



MENACW2022

Middle East and North Africa Climate

Week 2022 28 February - 3 March

Hosted by
the Government of United Arab Emirates

Affiliated event

Event title: Climate Policy Perspectives and Energy Transition in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

Date and Time:

Monday, 28 March from 14:15 – 18:00

Tuesday, 29 March from 14:15 – 18:00

Wednesday, 30 March from 09:00 – 13:15

Thursday, 31 March 10:30 – 12:00

Session design: Room theatre style and banquet style /64 pax

Audience: Party Delegates and open participation

Context/Background

A just energy transition is urgent, indispensable, and possible. It requires rapid economic, technological, and social transformation, which is likely to have an unprecedented impact on the economy and society, people, workers, enterprises, and local communities.

Countries in the MENA region are at the centre of the global sustainable energy transition. Their dependence on fossil fuels presents a unique and formidable challenge but yet a great opportunity, and these have significant implications for the global effort to decarbonize.

Ensuring a just transition for all is a key enabler to a rapid and ambitious energy transition. A just transition is about maximising economic and social gains, while effectively managing the risks.

Major investments are required to develop the skills and capabilities of affected individuals to realize their full potential and for them effectively contribute to the productivity of enterprises. There is an urgent need to reskill and upskill, to enable smooth transitions in labour markets for redundant workers and the transferability of skills from the fossil fuel sector.

This is also providing challenges and opportunities for businesses, industries to innovate technologies and deviate from their regular modes of functioning.



Objectives

The objective of this event is to discuss planning of transitions from fossil fuel economies to green economies. These discussions will hinge on tools and methods to assess the impact of climate mitigation policies, process and policies for just transition and transformation, opportunities for economic diversification and technological innovations.

Short Description

The event will consist of presentations by experts and practitioners, and dialogues with policy makers, business and trade union representatives, and members of academia and civil society.

Agenda

Time	Activity/Panel
DAY 1 – Monday, 28 March 2022 from 14:15 – 18:00	
Room: Spice B	
14:15 – 14:45 (30 minutes)	Welcome and Opening Remarks Moderated by Albara Tawfiq , Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator of Green Jobs Programme, International Labour Organization (<i>virtual</i>)• Kusum Lata, Team Lead of Impact Assessment Unit, UNFCCC• Ambassador Mohamed Nasr, Incoming Presidency of Egypt, delivered by Wael Farag Keshk, General Manager of Mitigation & CDM Department, Egyptian Ministry of Environment – Energy Transition in Egypt's Climate Profile
14:45 – 15:15 (30 minutes)	<i>Scene-setting</i> Just Transition, its relevance to MENA region for raising ambition and enhancing implementation Moderated by Albara Tawfiq , Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu, Consultant of International Labour Organization• Manal R. Shehabi, Founding Director, SHEER Research & Advisory; and Academic Visitor, St. Antony's College University of Oxford
15:15 – 16:15	Panel 1. CLIMATE MITIGATION POLICIES - Understanding the nature of the impacts and needs of the energy sector



Time	Activity/Panel
	<p>Moderated by Kusum Lata, UNFCCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marek Harsdorff, International Labour Organization – <i>What does the Future hold for MENA in Net Zero 2050?</i> • Noura Alissa, Senior International Policy Analyst, Ministry of Energy, KSA – <i>Case Study: KSA and the Circular Carbon Economy</i> • Peter Govindasamy, Director at Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore – <i>Singapore's Energy Transition Efforts - Perspectives of a small island city state</i> • Christophe McGlade, Head of the Energy Supply Unit, International Energy Agency – <i>Mapping the Way for a Just Transition towards Net-Zero</i>
16:15 – 16:45 (30 minutes)	Tea Break
16:45 – 18:00 (75 minutes)	<p>Discussion – Questions for participants</p> <p>Moderated by William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu, Consultant of International Labour Organization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What are the climate mitigation policies that affect the MENA region?</i> 2. <i>What are the natures of the impacts of these policies on energy sector in countries in MENA region?</i> 3. <i>What are the specific needs to address those impacts?</i>
<p>DAY 2 – Tuesday, 29 March 2022 from 14:15 – 18:00</p> <p>Room: Spice C</p>	
14:15 – 16:15 (2 hours)	<p>Panel 2. Policy responses to facilitate a just energy transition</p> <p>Moderated by William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu, Consultant of International Labour Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marek Harsdorff, International Labour Organization – <i>What if the Transition is perceived as not Just? People's fear of Social, Economic and Labor Market Consequences!</i> • Mandy Rambharos, General Manager at Just Energy Transition, Office of the Group Chief Executive, Eskom Holdings, South Africa – <i>Just Energy Transition, Opportunities for a Low Carbon, Socially Inclusive Growth and Local Industrialisation</i> • Wael Farag Keshk, General Manager of Mitigation & CDM Department, Egyptian Ministry of Environment – <i>Just Energy Transition in Egypt's Climate Action Profile</i>



Time	Activity/Panel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Renner, Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency – <i>Climate Policy Perspectives and Energy Transition in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region</i> <p>Discussion – Questions for participants:</p> <p><i>What are the social and employment policies in your countries as response to the climate policies?</i></p>
16:15 – 16:30 (15 minutes)	Tea Break
16:30 – 18:00 (1 hour 30 minutes)	<p>Panel 3. Managing the process for a just transition</p> <p>Moderated by Marek Harsdorff, International Labour Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atika Sabri, Member of planification commission, Moroccan Sahraouis Women's Association for integrated development, Morocco – <i>Energy Transition Policy: the Moroccan model</i> • Manal R. Shehabi, Founding Director, SHEER Research & Advisory; and Academic Visitor, St. Antony's College University of Oxford – <i>Managing the Process for a Just Transition: Examples from Kuwait</i> <p>Discussion – Questions for participants:</p> <p><i>If your country has completed the process for a just transition, please share your country's experience.</i></p> <p><i>If your country is in the process, share with us how your country is managing it.</i></p> <p><i>If you haven't started the process, share your views on important aspects in implementing/undertaking the just transition.</i></p>
<p>DAY 3 – Wednesday, 30 March 2022 from 09:00 – 13:15</p> <p>Room: Spice C</p>	
09:00 – 11:00 (2 hours)	<p>Panel 4. Innovation, enterprises, new business and industries</p> <p>Moderated by Kusum Lata, UNFCCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidjani Niass, Sr. Sustainability Strategist, Saudi Aramco – <i>CCUS and Hydrogen</i> • Karl Vella, Climate Policy Director, We Mean Business Coalition – <i>Just Transition</i>



Time	Activity/Panel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jose Manuel Medina Checa, International Labour Organization – <i>Enabling Environment for Green Business Growth</i> • Zhuolun Chen, Senior Advisor, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre – <i>Sustainable Energy Transitions for Carbon Neutrality in Cities of MENA Region</i> • Romanas Savickas, Senior Advisor and Consultant, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre – <i>Hydrogen & Carbon Capture</i>
11:00 – 11:30 (30 minutes)	Tea Break
11:30 – 12: 45 (1 hour 15 minutes)	<p>Interactive session with guiding questions</p> <p>Moderated by William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu, Consultant of International Labour Organization</p> <p><i>For group 1:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What are some of the emerging and promising new businesses and industries that are arising because of climate mitigation policies and actions in your country?</i> 2. <i>In your view, what are the main driving factors which are contributing to development of the news businesses and industries?</i> 3. <i>Are there any specific conditions that these new businesses and industries should meet to make them relevant in support of actions to combat climate change?</i> <p><i>For group 2:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>How are these new businesses and industries contributing to achieving the sustainable development goals?</i> 5. <i>How do these new businesses and industries contribute to economic development of your business, industry, or country?</i> 6. <i>What are some of the potential economic, social, and environmental impacts of these new businesses and industries? What tools and methodologies can be used to assess these impacts?</i> 7. <i>How can we, on one hand, maximize the potential positive impacts, and on the other, minimize the potential negative impacts?</i>
13:00 – 13: 15 (15 minutes)	Outcome of group discussion
<p>DAY 4 – Thursday, 31 March from 10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>Room: Spice C</p>	
10:30 – 12:00	Panel 5. Leveraging public and private financing for just transition



Time	Activity/Panel
(1 hour 30 minutes)	<p>Moderated by Mohammed Albarrak, Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan-Willem Van de Ven, Head of Climate Finance and Carbon Markets, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – <i>Leveraging Public and Private Financing for Just Transition</i> • Bradley Todd Hiller, Lead Climate Change Specialist (Mitigation), Islamic Development Bank – <i>Innovations and Role of Enterprises in Transition of Energy Sector in MENA Region</i> • Venetia Bell, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Gulf International Bank <p><i>Questions for discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Are there specific risks and/or barriers to the use of these new industries and businesses?</i> 2. <i>What role should governments and the private sector play to promote these new industries and businesses, for example in terms of investments needed and the creation of required enabling environment?</i> 3. <i>What sustainable financing mechanisms can benefit the widescale development, deployment, diffusion and replication of these new industries and businesses?</i> 4. <i>What are the potential roles for climate finance in support of new businesses and industries in developing countries?</i>
	<p>Wrap-up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marek Harsdorff, International Labour Organization • Kusum Lata, Team Lead, UNFCCC

Short biography of speakers

William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu

Mr. William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu who is a consultant from ILO. He is a Chemical Engineer by profession and is currently King of Asafo, and Head of Akwamu Traditional Council, Kumasi, Ghana.

Until July 2020, he managed a team of technical experts within the UN Climate Change Secretariat that provides technical assistance to developing countries in the areas of preparation and implementation of mitigation actions, NDCs, as well as in the work on transparency. He also managed within the Climate Change Secretariat the team responsible for providing support to Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in addressing the impacts of implementation of mitigation actions (response measures), including



economic diversification initiatives and just transition of the work force and the creation of decent and quality jobs. Before joining the UN in 2010, William was the National Climate Change Focal Point and the Lead Negotiator for climate change for Ghana. He was the lead climate change negotiator for the African Group and for the G77 and China on technology development and transfer for over 10 years. He was also the IPCC Focal Point for Ghana, and he contributed to the work of the IPCC as Coordinating Lead Author for the Industrial Processes and Product Use, Volume 3, of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. William has had tremendous experience in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries and has been one of the pioneers of climate change work in Ghana

Manal R. Shehabi

Dr. Manal Shehabi is an Academic at St Antony's College at the University of Oxford and Founding Director of SHEER Research & Advisory Ltd in the UK. She is also Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and Research Associate of the Economic Research Forum (ERF). She is an applied economist with recognized expertise in economic modeling and policy analysis on energy, economic, and resource sustainability, focusing on the MENA region and Gulf economies. Her research is published in numerous high impact journals, books, and policy reports (such as IPCC and UNFCCC report), with publications spanning energy transition, economic diversification, environment and climate sustainability, energy subsidy reform, expatriate labor, hydrogen and decarbonization, and managing resource and non-resource oligopoly rents. Her research impacted policymaking, such as constructing an economic model for policymaking in Kuwait, reviewing a national hydrogen strategy, and conducting capacity building to policymakers. She also co-authored a report presented at COP26 on quantifying effects of response measures on developing countries. Dr. Shehabi is a polyglot, she speaks Arabic, French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. And she advises policymakers and firms.

Marek Harsdorff

Mr. Harsdorff is currently an economist in the Green Jobs Programme, ILO, specialized in development cooperation and environmental economics. His main works include economic research on Green Jobs contributing to global reports and country assessments, assistance to countries to develop employment-led green economy strategies and design and management of technical cooperation programmes to create green jobs. Mr. Harsdorff has profound skills in economic input-output modelling of employment effects of green policies and experiences in applying scientific

Noura Alissa

Noura currently serves as a Senior International Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Energy in Saudi Arabia. She engages with international energy policy, climate change & sustainability at the multilateral level where she leads negotiations on a number of agenda items at the UNFCCC, as well as heavy engagement at the United Nations on climate topics more broadly. She oversees international bilateral climate partnerships at the Ministry, in addition to working on the Saudi and Middle East Green Initiatives.

- She has previous policy experience with the G20 Employment Working Group and the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the United Kingdom. Noura holds an MSc in Comparative Politics from the London School



of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a BAsc in Arts and Sciences: Societies with a focus on Politics & International Relations, and Psychology from University College London (UCL).

Peter Govindasamy

Govindasamy is the Director of the Climate Change International Team in the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). He is concurrently the Chief Negotiator for the Pacific Alliance-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (PASFTA), and the Dean of the MTI Academy. As a member of the Singapore's delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2008, Peter has participated in 13 Conference of the Parties (COP) and has held various facilitation roles. He is currently serving as the co-chair of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) since 2019. He had most recently co-facilitated the Ministerial Decision on the Impacts of Implementation of Response Measures during COP26 in Glasgow.

Peter has also had extensive experience in international trade having served as the chief negotiator of various Singapore FTAs and investment treaties, and as the lead services, investment and rules negotiator. As Director of MTI's International Trade Cluster (2009 to 2019), he oversaw Singapore's engagement at the WTO – principally the trade policy review of Singapore and the WTO Ministerial conferences – and concluded Investment Guarantee Agreements (IGA) with Iran, and Colombia, as well as FTA negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council. In addition, he chaired the ASEAN-India FTA (services) negotiations. Most recently, as the Chief Negotiator for PASFTA, following more than 4 years of negotiations, he facilitated the conclusion of the PASFTA, which was signed by Pacific Alliance and Singapore Trade Ministers on 26 Jan 2022.

During his two stints in Geneva, as First Secretary (1995-98) and Counsellor (2003-09) at the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Peter also contributed to the WTO process in his capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the WTO Committee on Import Licensing Measures in 2005 and 2006, and as the chair of the WTO negotiations on Domestic Regulations in Services from 2005 to 2009. Most notably, the draft text which he had circulated then, had served as a basis for the recently concluded WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation in Dec 2021.

Prior to joining MTI, Peter had served in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). At MFA, he handled matters pertaining to the European Union, and multilateral issues relating to the United Nations (UN), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Intellectual Property organisation (WIPO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Christophe McGlade

Christophe McGlade is the Head of the Energy Supply Unit at the International Energy Agency (IEA). He joined the IEA in 2015 and leads the energy supply and climate analysis within the World Energy Outlook series.

Mandy Rambharos



Mandy is the General Manager in the Office of the Group Chief Executive of Eskom Holdings, managing the Just Energy Transition (JET) office. In this role she is overseeing the development and acceleration of the utility's JET vision and strategy. Mandy has over 20 years' experience in Eskom. She developed numerous climate change and sustainable development related strategies for Eskom and was instrumental in driving Eskom's efforts in this regard over the years. This together with her experience as a member the South African delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has allowed her to gain deep insights into various aspects of the sector, at the international, regional and national levels.

Mandy was also appointed to serve on the recently established South African Presidential Commission on Climate Change, who will drive South Africa's Just Transition plans. As an official member of the South African delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations, Mandy was intimately involved in the carbon market related negotiations, including gaining many years' experience on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. In this role, Mandy also co-chaired various CDM and Article 6 related negotiations over the years.

Mandy previously served on the board of Verra, and co-chaired the African workgroup of the World Bank's Carbon Pricing Leadership coalition.

Wael Kamel Keshk

Wael Kamel Keshk is General Director of Mitigation & Clean Development at the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, Member of the technical team of the incoming COP27 Presidency and a member of KCI.

Michael Renner

Michael Renner is a Programme Officer at the International Renewable Energy Agency, based in Abu Dhabi. His work is focused on the socio-economic impacts of renewable energy, especially employment and just transition issues.

Atika Sabri

Atika Sabri has a Master of science in the field of water management and environmental science. Having worked before 2010 in a technical cabinet and contributed to several environmental impact assessment studies. After that, she used to work as a freelancer with a focus on climate change adaptation and she also participates in civil society activities on climate change and sustainable development issues.

Tidjani Niass

Tidjani Niass is a Senior Sustainability Strategist at Saudi Aramco, with over 25 years' experience of working at the interface of technology and policy. He led the Mission Innovation Carbon Capture Challenge, overseeing the global efforts on carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) innovation. In this capacity, he improved broad international collaboration in CCUS innovation, including recommending priority research directions to inform national R&D policies and programs. Dr. Niass is also active in



international collaborations such as the clean energy Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF).

In 2008, Dr. Niass joined Saudi Aramco and held many senior leadership positions including Carbon Management Chief Technologist, overseeing and directing Saudi Aramco research in energy efficiency, CCUS, and renewable energies. In this capacity, he contributed in expanding Saudi Aramco research network with the establishment of global satellite centers and delivered key carbon management technologies. He is also leading Saudi Aramco's contributions in the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) CCUS initiative.

Prior to joining Saudi Aramco, Dr. Niass was the head of the Chemical Engineering Department at the French Petroleum Institute (IFP) in France. In this capacity, he was responsible of a research portfolio including reactors engineering for refining and gas treatment processes, New Energy Technologies such as CO2 management, hydrogen generation and biofuels.

Dr. Niass holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine and a M.Sc. in mechanical engineering from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Electricité et de Mécanique de Nancy in France.

Karl Vella

Karl Vella is a lawyer from Malta with over 10 years' experience in sustainable development, particularly on climate change, energy and environment issues, with substantial experience in government and business interfaces. He is the Climate Policy Director for the We Mean Business Coalition and leads the coalition's engagement on international climate policy. Karl coordinates the development of climate policy messages and advocacy strategy in collaboration with major international companies.

He previously worked in Geneva at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), where he led the work on climate change policy and engagement, including the organization's climate strategy towards the UN climate change process.

Prior to joining WBCSD, Karl worked for "Eurelectric - the Union of the Electricity Industry" (in Brussels), the Government of Malta's Permanent Representation to the European Union (Brussels), and the Cabinet of the Maltese Minister for Climate Change, where he formed part of the Maltese delegation to the UN Climate Change Convention for several years.

He has lived in several cities, including Rome, Sydney, Vienna, Edinburgh, Brussels and Geneva, but has recently returned to Malta.

Jose Manuel Medina Checa

Jose Manuel Medina Checa works for the ILO as Enterprise Development Specialist for North Africa and East of Africa in aspect related to the promotion of enterprise development and green jobs. As part of his previous experience within this organization, José Manuel led the "Women For Growth" project, a women entrepreneurship intervention in Algeria and Morocco and the Youth Employment Programme "Jov@Emprego" in Cabo Verde with a strong gender and green jobs focus. Before joining ILO, José Manuel worked as a consultant for several public and European institutions in entrepreneurship and SMES



promotion initiatives in different north African countries (Algeria, Morocco) as well as Asia and Latin America. Finally, José Manuel has been working as activity manager for the International Training Center of the ILO in Turin (Italy) where he developed training and online activities to promote enterprise development and green jobs. José Manuel has a degree in Law and International Relations from the University of Granada and a postgraduate studies in Migration Law and is fluent in English, French, Italian and Portuguese with some notions of Arabic.

Zhuolun Chen

Zhuolun Chen works as a senior advisor on carbon neutral cities, district and building energy systems in UNEP Copenhagen Climate Center. He has over 20-year international experience on project management, development and implementation.

Romanas Savickas

Romanas Savickas has 25 years professional intercontinental experience in private, academic and public sectors in Climate, Energy Efficiency, Heating/Cooling, Low Carbon, Renewables, Buildings Efficiency Hydrogen, Digitalisation, Technical/Policy assistance.

He is the facilitator of Innovative and Digital Energy Technologies, author of "Interactive Actual Energy Consumption Map" 1st place in "Eurocities 2014" for the Innovation in the Energy under the Covenant of Mayors). Author of more than 20 scientific publications. In 2019, Romanas was listed as a Global Energy Elite 2019 by Smart Energy international.

Jan-Willem Van de Ven

Jan-Willem van de Ven joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in August 2003. As Head of International Climate Policy and Development his role covers three strategic areas, international climate policy, carbon market development and climate finance strategy. Jan-Willem maintains close relationships with international bodies (e.g. UNFCCC / EU), the international climate funds (CTF, GEF and GCF) and carbon market related organisations. His work is at the frontier of climate finance and carbon markets and seeks to enable and scale-up climate action.

He plays an active role in the international policy dialogue for the three areas and the promotion of sustainable investments. He is a member of the Senior Climate Advisors of the joint MDB working group on climate change, a member of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures and a member of the Steering Committee of the NDC Partnership.

Jan-Willem has over twenty-five years of experience in the development of sustainable energy projects from Central America to Eastern Europe. The projects structured under his leadership range from industrial energy efficiency, green cities, built environment, renewable energy and climate resilience. Prior to EBRD he worked as Innovation Manager with Dutch utility company Essent. He has a M.Sc degree in Technology & Society International Technological Development Science from the Eindhoven University of Technology and a B.Eng in Business Engineering from the Eindhoven Higher Technical School.



Bradley Todd Hiller

Dr. Bradley Hiller is a Lead Climate Change Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). He supports climate action and environmental safeguarding across the IsDB and its 57 Member Countries. Previously, Dr Hiller worked with the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank and Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the Global Sustainability Institute (UK), an AsiaGlobal Fellow at the University of Hong Kong, and a G20 Leadership Fellow at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management (South Korea). In 2018, he received a Global Emerging Sustainability Leader Award. He holds PhD and MPhil degrees from the Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Cambridge and BEng and BSc degrees from the University of Western Australia.

Venetia Bell

Venetia is the group chief sustainability officer for the Gulf international bank group. She is also the head of strategy for GIB's asset management business. Prior to working at GIB, she had a number of roles at the Bank of England, the UK's Central Bank.

