Comitee: United Nations Environment Programme

Topic: Climate Action

Country: Kuwait

Kuwait has been facing a number of consequences as a result of climate change including desertification, increase in sea levels, increase in temperatures and a loss of biodiversity. Since 1975, Kuwait has experienced 1.5 °C to 2 °C increase in temperature, which is significantly higher than the global average.

Moreover, Kuwait is considered a country with high vulnerability to oil-related measures that may be implemented by developed countries, considering Kuwait’s economic dependence on oil. For instance, climate change can directly affect sea levels, which in turn will have a massive effect on fisheries, aquacultures and coral reefs. In addition, such a change could have an effect on the air quality in the country, where any minor change in the climate could cause a major increase in air pollution, especially due to the geographical location of the country. In turn, these changes, specifically those occurring in the air or on the means of livelihood, will have a major consequence on the quality of life, health and wellbeing of the people of Kuwait, directly and indirectly. It is estimated that intermediate (upward) changes in temperature that are likely to take place over the coming years could cause up to 30 percent increase in rainfall and up to 2.4 °C increase in temperature degrees.

The Invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the 1991 Oil Fires were the essential factors that damaged the environment in Kuwait. However, the environmental issue has been taken as the main factor of the comprehensive development of a country. The government has launched several projects and acceded to a number of conventions that concerned the environmental issue.

The state of Kuwait is one of the first Arab countries to have established fixed stations to measure and monitor air pollution. This started in 1983. The network began to develop and increase until it reached 15 fixed stations in 2019, distributed among all residential, urban, commercial and industrial areas. In addition, the state has 4 mobile laboratories to attend to urgent cases, complaints and to conduct field studies. Moreover, the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), in collaboration with KEPA, has installed and operated 13 stations to monitor the quality of air in areas close to oil fields and some residential areas.

As Kuwait we are looking forward to come up with various solutions with the help of UNEP comitee delegates.