

## Private sector engagement in capacity-building in the MENA Region

*MENA Climate Week – Dubai*

*28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022*

### **Background:**

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is a diverse region, affected by economic and political transformations as well as climate change impacts, but with a potential for improved growth. It benefits from a privileged geographic location with access to large markets; a young and increasingly educated population; and comparative advantages in several sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energies and tourism.

Nevertheless, countries in the MENA region are among the **most vulnerable in the world** regarding the likely impacts of climate change, as the region has been identified as a climate change hot spot by the IPCC.

Private sector action, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), will be **critical actors** in addressing climate change for multiple reasons:

- First, given the scale and pace of emissions reductions needed, it is critical that companies across the board urgently act to reduce carbon emissions both in their direct operations and in their supply chains.
- Secondly, climate change presents material risks to business operations e.g. through infrastructure damage from flooding, droughts, and severe weather systems, which in turn introduces new challenges to a fragile and vulnerable enterprise system, for the SMEs.

Thus, it is critical for SMEs to both find ways to **mitigate emissions, and to be prepared to deal with future climate impacts to increase resilience**. This is particularly relevant in the MENA countries, whose economies will be heavily impacted by climate change in the coming years.

Therefore, through enhanced skills and know how on understanding and addressing climate risks, SMEs can **pave the way for greening and adapting to climate change** across economic sectors, including industry and manufacturing, agriculture, sanitation, tourism, and energy sectors.

Given this background, Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) MENA through the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA) initiative, in close collaboration with the Capacity-building subdivision of the Means of Implementation Division of the UNFCCC secretariat, led **an initiative aimed at assessing the capacity building needs of SMEs in the MENA to further engage in climate action**.

At MENA Climate Week 2022, **a side event is being planned** with the following objectives:

- i. launching of the report of the mapping study for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities for climate action in the MENA countries.
- ii. raising awareness on the identified knowledge gaps, needs and priorities for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities.
- iii. advancing understanding of existing initiatives on engagement with the SMEs

### **Potential Resource Persons:**

- High level representatives of private sector (especially those which have capacity-building initiatives)
- SMEs representatives
- UN and partner organizations in the region

### **Details:**

Location: MENA Climate Week 2022 at Dubai, UAE (United Arab Emirates) Atlantis Hotel – Spice A Room A

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 14:45 to 15:45 Dubai Time

Length: 60 minutes

Language: English

Watch the livestream [here](#).

### **Agenda:**

*Moderator: Alejandro Kilpatrick, Manager – Capacity-building subdivision, UNFCCC Secretariat*

Time	Program
5 minutes	Segment 1: Opening Emphasizing the need for private sector engagement, specifically SMEs and the need for addressing capacity-building challenges
5 minutes	Segment 2: Presentation of the outcomes of the study by RCC MENA
40 minutes	Segment 3: Stakeholder reaction and feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>HSBC Bank Middle East Limited</b> – Sabrin Rahman, Managing Director - Head of Sustainability for Europe and the Middle East</li> <li>- <b>Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC)</b> – Ahmed Elbermbali - Managing Director</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b> – Sujala Pant, Regional Chief Technical Advisor on climate change, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States</li> <li>• <b>World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)</b> – Mohammad Darrag, Senior Climate Action Specialist &amp; Coordinator, UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the MENA and South Asia</li> </ul> <p>Guiding questions –</p>



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai  
Promoting Climate Action in the  
Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the context of your work, what are some pressing needs and gaps related to building the capacities of the private sector, particularly the SMEs, in addressing climate change? <b>5 mins per speaker</b></li><li>In the context of your work, what are some relevant initiatives that help in enhancing the capacities of SMEs? <b>5 mins per speaker</b></li></ul>
5 minutes	Segment 4: Q&A with the panelists
2-5 minutes	Segment 5: Closing