شارك الاتحاد العربي في اجتماع فريق الخبراء حول "كفاءة الموارد في المنطقة العربية: رصد التقدم الحاصل في تحقيق الهدف 12 حول الاستهلاك والانتاج المسؤول، وإعادة البناء بشكل أفضل بعد COVID-19"، الذي عقد عبر تقنية "الفيديو كونفرنس" بمشاركة أصحاب الاختصاص.

وتركزت محاور الاجتماع على الموضوعات الثلاثة التالية: الأطر والمنهجيات الإحصائية لقياس مؤشرات الاستهلاك والإنتاجية، ورصد التقدم المحرز في من أهداف التنمية المستدامة في المنطقة العربية وكذلك مراجعة التقدم في الهدف 12 من أهداف التنمية المستدامة في المنطقة العربية.

وتناول الاجتماع أنماط الاستهلاك والإنتاج غير المستدامة وغير المستدامة والتي تعد سببًا رئيسيًا للتغييرات المناخية وتدمير الأراضي، وفتل الأطراف ونداءات الانتاج المستدام كعوامل رئيسية للتحديات حيث يساهم في حماية البيئة وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة. وتطرّق المجتمعون إلى كيفية إعادة البناء بشكل أفضل في ظل جائحة كوفيد-19 والإجراءات التي قام بها برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة استجابة لمرحلة إعادة البناء خلال هذه الفترة بالإضافة إلى تقييم التقدم خلال مرحلة إعادة البناء في مؤشرات الاستهلاك والانتاج المستدامين في المنطقة العربية.

وقد تأكّد المجتمعون على ضرورة إدراج استهلاك Covid-19 في إطار إصلاحات الاستهلاك والانتاج المستدام وسياسات التحقق من الاستدامة بمعايير الاعتماد الدوليين. كما أشار المجتمعون إلى ضرورة العمل على تطوير النماذج الحديثة في قطاعات مثل التكنولوجيا الإدارية والمسح الإخباري، وتوفير المزيد من الموارد لإعداد البيانات في المجالات المختلفة.

وقد لاقت المجتمعون ضرورة التعاون بين البلدين العربيات في تطوير استراتيجيات الاستهلاك والإنتاج المستدام في إطار إصلاحات المنطقة العربية والدول العربية. كما دعوا المجتمعون إلى ضرورة إنشاء قوائم شفافية ودقيقة في مجالات مثل تحليلات الانتاج وإعادة البناء في المنطقة العربية وتعزيز التعاون بين البلدين العربيات في هذا المجال.

وقد دعا المجتمعون إلى ضرورة التعاون بين البلدين العربيات في تطوير استراتيجيات الاستهلاك والإنتاج المستدام في إطار إصلاحات المنطقة العربية والدول العربية. كما دعوا المجتمعون إلى ضرورة إنشاء قوائم شفافية ودقيقة في مجالات مثل تحليلات الانتاج وإعادة البناء في المنطقة العربية وتعزيز التعاون بين البلدين العربيات في هذا المجال.

The Union of Arab Chambers participated in the meeting on "Resource Efficiency in the Arab Region". The themes of the meeting focused on the following three topics: statistical frameworks and methodologies for measuring consumption and productivity indicators, monitoring progress made in Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region, reviewing national progress and better and green reconstruction and recovery in the context of COVID-19.
The meeting dealt with unsustainable consumption and production patterns, which are a major cause of climate change, land degradation, resource depletion, and air and water pollution, as sustainable consumption and production come as one of the main elements of those challenges, as it contributes to protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. The meeting discussed how to rebuild better in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to highlighting the steps and actions taken by the United Nations Environment Program in response to the rebuilding phase during this period, in addition to assessing progress during the recovery phase in the indicators and targets of sustainable consumption and production in the Arab region, as well as shedding light on success stories in recycling waste.

The meeting called for the necessity of cooperation between statistical offices and ministries of environment in implementing international statistical frameworks at the national or global levels, which could help countries organize data to track sustainable consumption and production and the sustainable development goals. It also highlighted the need to update the current Arab regional strategy for sustainable consumption and production, adopted by the League of Arab States in November 2009, in line with the current status of the Arab region.

The meeting called for the establishment of a national data list in order to ensure transparency and validity of information to improve the conditions for monitoring and evaluation of progress in this field, and to support and encourage international cooperation activities and partnerships between Arab countries and the exchange of experiences in the fields of the circular economy renewal as a whole, including those related to the management of e-waste and medical waste and others, to adopt it and work to implement it on the ground in the future. They also stressed the role of research and development by academic and research institutions to promote sustainable consumption and production in the region.

They also stressed on the need to adopt the integration of sustainable consumption and production in recovery strategies to align the economy with public health, nature, and climate, post Covid-19 crisis by working on digital and circular technology policies, behavioral changes, and strengthening public and grassroots institutions; In addition to an interest in the workplace, and a move to local supply chains and green enterprises. The meeting recommended that the countries of the Arab region should provide financial packages and incentives to invest in social and environmental infrastructure to promote sustainable consumption and production.

Source (Union of Arab Chambers)
The Egyptian Ministry of Finance revealed in the publication of the general budget preparation 2021-2022 that the government aims to reduce the total deficit to 6.5 percent of GDP. Egypt expects to reduce the overall deficit for the 2020-2021 budget to 7.5 percent from 7.9 percent during the previous fiscal year, and an initial surplus of 0.5 percent. The Egyptian government is also targeting an unemployment rate of 6 percent during the fiscal year 2021-2022. Note that the unemployment rate declined to 7.3 percent during the third quarter of 2020, compared to 7.8 percent a year ago.

The government is targeting an average interest rate on government bills at 13 percent in the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget from the 13.5 percent expected in 2020-2021. The government expects government debt to rise to 88 percent of GDP in the fiscal year 2021-2022, from the expected 83 percent in the current fiscal year.

The government is also targeting an inflation rate of 9% in 2021-2020, with an increase or decrease of 3%, compared with the expected 5.7% in the current fiscal year 2020-2021. Urban consumer price inflation rose to 4.5 percent year-on-year in October from 3.7 percent in September.

The Ministry of Finance did not publish the real growth rate of the economy expected in 2021-2022, indicating that the preparation is underway by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, while Egypt expects an economic growth rate of 3.3% in the current fiscal year.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net, Edited)
The monthly report of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance showed that Kuwait's budget recorded a deficit of 1.089 billion dinars (3.57 billion dollars) during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2020-2021, due to the effects of the Coronavirus and the decline in oil prices, the main source of more than 90 percent of government revenues. While the budget recorded a surplus of 1.322 billion dinars (4.33 billion dollars) in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

The recorded deficit comes despite the fact that the Al-Ajyal Reserve Fund's share, estimated at 10 percent, was not deducted from government revenues, compared to 490 million dinars ($1.6 billion) in the first quarter of 2019-2020.

Revenues decreased by 72 percent on an annual basis during the three-month period at the end of last June to 1.37 billion dinars (4.49 billion dollars), compared to 4.9 billion dinars (16 billion dollars) in the comparative period last year. The data showed a decrease in oil revenues by 71 percent to 1.32 billion dinars (4.32 billion dollars), from 4.56 billion dinars (14.94 billion dollars) during the same period of the previous year.

In terms of expenditures, it decreased by 20.7 percent to 2.45 billion dinars (8.03 billion dollars), compared to 3.1 billion dinars (10.16 billion dollars) during the comparison period.

Source (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Newspaper, Edited)