

Public Participation in the UNFCCC Regime

Promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention
& Escazú Agreement in international forums

Today's presentation



**RIO PRINCIPLE 10
& REGIONAL
AGREEMENTS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
FORUMS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
@CLIMATE
NEGOTIATIONS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
@COP27 &
@COP28**

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

- “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.”
- Sets out three fundamental rights as key pillars of sound environmental governance:
 - Appropriate access to information (1)
 - Public participation (2)
 - Access to justice (3)



Source: *Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2017), Principle 10 and the SDGs, <https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en/infographics/principle-10-and-sdgs> (last access: 5.10.2022).

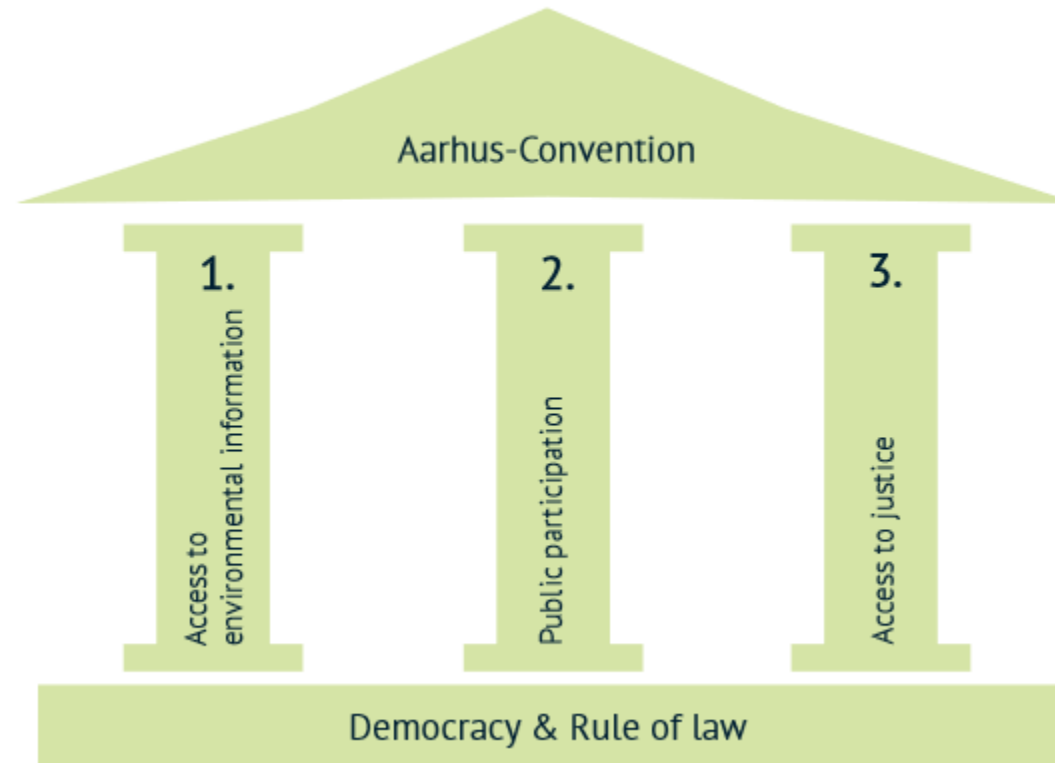




Aarhus Convention

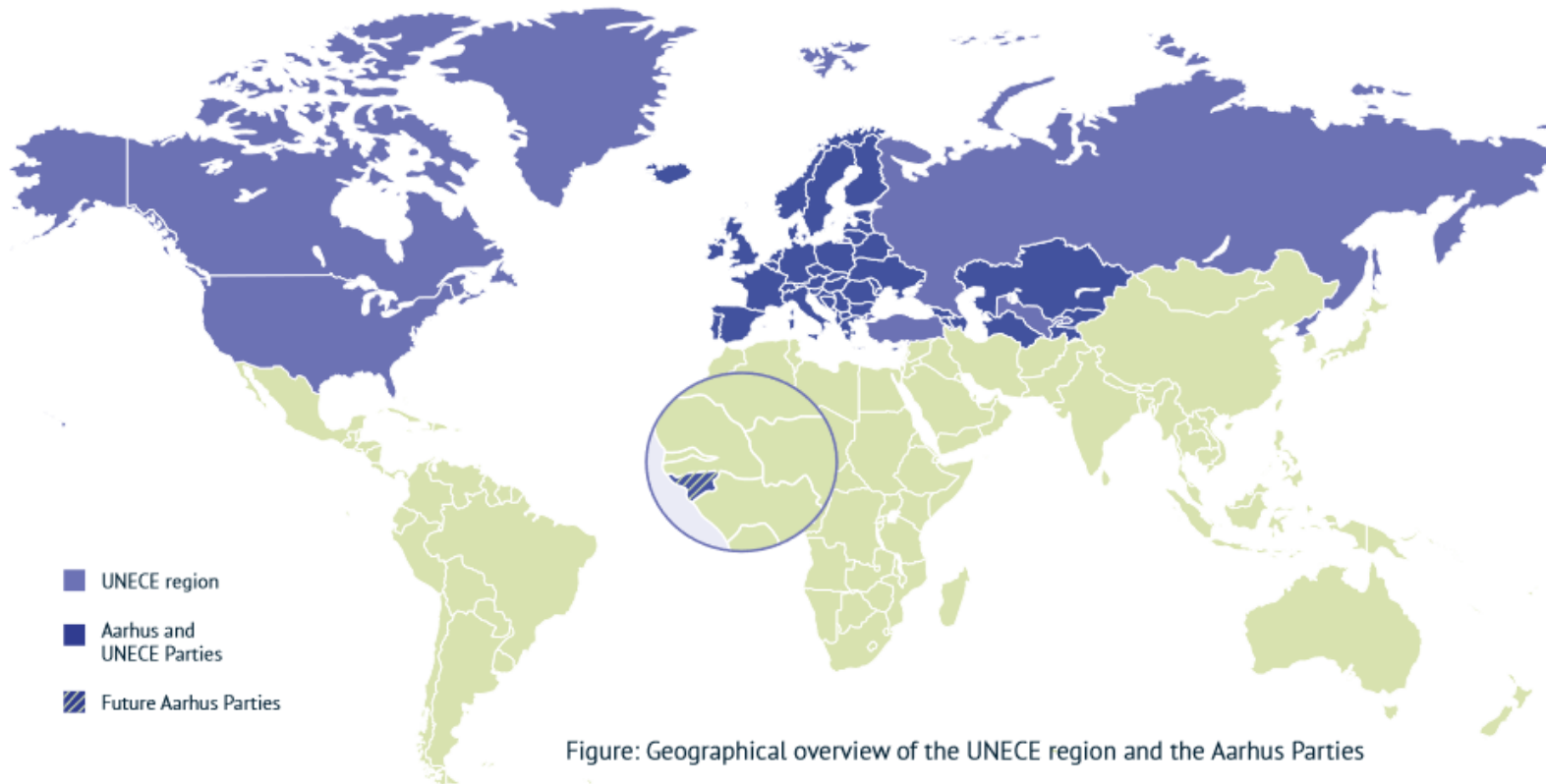
**UNECE Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making &
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**

Aarhus Convention (1998)



Source: *Pauleweit, Donges* (2022), The European Union and the Aarhus Convention, https://www.aarhus-konvention.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UFU_Aarhus_Broschuere_1_Informieren_EN.pdf (last access: 5.10.2022), p. 13.

Aarhus Parties



- Signatories : 39
- Parties : 47
- G20 Parties:
- France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, European Union
- (NOT Canada, Russia, Turkey, USA)

Source: Pauleweit, Donges (2022), The European Union and the Aarhus Convention, https://www.aarhus-konvention.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UFU_Aarhus_Broschuere_1_Informieren_EN.pdf (last access: 5.10.2022), p. 17.



Escazú Agreement

**Regional Agreement on Access to Information,
Public Participation and Justice in Environmental
Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Escazú Agreement (2018) & Parties



- Signatories: 24
- Parties: 15
- G20 Parties:
- Argentina, Mexico
- (NOT Brazil)



Source: *Wikipedia* (2023), Escazú Agreement, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Escaz%C3%BA_Agreement (last access: 30.6.2023).

Provisions & Obligations under ECE & ECLAC Regional Conventions on Public Participation in International Forums (PPIF)

Article 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS

7. Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment.



Article 4

General provisions

10. The Parties may promote knowledge of the provisions of the present Agreement in other international forums related to environmental matters, in accordance with the rules of each forum.

Article 7

Public participation in the environmental decision-making process

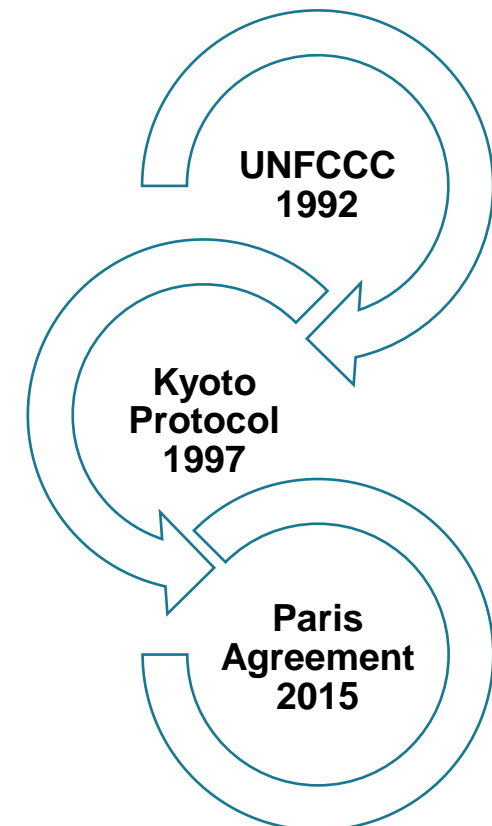
12. Each Party shall promote, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, public participation in international forums and negotiations on environmental matters or with an environmental impact, in accordance with the procedural rules on participation of each forum. The participation of the public at the national level on matters of international environmental forums shall also be promoted, where appropriate.



Public participation @climate negotiations

Public Participation in International Forums (PPIF): The UN Climate Change Regime

- In total, **62 Parties to the UNFCCC** have ratified a regional instrument promoting PPIF
- Effective implementation of these commitments to promote public participation
- No citizen participation, but **stakeholder participation**



Source: own graph.

Home	COP 27	Process and meetings	Topics	Calendar
Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) <i>Sra. Cíntya Chaves</i>	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	Constituency - Environmental	5
Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) <i>Mr. Angelo Kairos Dela Cruz</i>	Quezon	Philippines	Constituency - Research and independent	+
Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility - Law, Economics and Policy e.V. (IKEM) <i>Ms. Kathryn Margaret McKenzie</i>	Berlin	Germany	Constituency - Research and independent	+

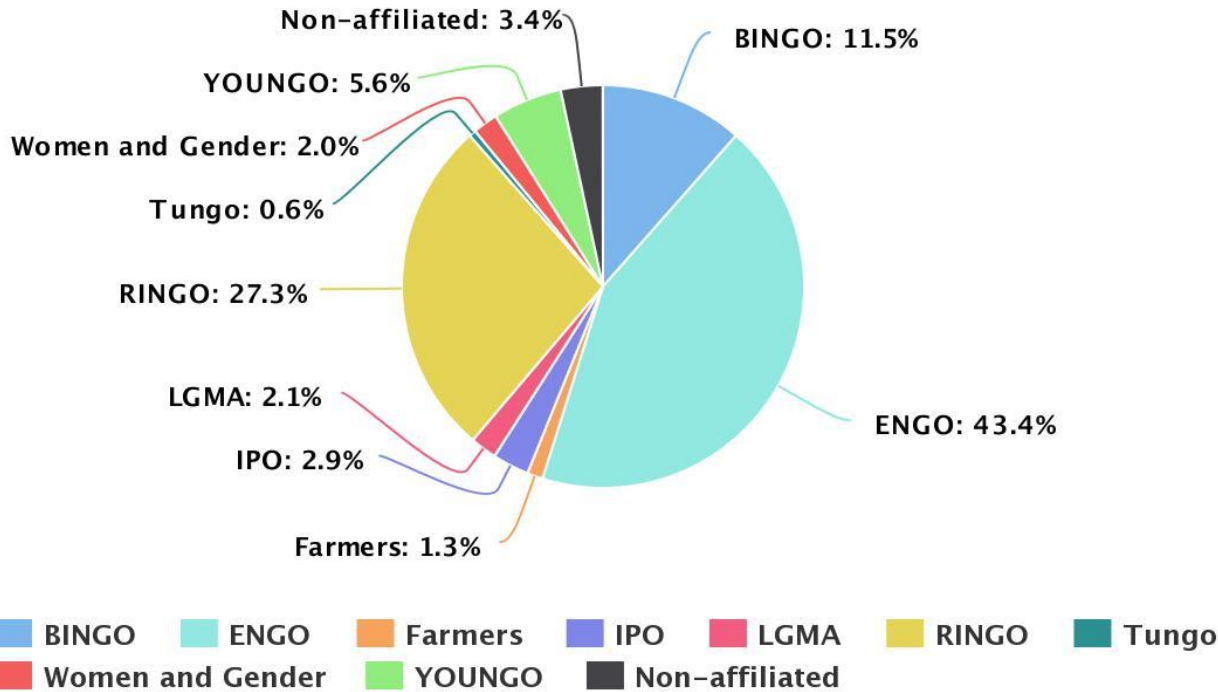
Source: *UNFCCC Secretariat* (2022), Excerpt Admitted NGOs, <https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/admitted-ngos/list-of-admitted-ngos> (last access: 10.10.2022).

PPIF: The UN Climate Change Regime

- 9 constituencies:

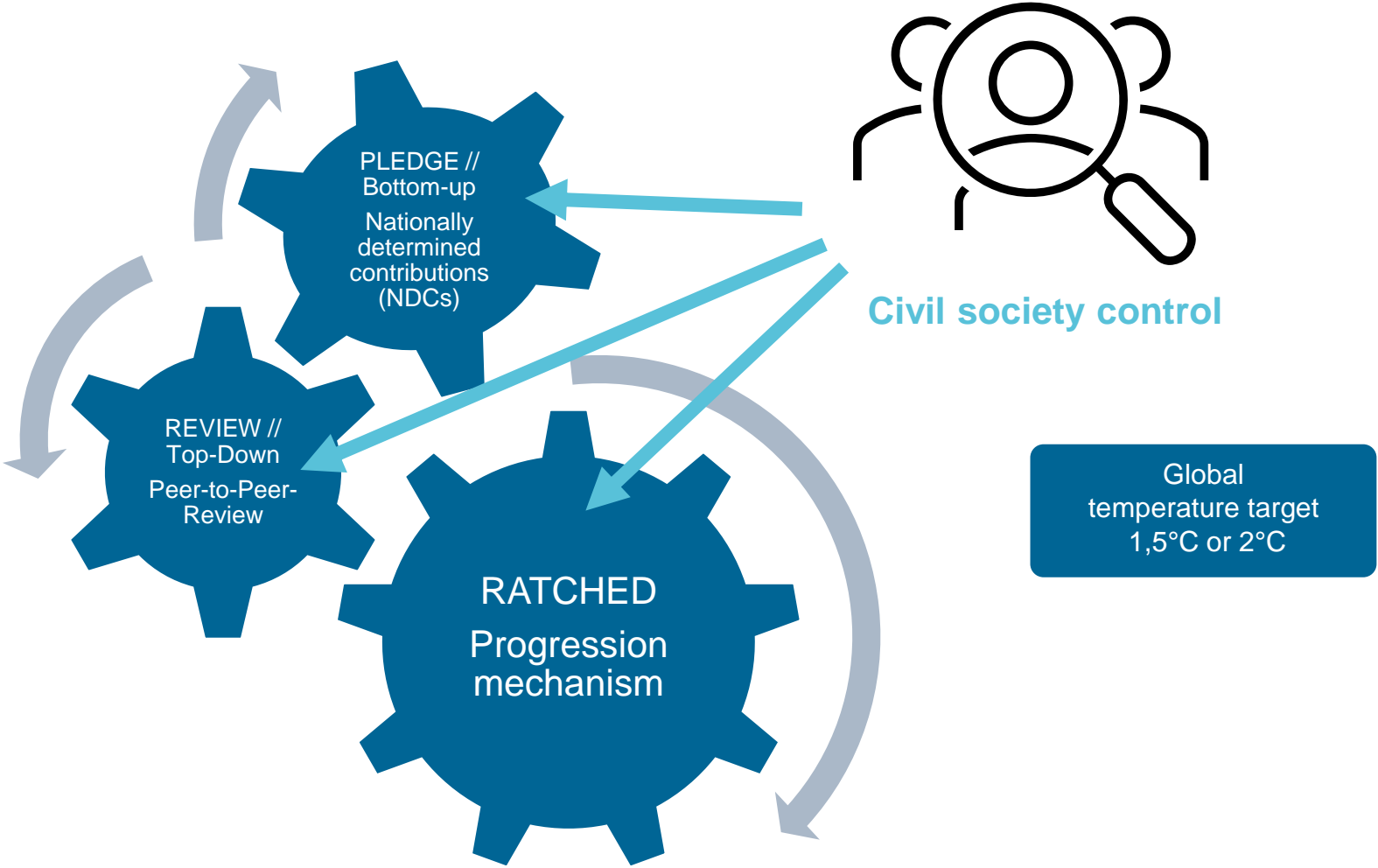
	Environmental NGOs (ENGO)
Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO)	Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)
Farmers	Youth NGOs (YOUNGO)
Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)	Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)
Trade union NGOs (TUNGO)	Women and Gender

COP 26/ CMP 16/ CMA 3 breakdown of attendance of NGO representatives by constituency



Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022), Statistics on participation and in-session engagement, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/statistics> (last access: 7.10.2022).

PPIF: The UN Climate Change Regime



Public Participation

@



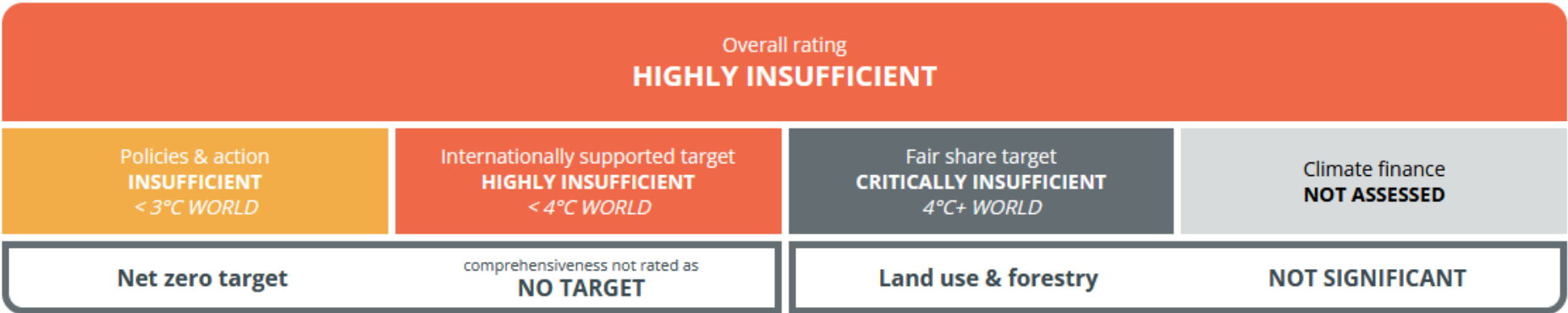
Climate Action Tracker



Egypt

CHOOSE UPDATE TO VIEW 8 Aug 2022 ▾

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Country summary

- SUMMARY**
- TARGETS
- POLICIES & ACTION
- NET ZERO TARGETS
- GOVERNANCE
- ASSUMPTIONS
- SOURCES

Source: *Climate Action Tracker* (2023), Country summary: Egypt, <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/egypt/> (last access: 30.6.2023).

Civic Space in the Arab Republic of Egypt

- 2013 Egyptian coup d'état
- Democracy Index (2022) by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):
 - **Authoritarian Regime**
 - Ranking 131 of 167
- Civicus Monitor tracking civic space (16.06.2022): **CLOSED**



The screenshot shows the Amnesty International website header with the logo and navigation links: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, COUNTRIES. Below the header is a 'RESEARCH' button. The main title of the briefing is 'Egypt: "Disconnected from reality": Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy covers up human rights crisis'. The date is September 21, 2022, and the index number is MDE 12/6014/2022. The category is 'EGYPT CENSORSHIP AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION'. The text states that Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) was launched one year ago by the Egyptian authorities to conceal their abysmal human rights record and deflect criticism. Amnesty International's analysis reveals that the NHRS paints a deeply misleading picture of the human rights situation. The international community must not be deceived and pressure the Egyptian authorities to take meaningful steps to end the cycle of abuse and impunity. The source is cited as Amnesty International (2022), Research Briefing, September 21, 2022, Index Number: MDE 12/6014/2022, with a URL and last access date of 7.10.2022.

Civic Space in Egypt

Auszug „Ägypten: Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise (Teilreisewarnung)“ des Auswärtigen Amtes (Stand - 07.10.2022 (Unverändert gültig seit: 05.10.2022))

Innenpolitische Lage

Schwerwiegende **terroristische Anschläge** auf ägyptische Sicherheitskräfte und **zivile Ziele** können nicht ausgeschlossen werden.

Demonstrationen sind seit 2014 seltener geworden, können aber weiterhin vor allem in Kairo und anderen Städten nicht ausgeschlossen werden.

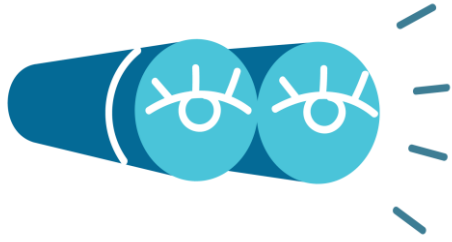
Im Zuge der Terrorismusbekämpfung haben **Sicherheitskräfte und Militär erhebliche Eingriffsbefugnisse**. Vor allem nachts und **bei Demonstrationen ist mit verstärkten Kontrollen** durch Sicherheitskräfte zu rechnen.

Kritische Äußerungen über Ägypten und **politische Kommentare**, auch in den sozialen Medien, können unter anderem als strafbare Beleidigung und Diffamierung Ägyptens oder des Staatspräsidenten bzw. als strafbares „Verbreiten falscher Nachrichten“ angesehen werden und eine **Strafverfolgung** nach sich ziehen. Bei Kontrollen ist eine Durchsuchung nach solchen Kommentaren möglich.

(...)

- **Meiden Sie Demonstrationen und größere Menschenansammlungen weiträumig.**
- Seien Sie sich Ihres **Verhaltens und Ihrer Äußerungen in der Öffentlichkeit und in sozialen Medien** bewusst.

Source: *Auswärtiges Amt* (2022), Ägypten: Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise (Teilreisewarnung), <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/aegypten-node/aegyptensicherheit/212622> (last access: 7.10.2022).



The Way Ahead Public Participation @



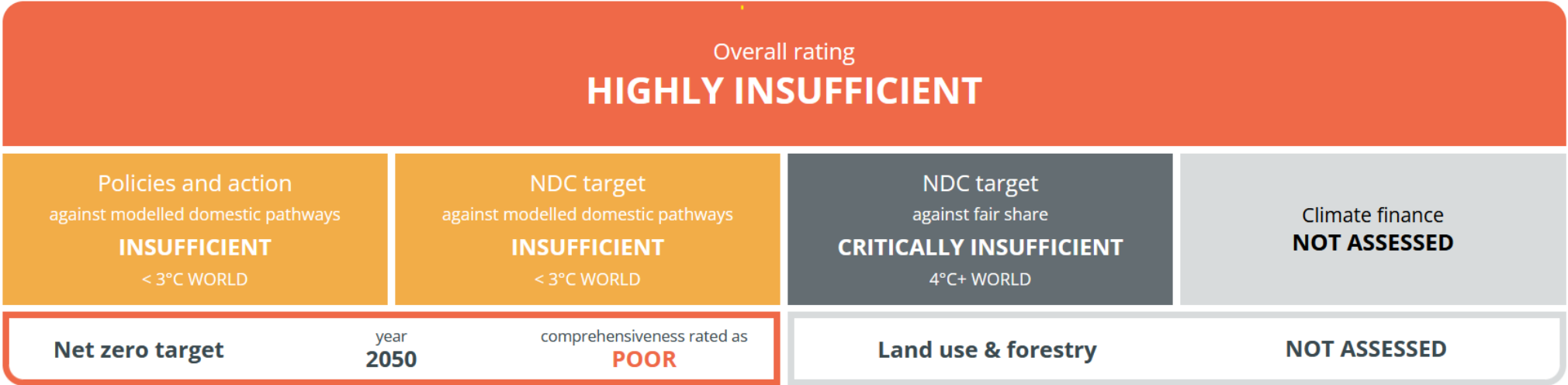
Climate Action Tracker: United Arab Emirates



UAE

CHOOSE UPDATE TO VIEW 5 Apr 2023 ▾

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Source: *Climate Action Tracker* (2023), Country summary: United Arab Emirates, <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/uae/> (last access: 30.6.2023).



Looking forward to fruitful discussions!

Publications

Pauleweit (2022), 27. Weltklimagipfel in Ägypten: Stärkung der zivilgesellschaftlichen Beteiligung an der internationalen Klimapolitik, In: KlimR 11/2022.

Pauleweit (2022), Die Rolle von Umwelt-NGOs bei der Umsetzung und Durchsetzung des Pariser Klimaschutzübereinkommens, In: Interdisciplinary Research on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Band 15. Kassel University Press.

Contacts

Dr. Kathleen Pauleweit, LL.M.
Research Associate | Climate & Innovation | Energy law

kathleen.pauleweit@ikem.de

IKEM

KATHLEEN PAULEWEIT

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin

