

Launch of collaboration platform for UN agencies in Latin America

RCC Panama instrumental in the establishment of the “climate collaboration platform”



In response to a request from some of the UN Agencies based in Panama for more coordination and more centralized access to information on the outcome of the COPs, RCC Panama launched a collaboration platform with a focus on climate change information in Latin America for UN agencies in the region.

What's the objective? Help agencies collaborate by providing a platform to share information about individual work plans, identify the most important events, share publications, share recent news on climate change and identify synergy opportunities.

Who can participate? Open to special agencies of united nations with a climate change agenda in Latin America. Current participation includes 15 representatives of UNDP, UNEP, IFAD, UN Women, UNICEF, FAO, OIM, and PAHO/WHO.

What's the scope? Climate action in Latin American countries. Meetings are held every 2 months at the UN complex in the City of Knowledge, Panama and are conducted mainly in Spanish.

What are the expected results? Create a flexible and informal collaboration platform on climate change available to UN Regional Offices with updated information on who does what and when. The platform itself is still in the design phase, however it is expected to result in a collection of information relevant to the community, such as: a list of regional events, reports and project news, a list of focal points, training suggestions, articles, publications, minutes, etc. all of which will be available in a visually pleasing format and administered and moderated by the RCC Panama.

So far 2 meetings have taken place where information has been shared about COP24 outcomes, the expectations for the Latin America Climate Week (LACCW), Pre-COP in Costa Rica and COP

25 in Chile. Further, agencies have shared their workplans in order to facilitate synergies and Skype has been utilized during meetings to ensure wider participation.

We agreed that the 3rd meeting will be hosted by the PAHO/WHO Regional office in Panama on the 29th of May 2019 and that the focus of the agenda should be the agenda on Health and Climate and other matters related to the LACCW.

Here are some informal thoughts captured from participants about this initiative:

"In the specific case of Latin America, the upcoming COP25 in Chile has created in the region much sense of unity, expectation and enthusiasm. Having a holistic vision of the regional climate agenda is very useful and gives us a sense of integration"

"The family of the UN agencies has great potential for synergy and coordination. The RCC Panama is happy to facilitate the coordination on climate action across the UN agencies that are perceived by the Civil Society as a single large entity "

"This is a very interesting year to move forward with the sustainable development agenda in Latin America hand in hand with climate action. However, we do not have much time, we must work efficiently. There is a momentum for this community to coordinate efforts on the road to the LACCW19, the Pre-Cop and the COP25"

As the information from the agencies becomes available, it is expected that the online platform will go live in July this year. It will be simple, based on google docs for easy access with filters where users can search information on events and projects by dates, topics and type of agency and countries. Initially, the information will be available to the members of the initiative only but with a view to having public elements as the online tools become more sophisticated. In the meantime, if you want more information about the platform or specific projects or events by the UN Agencies in LAC please do not hesitate to contact Carlos Ruiz Garvia (CRuizGarvia@unfccc.int).

Since its establishment, the RCC has an active agenda with many partners from the United Nations agencies in Panama, which has helped to facilitate the implementation of this initiative. See Table 1 in the media gallery below for more information.

Media Gallery

UN Specialized Agency with offices in Panama	Activities
International Organization for Migration - IOM	The IOM Regional Office LAC and the RCC Panama have just completed a publication named "Human Mobility in the climate agenda of the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities" – in Spanish. The study identifies needs and opportunities to integrate issues relating to human mobility in climate change strategies in countries of the Americas.
United Nations Development Program - UNDP	RCC Panama and UNDP joining forces with Climate Neutral Now and carbon neutrality initiatives from Perú and Costa Rica to share their experiences with a view to establish a partnership for mutual recognition. Further, RCC Panama and UNDP are closely collaborating to better support the regional LACCW including the NDC Dialogue LAC under close guidance of MDA. Furthermore, under the guidance of FTC, the RCC is partnering with UNDP Support Programme to promote Need-Based approaches to climate finance (NBF) in selected countries in Latin America.
United Nations Environment Program - UNEP	RCC Panama and UNEP, under close guidance of the UNFCCC Adaptation Programme supported the first Exhibition on National Adaptation Plans in Latin America (NAP Regional Expo 2018) to increase the resilience and capacities for climate change in the region. Further, they co-organized session on transport and climate change at the LACCW in 2018.
Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization	RCC Panama and PAHO/WHO, under close guidance of the UNFCCC Adaptation Programme co-organized a session on Health and Climate at the LACCW 2018. Also, are currently collaborating to support countries to better align Health & Climate in their Country's NDCs, tackling Climate Change and Air Pollution, and help countries to MRV those actions. Further, are cording actions for the preparations of a "Central and South American Plan of Action on Health and Climate Change".

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Table 1. Examples of collaboration between UN Specialized Agencies with offices in Panama and the RCC Panama