002–2024)

Introduction:

Climate change is a complex and multifaceted issue, posing a significant threat to human security worldwide ⁽¹⁾. The impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and food insecurity can exacerbate conflicts, displacement, and instability in vulnerable regions ⁽²⁾. Therefore, strengthening international cooperation is of critical importance in addressing this existential threat and ensuring the long-term security and well-being of populations around the world. International cooperation on this issue is essential for several reasons. First and foremost, climate change is a transboundary challenge that requires a coordinated global response. No single country or region can effectively address climate change alone, making cooperation among states an imperative. Additionally, tackling climate change demands significant resources, technology, and expertise, which may not be readily available to all countries.

By pooling resources and sharing knowledge, countries can collaborate to develop and implement effective strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting vulnerable populations, and building resilience to climate-related risks. Such efforts will enhance the safety and security of citizens, promote global stability, and safeguard human security in the face of this global challenge ⁽³⁾.

There is no doubt, however, that activating international cooperation faces numerous challenges stemming from the diverse and at times contradictory nature of states worldwide. One of the main challenges lies in the lack of consensus on shared goals, as each country has its own priorities and interests, making it difficult to agree on a unified strategy or action plan. Furthermore, issues related to power dynamics and the unequal distribution of resources add complexity to the process; developing countries may feel marginalized or overshadowed by more powerful states, leading to potential conflicts and hindering progress or development.

Another challenge to effective international cooperation is the issue of sovereignty. States

are often reluctant to cede control or decision making authority to international organizations or partnerships, fearing a loss of autonomy or influence. This can create barriers to cooperation and weaken the effectiveness of collective efforts. Additionally, divergent cultural norms, values, and political ideologies may also hinder cooperation, resulting in misunderstandings, mistrust, and communication breakdowns. According to several studies, in order to overcome these challenges, states aiming to confront a global crisis must engage in open dialogue, build trust, and prioritize common interests for the greater good of the international community⁽⁴⁾.



Research Problem

This study investigates the role of the African Union in achieving human security in Africa during the period from 2002 to 2024, with a particular focus on the period following the institutional transformation of the Union in 2002 (from the Organization of African Unity to the African Union). The study aims to assess how this transformation has contributed to enhancing the Union's ability to address the growing challenges posed by climate change to human security across the continent, in light of the new commitments outlined in the Constitutive Act of the Union.

Research Objectives

The study aims to:

- Propose a tool to activate international cooperation regarding climate change, with the goal of achieving human security noting that while relevant agreements exist, they remain largely unimplemented.
- Define clear indicators for measuring human security.
- Highlight Egypt's role in shaping this tool and provide a model for its methodological application.

Research Questions

Throughout its various parts, the study seeks to answer the following questions:

- A- What is the role of states and international organizations in activating international cooperation to address the negative impacts of climate change?
- B- What is the relationship between sustainable development and human security, and how does international cooperation contribute to addressing climate change in this context?
- C- What role does the African Union play in mitigating and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change?
- D- To what extent can Egypt contribute to activating international cooperation to resolve the climate change crisis through the African Union?

Methodology

This study adopts the Environmental Security Theory as an analytical framework to understand the complex relationship between climate change,

conflict, and development in Africa. This theory helps identify the mechanisms through which climate change affects human security, such as resource scarcity, forced displacement, and ecosystem collapse. In parallel, the study applies the functionalist approach to analyze the role of the African Union as an international institution in addressing these challenges. This approach enables an evaluation of the Union's capacity to: set a comprehensive regional agenda, build consensus among member states, and coordinate regional and international efforts to combat climate change.

The study also contributes a critical analysis of international climate policies, particularly in the African context. This includes examining how different actors frame the issue of climate change, and the policy implications of those framings. Therefore, while the primary methodology is literature review, the study also incorporates elements of critical discourse analysis to examine the language and narratives surrounding climate change.

Main Components of the Study:

- A- The conceptual framework of the study.
- B- Approaches to addressing climate change, between international initiatives and agreements.
- C- The African Union and climate change: historical background, mechanisms, and policies.
- D- Study findings, proposed solutions, and policy recommendations.

First – Conceptual Framework of the Study

This study is based on three key concepts: international organization, climate change, and human security.

1- International Organization

There are several theories derived from the concept of international organization, such as neoliberalism, realism, dependency theory, and constructivism.

This study adopts the constructivist perspective, which emphasizes the role of ideas, norms, and beliefs in shaping the behavior of states. According to constructivist scholars such as Alexander Wendt⁽⁵⁾ and Jeffrey Checkel⁽⁶⁾, states are not merely self-interested actors driven by material

concerns. Rather, they are also influenced by social norms and identities that are constructed through interactions with other states and international organizations. These norms and identities shape how states perceive their interests, leading to the formation of alliances, cooperation, or conflict within international organizations. One of the central assumptions of constructivism in the context of international organizations is the idea that state identities and interests are not fixed, but are continuously constructed and reconstructed through social interactions.

This perspective is significant for understanding state behavior within international institutions; it suggests that actors are not bound by predetermined interests but are capable of adapting and changing according to the prevailing norms and beliefs in the international system. For example, a state's decision to participate in a peacekeeping mission or to engage in environmental cooperation within an international organization may be influenced by its self-perception as a responsible global actor. Additionally, constructivist theory highlights the role of socialization and persuasion in shaping state behavior within international organizations. Through socialization processes, states may internalize the norms and values of the international system, leading to changes in their behavior and preferences. On the other hand, persuasion involves the use of political discourse and argumentation to influence the beliefs and actions of other states. By understanding how socialization and persuasion operate within international organizations, policymakers and analysts can better anticipate and influence state behavior, thereby enhancing cooperation and resolving conflicts on the international stage.

2- Climate Change

This study focuses on political theories rooted in the concept of climate change, recognizing that many theoretical approaches emerge from different perspectives. The most prominent among these are: Climate Governance Theory, Climate Justice Theory, and Climate Diplomacy Theory. As for Climate Governance Theory, it is regarded according to some studies⁽⁷⁾ as an important framework aimed at understanding and analyzing the complex interactions and relationships among various actors involved in shaping climate policies and regulations. Meanwhile, Climate Justice Theory represents a

comprehensive framework that seeks to address the intersection between climate change and social, economic, and environmental justice. Theorists in this field emphasize that the effects of climate change are not distributed equally across society; marginalized communities and developing countries often bear a disproportionate burden. In light of this, climate justice advocates for policies and measures that not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also ensure the protection and support of the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, the theory of climate justice underscores the need for a just transition towards a more sustainable and equitable society. This entails shifting away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources in a way that does not harm workers or communities dependent on the fossil fuel industry. It therefore calls for recognition of both past and present environmental injustices, compensation for affected communities, and the active involvement of frontline communities in decision-making processes⁽⁸⁾.

Regarding Climate Diplomacy Theory, it aims to understand how international negotiations and agreements can address the global challenge of climate change. At its core, the theory stresses the importance of interstate cooperation to mitigate climate change and transition toward a more sustainable future. One of the central elements of climate diplomacy theory is the recognition that climate change is a transboundary issue requiring collective global action. This means that countries must work together to establish ambitious emission reduction targets, share technology and resources, and support vulnerable communities most affected by climate change.

Another key aspect of climate diplomacy theory is the concept of differentiated responsibilities, which acknowledges that developed countries have historically contributed more to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore bear a greater responsibility for taking action. This principle is enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and forms the foundation of international climate negotiations. By understanding and applying the theory of climate diplomacy, policymakers and diplomats can work to build consensus and reach fair, effective, and sustainable agreements to address the complex challenges of climate change⁽⁹⁾.



3- Human Security

Several theories are linked to the concept of human security, most notably: Comprehensive Security, Human Development, Environmental Security, and Governance. The Comprehensive Security theory is a broad approach that focuses on protecting individuals and ensuring their well being not just the state. Theorists in this field emphasize the importance of addressing not only traditional security threats such as military aggression and terrorism, but also non traditional threats like poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and human rights violations. By adopting a people centered approach to security, policymakers can better understand the root causes of insecurity and develop more effective strategies to address them.

A key principle of comprehensive security based on human security is the idea that security must be inclusive and accessible to all individuals, regardless of their socio economic status or background. This includes considering the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees, and marginalized communities in security planning and decision making. By prioritizing human security, policymakers can foster a safer and more stable world for all. Thus, comprehensive security theory provides a more accurate and holistic understanding of 21st. century security challenges and offers a framework for developing more sustainable and inclusive security policies⁽¹⁰⁾.

As for Human Development Theory, it explores the intersection between individual development and collective well being. This theory posits that in order for individuals to realize their full potential, they must have access to basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. By ensuring these essentials are in place, societies can create conditions that support individual growth and prosperity. Additionally, the theory emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights and promoting social justice to shield individuals from harm and empower them to live fulfilling lives. It highlights that factors such as poverty, discrimination, and violence can hinder individual growth and human security. By addressing these systemic barriers and promoting equality and inclusion, societies can create environments that support the well being of all people. The theory also stresses the

need to empower individuals to have control over their lives and participate meaningfully in decision making processes that affect them. Overall, human development theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and enhancing individual well being within the broader context of society⁽¹¹⁾.

The Environmental Security Theory, which is particularly relevant to the focus of this study, directly tests the theory's validity. Based on the concept of human security, this theory emphasizes the interconnection between environmental sustainability and human well being. It assumes that environmental degradation poses a direct threat to human security, potentially leading to resource scarcity, conflict, displacement, and the erosion of individuals' and communities' ability to thrive. By prioritizing environmental protection and sustainability, we can effectively safeguard human security and promote peace and stability.

To effectively apply environmental security theory, a holistic approach is essential one that considers the interplay between social, economic, and environmental factors. This approach requires collaboration between governments, civil society, and international organizations to tackle environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution. By prioritizing environmental protection and integrating it into policies and strategies, environmental security theorists argue that the well being and security of current and future generations can be ensured. The theory highlights the strong link between environmental sustainability and human security and calls for collective action to confront these pressing challenges⁽¹²⁾.

Finally, the Governance Theory related to human security underscores the importance of protecting individuals from various threats, including poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation. This theory critiques traditional national security concepts, which often overlook the well-being of ordinary citizens, leading to widespread insecurity and instability. By placing human security at the heart of governance, policymakers can address the root causes of insecurity and create more equitable and sustainable societies. The concept of governance based on human security aligns with contemporary challenges

such as climate change, economic inequality, and political unrest. Addressing these complex issues requires a comprehensive approach that considers the needs and vulnerabilities of all individuals, especially the marginalized and disadvantaged. By promoting human security as a guiding principle in governance, policymakers can encourage inclusive and participatory decision making processes that empower communities to build resilience and enhance overall well being. Thus, focusing on human security in governance not only promotes peace and stability, but also contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals and the protection of human rights⁽¹³⁾.

Second – Approaches to Addressing Climate Change Between Initiatives and International Agreements

International initiatives and agreements play a crucial role in coordinating global efforts to combat climate change. These are primarily represented in the following:

1- International Agreements and Treaties

As the issue of climate change continues to intensify, international agreements and treaties have become vital tools in addressing this global challenge. Among the most important of these agreements is the Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015. This agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to restrict the increase to 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement represents a significant milestone in international cooperation, as it outlines the commitments of nearly 200 countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward a low carbon economy⁽¹⁴⁾.

In addition to the **Paris Agreement**, other international agreements and treaties have played a role in addressing climate change. A key example is the **UNFCCC itself**, a treaty adopted in 1992 with the goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The UNFCCC sets out general goals for addressing climate change and provides a framework for negotiating specific treaties and agreements aimed at reducing

greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change.

The UNFCCC recognizes that all countries share responsibility in tackling climate change, but it also acknowledges that developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and providing financial and technological support to developing nations. One of the key achievements of the UNFCCC is **the Kyoto Protocol**, adopted in 1997, which established legally binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions⁽¹⁵⁾. The protocol marked a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change, though it also highlighted the challenges in reaching broad international consensus on climate action. Since then, the UNFCCC has continued to play a central role in facilitating negotiations between states, ultimately leading to agreements such as the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Through these agreements, countries have committed to reducing their emissions, improving transparency and accountability in reporting progress, and providing support to communities and nations most affected by climate change. The UNFCCC remains a vital platform for international cooperation on climate change, and its ongoing efforts are essential for building a sustainable and resilient future for all. Other agreements, such as **the Montreal Protocol**, have focused on specific environmental issues like ozone layer depletion, which also have implications for climate change.

Despite the progress achieved through international agreements and treaties, their effectiveness largely depends on the commitment and cooperation of all involved countries. Challenges such as the lack of enforcement mechanisms, conflicting national interests, and economic barriers can hinder the implementation of climate policies. Moving forward, it will be essential for countries to strengthen their commitments, raise their ambitions in reducing emissions, and work collaboratively toward a sustainable and resilient future. While international agreements provide a framework for cooperation, the responsibility ultimately lies with each country to take swift and decisive action to address the escalating threat of climate change⁽¹⁶⁾.



2- International Organizations and Bodies

In response to the challenge of climate change, numerous international organizations and bodies have been established to address various dimensions of the issue. These organizations play a significant role in conducting research, developing policies, and implementing solutions for both mitigating the impacts of climate change and adapting to them.

Among the most prominent international organizations related to climate change is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 1992, the UNFCCC has since played a central role in bringing countries together to negotiate agreements and set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One of its key mechanisms is the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), a major event where member states convene to review progress and discuss ways to enhance international cooperation on climate change⁽¹⁷⁾.

Another critical body is the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, an international organization that plays a vital role in assessing the science of climate change. The IPCC conducts comprehensive reviews of the latest scientific research on climate change and provides policymakers with a scientific basis for decision making. Its reports have been instrumental in shaping global climate policy and highlighting the urgent need for action to mitigate the effects of climate change. In addition to these organizations, there are many other international bodies and initiatives working to combat climate change, such as the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. These organizations provide funding, support capacity building efforts, and facilitate cooperation between countries to address climate change more effectively⁽¹⁸⁾.

3- Climate Finance Mechanisms for Addressing Climate Change

There are several climate finance mechanisms currently available on the international stage to address climate change. These include, but are not limited to, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), and carbon markets. The Green Climate Fund is a key

financial mechanism established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Its main objective is to mobilize funding from both public and private sources to invest in low emission and climate resilient development projects in these countries. Through financial support for initiatives such as renewable energy projects and climate adaptation measures, the GCF helps countries move toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

The GCF plays a crucial role in addressing the global challenge of climate change by providing much needed financial resources to developing countries, particularly those that are most vulnerable to climate impacts. Beyond supporting emissions reductions and climate adaptation, the Fund also promotes sustainable development and helps alleviate poverty. By leveraging both public and private capital, the GCF can maximize its impact and support a broad portfolio of projects that contribute to a low carbon, climate-resilient economy. Given that climate change remains a major threat to both the environment and human well being, the GCF represents a key financial mechanism for assisting countries in tackling this urgent issue and building a more sustainable future for all⁽¹⁹⁾.

Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are another major climate finance tool created to assist developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These funds provide financing for projects that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience. The CIFs consist of several funding windows, including the Clean Technology Fund, the Strategic Climate Fund, and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, each targeting specific areas of climate action. These funds play a significant role in mobilizing additional resources and supporting countries in transitioning toward low carbon and climate resilient development pathways.

CIFs utilize a mix of concessional finance and market based funding to support a wide range of climate-related projects, including renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, sustainable land management, and climate adaptation. In addition to financial support, the funds also

provide technical assistance to help developing countries design and implement effective climate policies and actions. As climate change continues to pose major challenges to global sustainability, the role of financial instruments like CIFs is expected to become increasingly important in driving climate action and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement⁽²⁰⁾.

It is important to note that these financial tools are not the only ones available for addressing climate change. Other significant mechanisms include technology transfer and cooperation: such as through the Clean Technology Fund, which facilitates the dissemination of clean technologies in developing countries, and broader efforts to develop and transfer climate related technologies between nations. Capacity building and training: including climate change education and training initiatives to help countries build the skills and knowledge necessary to respond to climate challenges, and the exchange of climate information and best practices. Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems: which require countries to submit regular reports on their climate policies and actions, including frameworks for transparency, emissions reporting, and climate finance tracking and review. Climate justice mechanisms: which aim to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable countries and ensure that financial resources are equitably distributed between developed and developing nations⁽²¹⁾.

Third - The African Union and Climate Change: Historical Framework, Mechanisms, and Policies

The African Union (AU) has actively engaged in addressing the issue of climate change for several decades. One of the earliest and most significant steps it took was the adoption of **the Algiers Declaration in 2000**, which recognized the threat posed by climate change to the African continent and called for concerted efforts to mitigate its effects. Later, in 2002, the AU established the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which has played a key role in coordinating African countries' climate efforts through policy development and capacity building initiatives⁽²²⁾.

In recent years, the AU has continued to prioritize climate change on its agenda,

acknowledging it as a critical issue requiring urgent action. In 2015, the AU ratified the Paris Agreement, a global treaty aiming to limit global warming to well below 2°C. Since then, the AU has actively promoted the implementation of the Agreement and has advocated for sustainable development practices across the continent. Given Africa's particular vulnerability to climate change due to its reliance on agriculture and limited adaptive capacity the AU's efforts in this area are essential to strengthening the continent's resilience⁽²³⁾.

The study highlights below some of the mechanisms, policies, and strategies that reflect the African Union's multifaceted approach to addressing climate change. At the forefront of these mechanisms is **the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032)**, which represents a significant step forward in tackling the pressing challenges of climate change across the continent. This plan outlines a comprehensive strategy for mitigating the impacts of climate change, which disproportionately affect African nations due to their vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity. By focusing on adaptation, mitigation, and resilience building, the plan aims to protect natural resources, ecosystems, and livelihoods in Africa from the adverse effects of climate change.

One of the main components of the African Union Climate Change Action Plan is the promotion of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward a low-carbon economy. Another important aspect of the plan is its commitment to strengthening the capacity of African countries to cope with the impacts of climate change. This includes the development of early warning systems, climate smart agricultural practices, and disaster risk reduction measures. Overall, the plan emphasizes the urgent need for collective action and cooperation among African nations to address the complex challenges posed by climate change and to build a sustainable future for the continent⁽²⁴⁾.

The second mechanism can be summarized as the African Climate Fund, which is a vital resource that addresses the urgent need for climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in Africa.



Given that the African continent is disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events and water scarcity the African Climate Fund plays a critical role in supporting countries to build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By providing financial assistance and technical expertise, the fund enables African nations to implement sustainable development projects and transition toward a low carbon economy.

Undoubtedly, this initiative is essential for ensuring the long term prosperity and well being of the continent's population in the face of escalating climate challenges⁽²⁵⁾.

The African Group of Climate Negotiators (AGCN) represents the third mechanism. It consists of representatives from various African countries who convene to negotiate on behalf of the continent in international climate related agreements. As a group, they are responsible for highlighting the unique challenges Africa faces in relation to climate change, such as extreme weather events, drought, and rising sea levels. These negotiators advocate for policies and measures that provide support and resources to help African countries adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. They also push for more ambitious emission reduction targets from developed countries to ensure that global efforts to combat climate change are both fair and effective. The African Group plays a crucial role in shaping international climate policies and agreements, ensuring that the voices and concerns of African nations are heard and addressed in the global climate dialogue⁽²⁶⁾.

As for the policies, they are summarized in three main points:

- A- Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC): Established in 2009, CAHOSCC is a high-level body that provides political leadership and direction on climate action, ensuring that climate change remains a top priority on the AU agenda.
- B- African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN): AMCEN continues to coordinate environmental policies and strengthen inter-African

cooperation, identifying climate change as a core environmental concern.

- C- National Climate Plans (NDCs): Many African countries have developed national climate plans aligned with the AU's overall strategy, outlining their specific goals and actions for addressing climate change at the national level⁽²⁷⁾.

Fourth – Study Findings and Proposed Policies

One of the most important proposals presented by the study is the Egyptian initiative to play a significant role in activating international cooperation in managing climate change and its impacts through the African Union. This role was generally demonstrated by Egypt's hosting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). Egypt also assumes an important role within the African Union when it comes to addressing climate change issues to ensure human security in Africa. Egypt has clearly participated in advocating for policies and initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring the safety and well being of the continent's population. Based on its membership in the African Union, Egypt has actively participated in the organization's initiatives to confront climate change; it has been a vocal advocate for climate action in various African Union summits and meetings, and has also highlighted the importance of addressing this issue to ensure the continent's sustainable development. Moreover, Egypt has actively promoted renewable energy and other sustainable practices in the region, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting green growth⁽²⁸⁾.

In terms of human security, Egypt has played a leading role in promoting initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations in Africa. It has participated in various initiatives to improve access to clean water, food security, and healthcare services for communities affected by climate change. Egypt has also contributed to promoting efforts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding within the African Union to ensure the safety and well-being of the population. One of Egypt's main contributions to the African Union's efforts to address climate change and human security

is its leadership in developing the Renewable Energy Initiative in Africa. This initiative aims to increase access to clean and sustainable energy sources in Africa, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, enhance economic development, and create job opportunities. In addition to promoting this initiative within the African Union, Egypt has allocated significant resources to support its implementation across the African continent⁽²⁹⁾.

In addition to Egypt's efforts to address climate change and ensure human security within the African Union framework, Egypt has contributed to enhancing regional cooperation on these issues. It has played a key role in facilitating dialogue and cooperation among African countries to confront the shared challenges related to climate change and human security. Egypt has also supported initiatives for knowledge exchange and capacity building to help African countries strengthen their resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Egypt's commitment to advancing renewable energy, improving access to clean water and healthcare, and enhancing efforts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding is essential for building resilience and ensuring the safety of Africa's population. Egypt's leadership in developing the Renewable Energy Initiative in Africa and promoting regional cooperation on these vital issues reflects its dedication to addressing the challenges facing the continent. Going forward and according to many specialized studies on this matter Egypt should continue to play a leading role in advocating for policies and initiatives that promote sustainable development and enhance adaptability to climate change within the African Union. It should also continue to support renewable energy initiatives, strengthen efforts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and facilitate regional cooperation to address the impact of climate change on Africa's population⁽³⁰⁾.

Egypt's role within the African Union is effective in enhancing the continent's response to climate change by championing sustainable development and promoting regional cooperation. As the study has shown, Egypt has significantly contributed to enhancing human security in the face of the challenges posed by climate change. Under Egypt's leadership, the African Union's Climate Change Committee has played a pivotal

role in formulating policies and strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation. However, the challenges posed by climate change are global by nature, and addressing them effectively requires coordinated international efforts. Therefore, the African Union's Climate Change Committee should strengthen its collaboration with similar bodies in other international organizations.

To enhance the effectiveness of the African Union's climate response and boost Africa's capacity to adapt to climate change while activating international cooperation, the study concludes with several recommendations. Chief among them is that the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) under the African Union should establish an official partnership with equivalent committees in other international organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the European Union. These partnerships should focus on:

1- Political Level:

- A- Establishing a dedicated regional committee to coordinate climate change policies, exchange best practices, and facilitate international cooperation.
- B- Strengthening diplomatic efforts to advocate for ambitious global climate action, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- C- Promoting the principles of climate justice to ensure that developed countries bear a larger share of the burden in addressing climate change and supporting vulnerable countries.

2- Economic Level:

- A- Creating a Green Investment Fund dedicated to promoting sustainable investments in renewable energy, climate smart agriculture, and climate resilient infrastructure.
- B- Encouraging trade policies that prioritize sustainable practices, reduce carbon emissions, and support climate-resilient industries.
- C- Alleviating or restructuring debt burdens for African countries severely affected



by climate change to reallocate resources toward adaptation and mitigation measures.

- D- Mobilizing resources and advocating for increased financial and technical assistance to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in Africa.

3- Legal and Institutional Level:

- A- Strengthening international law and governance frameworks to provide a clear legal basis for climate action and ensure accountability.
- B- Establishing regional cooperation mechanisms that facilitate coordinated action on climate change, especially in areas facing shared challenges.
- C- Investing in capacity building for governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to enhance their ability to implement climate policies and initiatives.

4- Social Level (Health and Cultural Dimensions):

A- Health Dimension:

- Developing climate-resilient health systems to address health impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and infectious diseases.
- Promoting public health education to raise awareness of climate related health risks and empower individuals to take preventive measures.
- Establishing social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations from the economic and social impacts of climate change.

B- Cultural Dimension:

- Encouraging the recognition of Indigenous knowledge and practices in Africa and adopting solutions from diverse perspectives for climate adaptation, particularly in agriculture and resource management.
- Promoting cultural exchange and diplomacy to build trust and understanding between countries, facilitating cooperation on climate-related issues.

- Engaging youth in climate action through education, training, and leadership opportunities to ensure a sustainable future and foster ownership of climate solutions.

5- Scientific and Awareness Level:

- A- Joint research and policy development: Collaborating on joint research projects, exchanging best practices, and formulating coordinated policies and strategies to address climate change.
- B- Capacity building: Providing training and support in capacity building for African countries to strengthen their ability to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

6- Technological Level:

- A- Transferring and developing technology in Africa to help African countries access and adapt climate-friendly technologies, thereby reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.
- B- Establishing innovation centers and partnerships to promote research, development, and deployment of climate-related technologies.
- C- Investing in digital infrastructure to improve access to information, enhance climate monitoring, and facilitate climate resilient development.

7- Environmental Level:

- A- Developing comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategies at both regional and national levels, focusing on areas such as agriculture, water resources, and coastal ecosystems.
- B- Promoting the development of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.
- C- Implementing policies to protect and restore forests, which play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

Conclusion:

There is no doubt that activating international cooperation cannot be achieved without first strengthening South–South cooperation among African countries. This includes exchanging knowledge, technologies, and resources related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as enhancing partnerships with developed nations to mobilize financial resources, facilitate technology transfer, and build capacities for climate action in Africa. The study also emphasizes the importance of advocating for the establishment of effective climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund to ensure adequate and predictable funding for climate related projects.

Accordingly, the study concludes that international cooperation has become more urgent than ever in the fight against climate change especially for Africa, a continent disproportionately affected by its impacts. To effectively protect human security, the African Union, under Egypt's leadership, must prioritize enhancing South South cooperation, establishing strong partnerships with developed countries, and investing in capacity-building to empower African states to implement climate policies and projects effectively. This also involves optimizing the role of the Green Climate Fund and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize additional resources for climate action.

By implementing these strategies, the African Union guided by Egyptian leadership and initiative can play a pivotal role in advancing international cooperation and climate action across the continent. This will not only safeguard human security but also contribute to sustainable development and a more just and equitable global future.

References:

- (1) Jürgen Scheffran and Elise Remling, The Social Dimensions of Human Security under a Changing Climate, (in) Michael R Redclift and Marco Grasso (eds.) Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security, First Edition, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2013, USA, p. 137.
- (2) David Andersen-Rodgers and Kerry F. Crawford, Human security: Theory and action, 2022, Rowman& Littlefield, UK, p. 235.
- (3) Kentaro Tamura, Climate Change, International Cooperation and Credibility Problems, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, 2005, Japan, pp. 5- 6.
- (4) Yilin Wang and Bin Zhou, Exploring the Impact of International Cooperation on Climate Change, Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, volume 670, Atlantis Press, Netherlands, p. 1409.
- (5) Alexander Wendt, Social Theory of International Politics, Cambridge University Press, 1st Edition, 1999, UK, p. 225.
- (6) Kseniya Oksamytna, Advocacy and Change in International Organizations: Communication, Protection, and Reconstruction in UN Peacekeeping, Oxford University Press, 2023, UK, p. 25.
- (7) David Victor, Michael Oppenheimer, and Cameron Hepburn, Governing Climate Change: A Global Perspective, Cambridge University Press, 2010, UK.
- (8) Marco Grasso, Climate Justice from Theory to Practice: The Responsibility and Duties of the Oil Industry, (in) Fausto Corvino and Tiziana Andina (eds.), Global Climate Justice: Theory and Practice, E-International Relations, 2023, England, p. 232.



- (9) Radoslav S. Dimitrov, Climate Diplomacy, (in) Karin Bäckstrand and Eva Lövbrand (eds.), Research Handbook on Climate Governance, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015, UK, p. 104.
- (10) Dritero Arifi, The concept of “Comprehensive security” as a draft for reconstructing security in a system of international relations, ILIRIA International Review, 2016, Kosovo, p. 28.
- (11) Richard M. Lerner et al., Concepts and Theories in Human Development, (in) Marc H. Bornstein and Michael E. Lamb, Psychology Press, 7th Edition, 2015, New York, p. 12.
- (12) Eileen Petzold-Bradely et al., Theoretical Linkages and Policy Approaches to the Environment and Security Debate: Providing an Overview, (in) Eileen Petzold-Bradely et al. (eds.), Responding to Environmental Conflicts: Implications for Theory and Practice, Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht, 2001, Hungary, p. 2.
- (13) Vasudha Chhotray and Gerry Stoker, Governance Theory and Practice: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, UK, p. 105.
- (14) Low-Carbon Green Growth in Asia Policies and Practices, A Joint Study of the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank Institute, 2013, China, p. 61.
- (15) Duncan French, 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Journal of Environmental Law, 1998, Vol. 10, No. 2, 10th Anniversary Issue (1998), Oxford University Press, p. 231.
- (16) Natascha van Bommel and Johanna I. Hoffken, The Urgency of Climate Action and the Aim for Justice in Energy Transitions – Dynamics and Complexity, Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, (48), 2023, p. 5.
- (١٧) المركز المصري للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية، اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغير المناخ.. عشرون عاماً من محاولات إنقاذ الكوكب «بروفایل»، الاثنين ١٥ أغسطس ٢٠٢٢.
- <https://ecesr.org/%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86-%D8%AA/> (September 22, 2024)
- (18) Daniel Bodansky, Jutta Brunnée and Lavanya Rajamani, International Climate Change Law, OUP Oxford, 2nd Edition, 2017, UK, p. 20.
- (19) Lian-biao CUI et al., Design and Analysis of the Green Climate Fund, Journal of Systems Science and Systems Engineering, 23(3), 2014 p. 268.
- (20) Sven Teske, Achieving the Paris Climate Agreement Goals, Springer International Publishing, 1st Edition, 2019, p. 472.
- (21) David Schlosberg, Defining Environmental Justice: Theories, Movements, and Nature, Oxford University Press, 2nd Edition, UK, p. 90.
- (22) Michael Addaney and Ademola Oluborode Jegede, Human Rights and the Environment Under African Union Law, Springer International Publishing, 1st Edition, 2020, p. 27.
- (23) Jakkie Cilliers, The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities, Springer International Publishing, 2021, p. 376.

References:

- (24) Konstantinos D. Magliveras and Gino J. Naldi, *The African Union (AU)*, Wolters Kluwer, 2024, Netherlands, p. 1990.
- (25) Pak Sum Low, *Climate Change and Africa*, Cambridge University Press, 2nd Edition, 2006, UK, p. 305.
- (26) Linda Siegele and María del Pilar Bueno Rubial, *Negotiating Climate Change Adaptation: The Common Position of the Group of 77 and China*, 1st Edition, Springer International Publishing, 2020, p. 128.
- (27) William Kwadwo Dumenu, Michael Addaney and D B Jarbandhan, *Climate Change in Africa: Adaptation, Resilience, and Policy Innovations*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, UK, p. 44.
- (28) Namira Negm, *An Introduction to the African Union Environmental Treaties*, Springer International Publishing, 2023, p. 125.
- (29) Ross M. Pink and Luthfi Dhofier, *Understanding Human Security and Climate Change*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024, UK, p. 128.
- (30) Oluwatoyin Adejonwo and Olubunmi Afinowi, *Human Rights Approach to Climate Justice in Africa: Experiences from other Jurisprudences*, (in) Ademola Oluborode Jegede and Oluwatoyin Adejonwo (eds.), *Climate change justice and human rights: An African perspective*, Pretoria University Law Press, 2023, South Africa, p. 40.



The Impact of Strengthening International Cooperation to Address Climate Change on Enhancing Human Security A Case Study of the African Union (2002–2024)

■ **Dr. Yasmin Radwan**

*Lecturer of Political Science and Director of the Quality Assurance Unit
Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Future University – Egypt*

Abstract:

This paper examines the intricate relationship between climate change, human security, and international cooperation, focusing on the African Union (AU) as a case study. It explores the devastating effects of climate change on human security in Africa, including food insecurity, water scarcity, and displacement. The paper analyzes key initiatives and agreements aimed at addressing climate change, highlighting the AU's pivotal role in mitigating its negative impacts and promoting adaptation. Additionally, it investigates Egypt's contribution to activating international cooperation in addressing climate change. By examining factors that could enhance human security in Africa, the paper underscores the interconnectedness between sustainable development, human security, and international cooperation. Furthermore, it explores the role of non state actors in managing climate change through international collaboration. Ultimately, the paper concludes by emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts among regional and international organizations, facilitated by the AU, to effectively address climate change and safeguard human security in Africa.

Keywords: Climate Change, Human Security, International Cooperation.

أثر تفعيل التعاون الدولي لمواجهة التغيرات المناخية على تعزيز الأمن الإنساني دراسة حالة للاتحاد الإفريقي (٢٠٠٢–٢٠٢٤م)

■ د. ياسمين رضوان

مدرس العلوم السياسية ومدير وحدة الجودة
كلية الاقتصاد والعلوم السياسية، جامعة المستقبل – مصر

المستخلص:

تبحث هذه الدراسة في العلاقة المعقدة بين تغير المناخ والأمن الإنساني والتعاون الدولي، مع التركيز على الاتحاد الإفريقي كدراسة حالة. وتستكشف الآثار المدمرة لتغير المناخ على الأمن الإنساني في إفريقيا، بما في ذلك انعدام الأمن الغذائي ونُدرة المياه والنزوح. وتحلل الدراسة المبادرات والاتفاقيات الرئيسية التي تهدف إلى التصدي لتغير المناخ، وتسلط الضوء على الدور المحوري للاتحاد الإفريقي في التخفيف من آثاره السلبية وتعزيز التكيف. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تبحث الدراسة مساهمة مصر في تفعيل التعاون الدولي في التصدي لتغير المناخ.

ومن خلال دراسة العوامل التي يمكن أن تعزز الأمن الإنساني في إفريقيا، تؤكد الدراسة الترابط بين التنمية المستدامة والأمن الإنساني والتعاون الدولي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تستعرض الدراسة دور الجهات الفاعلة من غير الدول في إدارة تغير المناخ من خلال التعاون الدولي. وفي النهاية، تحتتم الدراسة بالتشديد على أهمية تنسيق الجهود بين المنظمات الإقليمية والدولية، بتيسير من الاتحاد الإفريقي، للتصدي بفعالية لتغير المناخ وحماية الأمن الإنساني في إفريقيا.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التغير المناخي، الأمن الإنساني، التعاون الدولي.