

Workshop Concept Note

Good Practices in NDC Update and Implementation: Challenges and Lessons Learned from Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa

Tuesday to Thursday, 16-18 March 2021

BACKGROUND

Raising the global ambition of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and ensuring thorough implementation of the increased mitigation and adaptation targets are necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Many countries around the world have calibrated and enhanced the ambition of their NDC and submitted it to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat in 2020. In order to move quickly towards reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over the next decade and achieving global net-zero emissions in 2050, countries are now looking to formulate and execute their NDC implementation strategies, national adaptation plans, and other relevant national policies.

This virtual workshop aims to provide an avenue for countries from Asia, Middle East, and North Africa to come together and share good practices and lessons learned from their NDC update process as well as a platform for peer-to-peer support. It also aims to provide an avenue for countries to share challenges and good practices in the NDC implementation process and to identify areas of cooperation between countries and development partners. The workshop consists of presentations, panel discussions, and breakout sessions which cover cross-sectoral issues pertaining to the NDC update and implementation.

OBJECTIVES

1. To share lessons learned during the 2020 NDC update process, increase clarity of updated and new NDCs, and recommendations for the 2025 NDC update process;
2. To share challenges and good practices in NDC implementation process; and
3. To identify areas of collaboration between countries and development partners to assist countries' NDC implementation process.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

1. UNFCCC country focal points and NDC Partnership country focal points from the regions, including representatives of Ministries of Economy, Finance, National Planning and others
2. Representatives from government agencies relevant to NDC Implementation
3. Representatives from inter-governmental agencies and development partners relevant to NDC Implementation

OUTCOMES

1. A synthesis report of highlights and key insights from the event
2. Countries' breakout session documents

AGENDA

Day 1 - Tuesday, 16 March 2021; 8:00-11:30(CET)/11:00-14:30(GST)/14:00-17:30(ICT)

MC: NDC Partnership

Time (ICT)	Session Details	Moderator (Tentative)
14:00-14:05	Introduction to the Workshop	Putera Zenata Regional Program Officer NDC Partnership
14:05-14:20	Opening remarks Ken O'Flaherty, UK COP 26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia Romeo Bertolini, Head of the Bonn Office, Support Unit, NDC Partnership James Grabert, Director, Mitigation Division; Acting Director, Communication and Engagement Division, UNFCCC Secretariat	Putera Zenata Regional Program Officer NDC Partnership
14:20-14:35	Participant Introductions and Expectations Participants will share their backgrounds, learning expectations, on-going needs, challenges on NDC implementation and plans for long-term climate goals.	Putera Zenata Regional Program Officer NDC Partnership
14:35-15:00	Scene Setting The presentation of key messages from the initial NDC Synthesis Report as well as highlights from the NDC Survey carried out by RCC Bangkok and RCC Dubai in 2020 provides an overview of the progress made by participating countries in updating their NDCs and captures a regional outlook on the status of their efforts.	Jens Radschinski Regional Lead RCC Bangkok

14:35-15:00	<p>The commentaries on NDC implementation and NAP formulation provides an overview of the activities to ensure the world is on track to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jigme, Team Lead, Transparency Division, UNFCCC Secretariat • Jens Radschinski, Regional Lead, UNFCCC-IGES Regional Collaboration Center for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok (RCC Bangkok) • Conor Barry, Programme Officer, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat • Matti Goldberg, Associate Programme Officer, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat 	
15:00-15:10	Coffee break	
15:10-16:10	<p>Panel Discussion 1: Lessons Learned from the NDC Update Process in Asia, Middle East, and North Africa</p> <p>This session provides an avenue for countries to share challenges on data (e.g., issues on establishing baseline, modelling and projections, limited access and availability) and stakeholder engagement and coordination, and formulate common best practices for the next NDC update process.</p> <p><i>Instructions: Four countries will have 7 minutes each to present the key challenges they experienced in their NDC update process and how they were able to address these challenges. Presentation materials are allowed but only as visual cues or to summarize the information and should be within 3 slides. This is followed by a 30-minute Q&A session from the Moderator and the audience.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Saribekyan, Senior Specialist of the Climate Policy Department, Armenia • Chanutsakul Supirak, Environmental Official, Professional Level, Thailand • Qais Al Suwaidi, Assistant Expert, Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, United Arab Emirates • Radha Wagle, Chief, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal 	Romeo Bertolini, Head of the Bonn Office, Support Unit, NDC Partnership
16:10-16:15	Short break	

<p>16:15-16:25</p>	<p>Introduction to Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Countries might face both common and unique technical, financial, legal, political, and cultural barriers in their NDC implementation process. This breakout session provides an avenue for countries to share these anticipated barriers and find common opportunities to overcome them.</p> <p><i>Instructions: There will be three virtual topics, each representing a crucial stage in the NDC implementation process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Day 1: NDC implementation planning and tracking of progress</i> <i>Day 2: Stakeholder engagement and coordination</i> <i>Day 3: Financing implementation</i> <p><i>Participants will be separated into three groups, each having countries from a range of economic and geographic profiles. Each group will go through a topic station for 15 minutes and will share the anticipated challenges pertaining to the topic and brainstorm common opportunities to overcome them.</i></p>	<p>Putera Zenata Regional Program Officer NDC Partnership</p>
<p>16:25-17:10</p>	<p>Breakout Session 1: NDC Implementation Planning and Tracking of Progress</p> <p>The way countries' NDCs are implemented and improved upon over time will determine whether the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement are achieved. This breakout session will serve as an avenue for countries to share their experience in the NDC implementation planning process and identify common challenges and opportunities for support and cooperation.</p> <p>Station 1: Identifying sectoral priority activities and enabling actions Advancing climate goals require commitments from all relevant sectors affected by or contributing to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges do countries face in prioritizing activities in their NDC implementation planning for each sector? • What elements are necessary for countries to effectively plan NDC implementation at the sectoral level? • What are the key cross-sectoral challenges and how are these being addressed? <p>Station 2: Tracking progress and reporting Successful implementation of NDC actions requires plans to have measurable goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can countries develop the capacity to measure and track the progress of the NDC 	<p>Breakout Facilitators</p> <p>Station 1- Awwad Salameh, Jordan (tbc)</p>

Day 2 – Wednesday, 17 March 2021; 8:00-11:30 (CET)/11:00-14:30(GST)/14:00-17:30(ICT)

MC: Bjorn Fonden; UNFCCC-IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok (RCC Bangkok)

Time (ICT)	Session Details	Moderator (Tentative)
14:00-14:05	Recapitulation of Day 1	Banashri Sinha, Communication and Outreach Officer, RCC Bangkok
14:05-15:05	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Lessons Learned from the NDC Update Process in Asia, Middle East, and North Africa</p> <p>This session provides an avenue for countries to share about challenges on policies (e.g., lack of clear or strong legislative and governance framework) and access to funding, and form common best practices for the next NDC update process.</p> <p><i>Instructions: Four countries will have 7 minutes each to present the key challenges they experienced in their NDC update process and how they were able to address these challenges. Presentation materials are allowed but only as visual cues or to summarize the information and should be within 3 slides. This is followed by a 30-minute Q&A session from the Moderator and the audience.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enkhbat Altangerel, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia • Sophal Leang, Chief of Office of the Department of Climate Change, Cambodia • Mary Awad, Project Officer, Climate Change Projects, UNDP Ministry of Environment, Lebanon 	Omar Zemrag, Regional Manager, NDC Partnership
15:05-15:15	Coffee break	
15:15-15:20	<p>Introduction to Breakout Session 2: Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>Participants will be separated into groups, each having countries from a range of economic and geographic profiles. Each group will discuss stakeholder engagement for 45 minutes and will share the anticipated challenges pertaining to the topic and brainstorm common opportunities.</p>	Namitha Vivek, Program Coordinator, NDC Partnership

<p>15:20-16:05</p>	<p>Breakout session 2: Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Stakeholder engagement is crucial in ensuring alignment between NDCs and development priorities that conveys maximum benefits to the greatest possible number of people. It also allows for the buy- ins and ownership of climate plans by all actors. This breakout session will serve as an avenue for countries to share their experience in stakeholder engagement and identify common challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Station 1: Vulnerable groups, gender mainstreaming and youth related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As countries strive to attain climate and development goals without leaving anyone behind, what are the key challenges in ensuring that youths, women, and vulnerable groups are involved in the planning, implementation and tracking processes of NDC implementation? • What can countries do to ensure that NDC implementation policies do not harm minorities and marginalized groups? <p>Station 2: Engaging the private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private sector has a large untapped potential role in ensuring long term resilience and mitigation goals. What bottlenecks are hampering enhanced private sector participation in NDC implementation and how do countries plan to solve them? • What enabling mechanisms are being put in place to make it more conducive for businesses to contribute towards NDC implementation? <p>Station 3: Effective coordination and engagement mechanisms with development partners, civil society and other non-government stakeholders Tackling climate change requires whole-of-society approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges do countries face in ensuring meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders in the NDC implementation? • How can governments socialize climate change issues to all facets of society despite pressing economic issues that many people face? • What regulations can countries introduce to effectively engage stakeholders from all facets of society? 	<p>Breakout Facilitators</p> <p>Station 1 - Awwad Salameh, Jordan (tbc)</p> <p>Station 2 - Abhishek Yadav (Nepal)</p> <p>Station 3 - Joy Goco (Philippines)</p>
<p>16:05-16:20</p>	<p>Breakout reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station 1 - Awwad Salameh, Jordan (tbc) • Station 2 - Abhishek Yadav (Nepal) • Station 3 - Joy Goco (Philippines) 	<p>Breakout Reporters</p>

16:20-16:25	Short break	
16:25-17:25	<p>Panel Discussion 3: Sectoral Support for NDC Implementation Development partners will elaborate their support programs for NDC implementation related to addressing challenges on NDC implementation planning and tracking of progress, as well as stakeholder engagement and coordination, and other challenges identified from Breakout Sessions 1 and 2. Discussants are encouraged to highlight potential areas of cooperation with countries as well as development partners.</p> <p>6-minute presentation from each presenter, followed by a 25-minute Q&A session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingvild Solvang, Head of Climate Action and Inclusive Development, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) • Zoheir Hamedi, Regional Programme Officer, Middle East and North Africa, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) • Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) • Jaco Cilliers, Manager, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific • Mohammed Angawi, Programme Management Officer, Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 	<p>Stefanos Fotiou Director, Environment and Development Division</p> <p>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</p>
17:25-17:30	Preview of Day 3	Siyapah Surathumrong, Program Associate, RCC Bangkok

Day 3 – Thursday, 18 March 2021;8:00-11:30 (CET)/11:00-14:30(GST)/14:00-17:30(ICT)

MC: UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Centre for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia based in Dubai (RCC Dubai)

Time (ICT)	Session Details	Moderator (Tentative)
14:00-14:05	Recapitulation of Day 2	Saudamini Bagai, Technical Expert and Coordinator, RCC Dubai
14:05-14:10	<p>Introduction to Breakout Session 3: Financing for NDC Implementation</p> <p>Participants will be separated into groups, each having countries from a range of economic and geographic profiles. Each group will discuss financing (public, private, and blended) for NDC implementation, for both mitigation and adaptation, for 45 minutes and will share the anticipated challenges pertaining to the topic and brainstorm common opportunities to overcome them.</p>	Supriya Dharkar, Technical Expert and Coordinator, RCC Dubai
14:10-14:55	<p>Breakout Session 3: Financing for NDC Implementation</p> <p>Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires countries to apply some combination of domestic budgetary allocation, private sector finance (both national and international), bilateral and multilateral finance mechanisms, and development assistance to meet NDC commitments. Understanding how to access funding from a diverse menu of multilateral, bilateral, public and private sources is a complex and dynamic challenge. This breakout session will serve as an avenue for countries to share their experience in facilitating the financing of NDC implementation and identify common challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Station 1: Public finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role can the public sector play in climate finance? What are the main obstacles for governments mobilize climate finance? • Which areas of collaboration does your country envision to explore with public finance providers for NDC implementation? • What types of technical assistance (including capacity building) are needed to facilitate your country's access to international and domestic public finance? <p>Station 2: Private finance/Blended finance</p>	<p>Breakout Facilitators</p> <p>Station 1 – Ariel Yu, Technical Officer, RCC Bangkok</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Octavio Peralta, Secretary General, The Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) • Frederic Asseline, Principal Climate Finance Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Daouda Ndiaye, Lead Adaptation Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (TBC) 	
16:20-16:25	Short break	
16:25-17:05	<p>Plenary Discussion: Workshop summary and Regional Climate Weeks - exchange of knowledge and best practices on NDC implementation across the region</p> <p>Key messages from the three days of the workshop and an outlook on the Regional Climate Weeks (RCW) in 2021. The RCWs are key meetings that will help build regional momentum for COP 26 in November and drive forward regional implementation of the Paris Agreement. Virtual Thematic Sessions will take place on 6-9 July, and Ministerial Sessions will take place on 6-7 September in Asia and the Pacific. The first-ever Middle East and North Africa Climate Week will be held on 2-3 March 2022.</p> <p>This plenary session will also share the outcomes of the RCW Roundtables concluded on 3-4 March, provide an overview of planned events in July and September sessions, and collect feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can country participants contribute to the Asia Pacific Climate Week sessions? • What are the NDC-related opportunities that can be further explored and implemented during the Asia-Pacific Climate Week sessions and MENA Climate Week sessions? 	Luca Brusa, Team Lead, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat
17:05-17:20	Poll: Priority Areas in Asia, Middle East, and North Africa	All participants
17:20-17:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Ambassador Janet Rogan, UK COP 26 Regional Ambassador for the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia - <i>tbc</i></p> <p>Yasuo Takahashi, Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan</p> <p>Abdul Rahim Sultan, Director General, World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) - <i>tbc</i></p>	