

Regional Collaboration Center

Dubai

May 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai

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

Welcome to the RCC Dubai May 2021 Newsletter

We are delighted to bring you the latest newsletter from RCC Dubai!

In here you will find information on latest climate action updates from the region and from around the world.

This edition also brings you some words from **H.E. Malik Amin Aslam**, Federal Minister of Climate Change, Pakistan and Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change, who shares about the initiatives in Pakistan towards tackling climate change.

We additionally report back from events we organized on NDC enhancement in the region and on closing adaptation knowledge gaps. We also request your input and feedback from your experiences through surveys on private sector capacity-building, adaptation needs, and Transparency, among other opportunities to get involved. And, finally you will find a round-up of some of the latest climate news from the UNFCCC secretariat and other resources you may find useful.

And finally, we take this opportunity to wish all our readers who were celebrating, a happy and blessed Eid!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Dubai

An Exclusive Interview with H.E. Malik Amin Aslam Federal Minister of Climate Change, Pakistan and Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change

Pakistan is cognizant of climate change and environmental challenges and has put in place policies and taken initiatives to build a cleaner, healthier environment for its people. It is amongst the very few countries in the world to have a dedicated Ministry of Climate Change and has put in place a National Climate Change Policy, which is being implemented under its Framework for Implementation.

In our recovery from the COVID-19



pandemic and recent pest infestation in the country, Pakistan is striving to advance safeguarding nature and under the 'Green Economic Stimulus' is undertaking the '10 Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project', which is aimed at mass plantation, setting up of nurseries, protecting natural forests and the promotion of other forestry products.

The 'Green Nigehabaan Initiative' is providing thousands of job opportunities to youth and daily-wagers. The Green Economic Stimulus also promotes the 'Clean and Green Pakistan Movement',

which adopts a holistic approach and aims at reducing and alleviating air, ground and water pollution.

The Ministry of Climate Change has already launched the 'Ecosystems Restoration Initiative' (ESRI), which focuses on nature-based solutions to strengthen Pakistan's climate change response. Under the 'Protected Area Initiative', Pakistan is developing 15 model Protected Areas to conserve over 7,300 square kilometers of its land area, as well as creating over 5,000 'nature-based' jobs. Through this initiative, Pakistan will expand the protected area coverage to at least 15% by 2023.

Pakistan is also in the process of revising its Nationally Determined Contribution to reflect more robust climate action, by including recent mitigation and adaptation initiatives, strengthening of monitoring, reporting and verification and instituting 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approaches.

Through enhanced engagement with the UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (RCC Dubai), Pakistan is strengthening its role as a responsible country, where the possibility of introducing carbon pricing is being explored. The UNFCCC-WGEO RCC Dubai is further supporting Pakistan in capacity-building and institutional strengthening with regard to the facilitation of the climate change agenda in the country.

[Profile of H.E. Malik Amin Aslam available here](#)

REPORTING FROM CONCLUDED EVENTS

**Virtual Workshop for the countries in Asia,
the Middle East and North Africa share good practices
in NDC Updates and Implementation**

Virtual Workshop on Good Practices in NDC Update and Implementation

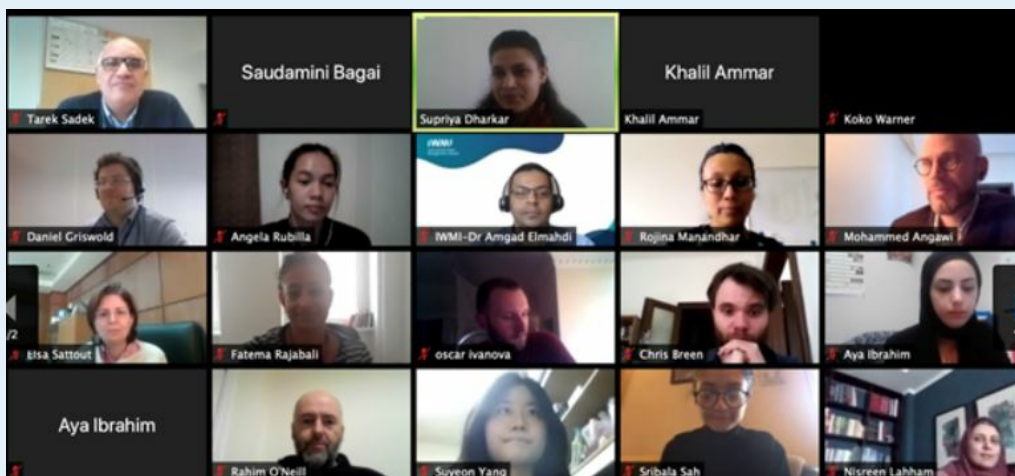
Challenges and Lessons Learned from Asia, the Middle East and North Africa

Over 120 participants, including country representatives from the Ministries, development partners and finance institutions from the region participated at the 3-day workshop on “**Good Practices in NDC Update and Implementation: Challenges and Lessons Learned from Asia, the Middle East and North Africa**” to share challenges and good practices in NDC implementation, and identify areas of collaboration between countries and development partners and/or finance institutions as needed in order to start concrete steps towards implementation of NDCs.

The event was jointly organized by the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centers in Bangkok, Dubai and the NDC-Partnership in collaboration with 12 development partners and development finance institutions in the region.

More information on this event can be found [here](#)

Building Momentum to close adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA



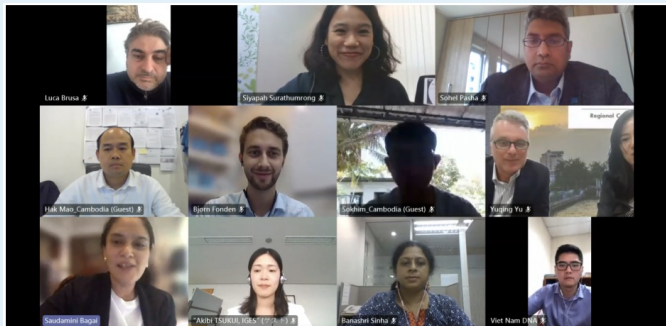
From the 23 – 25 March 2021, the second virtual meeting for Phase II of the [Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative \(LAKI\)](#) was successfully convened for [West Asia/Gulf Cooperation Council and the North African subregions](#).

The second virtual meeting brought together experts working on adaptation challenges in the GCC and North Africa to discuss, deliberate and identify areas of collaboration to address adaptation knowledge gaps. This event follows the first phase of the LAKI process, in which these knowledge gaps were identified and prioritized by experts

in the subregions.

[More on the Second Virtual Meeting here](#)

DNA Virtual Workshop Series: Fourth Episode on Sustainable Development Assessment of Climate Actions



In response to requests for training received from Designated National Authorities (DNAs) of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), UNFCCC/WGEO RCC Dubai and UNFCCC/IGES RCC Bangkok organized the Fourth episode of the DNA Virtual Workshop series focusing on the “Sustainable Development Assessment of Climate Actions” on 8 April 2021.

The workshop saw the participation of almost 30 participants from 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa.

[More information about the virtual workshop here.](#)

LATEST NEWS

COP25 and COP26 Presidents Urge Governments to Strengthen the Climate Ambition Alliance

Credit: Seagull/Pixabay

Ahead of this year’s UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, the President of the conference, Mr. Alok Sharma, and the President of the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid in 2019, Ms. Carolina Schmidt of Chile, are calling on all countries to either follow through on commitments made under the Climate Ambition Alliance or to join the efforts of the Alliance.

Country engagement in the Alliance is led by the governments of Chile and the United Kingdom, with support from UN Climate Change and UNDP. Mobilization of non-government actors is led by the [High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action](#) Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz under the ['Race to Zero' campaign](#).

For more information, visit [here](#)

COP Bureau to Hold Virtual Meeting



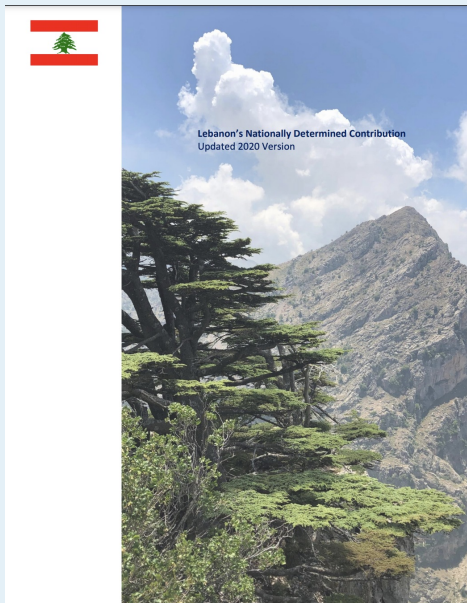
The [Bureau](#) has agreed to hold a virtual meeting in the lead-up to COP26.

Acknowledging the urgent need to advance work ahead of COP26 in Glasgow in November, preparations are now underway by the UN Climate Change Secretariat for the May–June 2021 Climate Change Conference. The informal sessions of the subsidiary bodies will run from **31 May - 17 June**, providing opportunities for Parties and observers to progress discussions on important items. The agenda and supporting documents are available [here](#).

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary and the presiding officers will also address Governments in an open letter asking that all Governments, through their negotiators, support the work of the sessions to achieve as much progress as possible towards a successful COP.

More [here](#).

NDCs submission update from the region and LT-LEDS submissions



Executive Secretary Espinosa welcomed Lebanon's submission of its [updated NDCs](#) on March 16th, 2021 which showed enhanced efforts in both mitigation and adaptation.

Countries are encouraged to process their NDC submissions by 30 July 2021.

The UN Climate Change secretariat is planning to publish the final version of the NDC Synthesis Report based on the NDCs recorded in the [interim NDC registry](#) as of the closing date. The report will be prepared in advance of the pre-COP meeting scheduled for 30 September – 2 October 2021

To date, [29 Parties have submitted LT-LEDS](#) in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement. The COP, by its decision 1/CP

21, paragraph 35, invited Parties to communicate LT-LEDS by 2020.

Parties who wish to communicate their long-term strategy to the secretariat are invited to send their submissions to LT-LEDS@unfccc.int.

[OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED](#)

Engaging the private sector in capacity-building activities for climate action

Contribute to a Mapping Study - in the MENA



Private sector is a key actor in climate action and your efforts are critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

To support, strengthen and enhance your efforts, UNFCCC secretariat through its UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Centre based in Dubai (RCC Dubai) is conducting a mapping of the capacity needs of private sector entities in the Middle East and North Africa in relation to climate action through a **first-of-its kind survey** in the region.

The objective of the survey is to **identify key capacity needs for the private sector**, in particular SMEs, to support the development of a comprehensive **capacity-building strategy**.

The survey can be accessed via the following link / **L'enquête est accessible via le lien suivant (in English / en francais):**

[Take the Survey here!](#)

The Survey will only take 10-15 minutes of your time!

Contribute to the regional mapping by filling the survey by **COB 27th May 2021**.

Contribute to the Inventory of Methodologies for Assessing Adaptation Needs



Following a mandate from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), the [Adaptation Committee](#) is compiling an inventory featuring different methodologies Parties use to assess what is required to address their adaptation needs. These needs relate to adaptation action as well as finance, capacity-building and technological support required in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation. This

inventory seeks to be a valuable depository of information for decision makers at all levels.

(See the CMA.1 report, in particular decision 11.CMA.1, paras. 15-17 for the full context).

The pilot version of the inventory was launched in early July 2020 and remains open for more methodologies and case studies on an ongoing basis.

[Contribute to the Inventory of Methodologies - Take the Survey](#)

The inventory is available on the [Adaptation Knowledge Portal \(AKP\)](#).

Contribute to a stocktaking of MRV/transparency needs and gaps to inform CGE technical advice and support to countries

Credit: Ameen Fahmy on Unsplash

MRV and Transparency is critical to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Paris.

With a view to providing technical support and advice in a targeted and strategic manner and responding to the existing and emerging needs and priorities of developing countries, the [Consultative Group of Experts \(CGE\)](#) conducts, annually, an assessment of needs and gaps, including problems, constraints and capacity-building needs, of developing countries associated with the implementation of the existing MRV arrangements and preparation for the ETF.

To support this assessment, the CGE conducts a **biennial survey** with an aim to grasp the up-to-date and comprehensive picture of where developing countries stand as well as needs and gaps arising from the ground. The information captured through the survey serves as an important tool for the CGE to inform and shape its annual work plans.

On behalf of the CGE, we would like to cordially invite you to participate in the 2021 stocktake survey on MRV/transparency needs and gaps.

[Respond to the Survey here](#)

N.B. This Survey is only open to UNFCCC National Focal Points and Representatives from Ministries

Climate Neutral Now initiative - Evolving its Support More here!

CLIMATE NEUTRAL NOW



The UNFCCC secretariat's Climate Neutral Now initiative is evolving. To encourage more ambitious responses and better recognize those leading the way to global climate neutrality, the initiative has implemented three different levels of recognition (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) within the 3-step method (Measure, Reduce, and Contribute), where “contribute” through offsetting of emissions is voluntary.

Participants will receive a tailored badge indicating the levels achieved every year. In addition, new tools and references to support efforts to measure, reduce and contribute are available.

[Check out the website to learn more about the new features and join the initiative here!!](#)

RESOURCES and MATERIAL

Assessing impacts of the implementation of response measures

*The case study of Senegal and Kenya:
A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis*



A pilot study has been concluded which demonstrates how a **Computational General Equilibrium (CGE) Analysis model can be used to assess the impact of global mitigation policy on a country.**

The pilot study demonstrated the impacts on Senegal and Kenya of a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions achieved using four climate policies viz. two tax instruments, quantity constraints and technology changes.

[Find the study here](#)

Find out more about our work to facilitate climate action in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia at the RCC Dubai Webpage

[Visit our website](#)

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