

Sustainable Art and Human Development Session at COP 28

On the day dedicated to youth at the International Conference of the Parties (COP 28), World Art Forum for Development Foundation held a session during which it reviewed its youth initiative (sustainable art and human development) to support youth and women, in the Egyptian pavilion.

The session was attended by Randa Fouad, founder and president of World Art Forum for Development Foundation, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt (COP27), and the United Nations Special Envoy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ambassador Hisham Badr, Assistant Minister of Planning and Economic Development for Strategic Partnerships, Excellence and Initiatives, Elena Panova, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt and Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Egyptian Minister of Environment and The session was moderated by the foundation's coordinator, artist Shahira El-Gebaly.

A film was shown documenting the Foundation's experience and a group of art and sustainable development experts and experts on climate change issues. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin stressed the importance of art and culture in enhancing awareness of climate issues and supporting related youth projects. He also stressed at the same time the necessity of investing seriously in order to address climate

change and find solutions. Scientific and technological change, cultural change and raising awareness, explaining that art and media are the most capable of creating the last element and that every commitment in every field towards climate action and development is important. Ambassador Hisham Badr reviewed the success of the Green Projects Initiative, which was keen to maximize the role of youth in climate action, stressing the importance of empowering youth, supporting innovation, transitioning to a green economy, and relying on technology in order to achieve a better future and guarantee the rights of future generations. For her part, Randa Fouad revealed the organization's intention to implement the second phase. From its initiative following the end of the COP28 climate summit held in the UAE, expressing its happiness with the Foundation's participation this year in this important international event.

She explained that the World Art Forum for Development Foundation launched its work three years ago with the aim of linking art with sustainable development so that art was included in supporting the implementation of the Egypt 2030 plan, and the primary focus became on economic support for women and empowering young people, especially artists, in order to build sustainable business models. And creating spaces through their artistic works to raise awareness of environmental issues, in addition to focusing on sustainable art related to recycling and entrepreneurship. Fouad explained that the Foundation's participation in Youth Day comes within the framework of celebrating Sustainable Art Day and presenting the results of the first phase of the Sustainable Art and Human Development Initiative to support youth. And women through the creative economy, which the Foundation began implementing since the COP27 climate summit in

Sharm El-Sheikh, during which it participated in a large exhibition of recycling art. It also organized a dialogue session on the role of fine art as a partner in development. It indicated that during the past year 70 young artists and talented people benefited from the initiative. They were trained through a series of workshops on the art of recycling, entrepreneurship, and the Millennium Development Goals. These young people became ambassadors for sustainable art. The initiative was implemented under the auspices of the Ministries of Planning, Culture and Environment, the National Council for Women, and in partnership with the United Nations, the World Youth Forum, and the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development. The private sector also participated. Represented by the Tatweer Misr Company, along with the banks represented by the Banque Misr, supported the initiative. Randa Fouad indicated that the institution presents its experience with a new approach through which fine art can link its art with serving its community and inform it of everything new in the world of development, and it can also begin His own artistic project uses new methods of recycling art that turns waste into beautiful pieces of art, thus making fine art a partner in development and awareness of climate change issues. Shahira Al-Gebaly, the Foundation's General Coordinator, said that the artist is a natural lover of nature and the environment, and by raising his awareness of the goals of sustainable development, he will be the best ambassador for sustainability.