

Regional Collaboration Center

Dubai

October 2020



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai

Promoting Climate Action in the
Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

Welcome to the RCC Dubai October 2020 Newsletter

In this edition of the newsletter we bring you an **exclusive interview with Sir Laurie Bristow**, the UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and China, a compilation of the **upcoming virtual events**, resources from **recently held webinars** and a handbook on improving capacity in measurement, reporting and verification, **reports on the work of UN Climate Change and the RCCs**, and some interesting ways for you to **engage on climate action**.

Read on for more!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Dubai

An Exclusive Interview with the UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and China



Sir Laurie Bristow the UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and China shares information about his role as COP26 Regional Ambassador, his view on the important elements that need to come together to deliver a successful COP26, challenges and priorities for the region and more.

The role of COP26 Regional Ambassador

My role as COP26 Regional Ambassador involves working with our international partners to ensure that the world meets the goal we set in the Paris Agreement: to limit global warming to well within 2 degrees and as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. To achieve that goal, we all need to increase our level of ambition ahead of COP26, which the UK will host in November 2021.

I connect with a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, businesses and civil society, on the need for ambitious climate action - sharing information, ideas, views and concerns, explaining our approach and listening to what our partners want to achieve at COP26. All countries and all parts of society need to be involved if we are to deliver the changes needed to tackle climate change and protect our future. COVID-19 has reduced the scope for in-person international meetings. So I and my colleagues are doing as much “virtual diplomacy” as we can – by video and phone conferences, webinars and through traditional and social media.

In your view, what are the most important elements that need to come together to deliver a successful COP26?

The most important things are ambition and creative thinking. We want all countries to come forward with ambitious 2030 climate plans (NDCs) and long-term strategies to reach zero carbon emissions as soon as possible, and well ahead of COP26. We all need to step up and help societies and economies adapt to climate change, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable. This includes ensuring the annual \$100bn climate finance goal is met. And we all need to encourage and support the innovation that will help us achieve the Paris goals.

To support this, the UK will co-host an event with the UN on 12 December on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement. This event, and the COP26 summit, will provide an opportunity for the world to come together and commit to urgent action to build a greener and more resilient future as we recover from COVID-19. We will use the event to encourage leaders to announce ambitious, new commitments, and we hope that countries in the region will take advantage of this platform. The pandemic has shown the importance of international cooperation. We can and will meet these huge global challenges, if we work together.

What are the priorities and challenges you perceive in MENA with regard to climate action?

The MENA region is also already under significant environmental pressures such as extreme heat and water scarcity. These are likely to be made worse by future climate change. So we need to work together now to mitigate risks to the region’s prosperity and security from climate change, and build the region's capacity to adapt. As we recover from COVID-19 we also have a huge opportunity to build a more sustainable, prosperous future. The region is hugely important as a producer of hydrocarbons, but the countries of the region are also diversifying their economies and looking to build long term prosperity. We need to work with those countries to plan for a global transition to a low carbon economy that delivers prosperity for all.

How can the various stakeholders in the region, both public and private, contribute to the achievement of a successful COP26 outcome?

All signatories to the Paris Agreement agreed to publish medium and long term plans for meeting the Paris goals. We are asking all our partners to be ambitious. But publishing our plans is not enough: we also need to implement them, to build sustainable economies while protecting our environment for future generations. Both public and private sectors have crucial roles. In setting policy and regulatory frameworks; in offering innovative solutions and technologies; in educating the public and responding to the public’s concerns. There is a growing young and dynamic population across the MENA region. There will be opportunities for them in greening the economy and we want young people across the region to benefit from these opportunities.

Ratification of Multilateral Climate Agreement Gives Boost to Delivering Agreed Climate Pledges and to Tackling Climate Change

The Doha Amendment, which established the Kyoto Protocol’s

second commitment period in 2012, is set to enter into force, signaling the willingness of the international community to deliver on key climate pledges and to tackle climate change through multilateral cooperation.

[More on the ratification here](#)

UN Climate Change: Annual Report 2019

UN Climate Change turned 25 in 2019.

Thanks to its nearly universal membership of state Parties, it mobilizes governments and non-state actors alike to act on climate change.

Learn more about the year that was and about the strides in climate action made in 2019 in the UN Climate Change Annual Report 2019.

[More here...](#)

Report: RCCs Help Deliver Coordinated Climate Action



The regional approach by UN Climate Change is facilitating fast, efficient and coordinated delivery of climate action by a broad range of actors across regions.

Titled “**Enabling long-term impact – the role of regional collaboration centres in catalyzing climate action**”, the report zooms in on the work done by the secretariat’s regional collaboration centres ([RCCs](#)) across the globe in 2019 to actively support

countries as they work to implement commitments under the [Convention](#), the [Kyoto Protocol](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#).

[Read the report here...](#)

Integrating Action for Climate Empowerment into Nationally Determined Contributions: A short guide for countries

Now available in Arabic



In five simple questions and answers, this guide provides suggestions for elements that can be integrated into the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in order to make 'Action for Climate Empowerment' (ACE) - Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Access to Information, Public Participation and International Cooperation - an integral part of countries' climate responses. The guide also shows why ACE is key to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and its greenhouse gas emission targets.

The guide is available in English and Arabic [here](#).

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

Virtual workshop for MENA Gender integration into national climate actions



14 October 2020 | 12.00 - 16.00 CEST; 14.00 - 18.00 GST| Virtual Workshop

From June to October, UNFCCC will host a series of gender-related online events to ensure momentum and progress despite the postponement of UNFCCC subsidiary body sessions due to COVID-19.

Do not miss the regional virtual workshops on gender integration into policies, plans, strategies and action ([Gender Action Plan](#) activity D.6).

[Register Now!](#)

Is your organization supporting the integration of gender into national climate policy and action in the Asia and the Pacific or MENA region? Please contact gender-team@unfccc.int to find out how your work can be showcased in the regional workshop.

More about the workshops [here](#).

8th Dialogue on ACE - Africa and Middle East

28 October 2020 | 13.00-16.00 CET; 16:00 - 19:00 GST| Virtual Dialogue

The Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Regional Dialogue aims to provide a forum for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to advance the discussions on recommendations and views on future work to enhance implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment.

Join the virtual Dialogue to explore the current status of ACE implementation and understand future work to enhance ACE implementation towards 2030.

[Register here!](#)

More on the Dialogue [here](#)

N.B: Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) denotes work under Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement (2015) and their six elements: Climate Change Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Access to Information, Public Participation, and International Cooperation on these issues.

SCF Informal Regional Webinar (Asia and the Pacific):

The second session of the DNA Virtual Workshop was successfully held on the 6th of August 2020 and focused on Standardized Baselines (SBs) and their Applications. DNA representatives from over 13 countries, from the Pacific and Southeast Asia to South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, joined the second session.

[More here...](#)



Virtual Workshop for DNAs: First Session

The first session of the DNA Virtual Workshop was successfully held on 25 June 2020 and focused on the role of DNAs in the Modalities of Communication (MoC) and Letters of Approval (LoA) processes. DNA representatives from over 15 countries, from Southeast Asia and South Asia to Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa, joined the first session.

The poster for the 'Virtual Workshop for DNAs' features a blue background with a collage of images at the top showing people working in a greenhouse, wind turbines, a person on a beach, a group of people, a sunset, and a person running. The text on the poster reads: 'Virtual Workshop for DNAs', 'First Episode: The Role of DNA in Modalities of Communication (MoC) and Letters of Approval (LoC)', '25 June 2020', and lists three time slots: '8:00 - 9:30 (CEST) | 10:00 - 11:30 (UAE Standard Time) | 13:00 - 14:30 (ICT)'. Below this, a paragraph describes the episode's focus. At the bottom, three circular portraits are shown with names and titles: James Grabert (Welcome Remarks), Sana Lingorsky (Trainer), and Yuqing Yu (Moderator).

[More here...](#)

[Read On...](#)

UN Carbon Offset Platform Reaches 2 Million CERs Milestone

The [United Nations Carbon Offset Platform](#) has reached 2 million Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) purchased and cancelled since its launch in September 2015. CERs are emission reductions units emanating from projects located in developing countries under UN Climate Change's [Clean Development Mechanism](#) (CDM). These projects not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also support sustainable development in the project countries.

The platform, developed by UN Climate Change, enables anybody interested to take climate action by supporting these projects, thereby also contributing to sustainable development in developing countries.

[More here...](#)

New Technical Handbook On Climate Action Transparency Reporting Published

A new handbook on institutional arrangements to support transparent reporting of climate actions has been published by the Consultative Group of Experts ([CGE](#)).

The handbook aims to support developing countries to improve their capacities to implement the existing measurement, reporting and verification ([MRV](#)) arrangements under the climate change



convention, in view of the transition to the more stringent enhanced transparency framework ([ETF](#)) under the Paris Agreement.

[More here...](#)

PCCB Network Call: Share Your Story!

Every month from now, the PCCB Network will release a story on concrete examples of climate-related capacity-building led by members of the network from across regions, sectors, and institutions. It is a great opportunity for all capacity building enthusiasts to stay current, learn more about activities of their peers, and become inspired to share their own stories.



[Find out more here](#)

To read the submitted capacity-building stories, visit [here](#)

[Find out how to share your stories here](#)

Explore the RCC Dubai Website!

The RCC Dubai website is a great resource to:



- [Find out the ways in which you can contribute to climate action](#)
- [Learn more about RCC Dubai's work in the region](#)
- [Keep abreast of the upcoming events in the region, virtual and otherwise](#)
- [Discover a trove of information on climate action by accessing UN Climate Change portals](#)
- [Read interviews conducted with eminent personalities and climate change experts from the region and beyond](#)
- [Check out the past RCC Dubai newsletters](#)

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