

Regional Collaboration Center

Dubai

March 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai

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

Welcome to the RCC Dubai March 2021 Newsletter

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

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

We bring you an exclusive interview of **H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad**, Minister of Environment, Egypt where she elaborates on the efforts of Egypt to tackle climate change.

We additionally bring you information on how to apply for the UN Global Climate Action Award 2021; the launch of the first ever MENA Climate Week to be held in 2022 in Dubai; the release of the initial NDC Synthesis Report synthesizing information on the new and updated NDCs submitted by countries in 2020, and much more.

Read on for more!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Dubai

An Exclusive Interview with H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt



Egyptian efforts to tackle climate change

Climate change is likely to have profound socio-economic consequences worldwide with impacts production and threats to human health.

Despite of COVID-19 crisis on Egypt, Egypt embraced the approach of Green Recovery by being the first country in MENA region to issue green bonds to

finance renewable energy, sustainable transportation and waste management. In the same context, the Cabinet of Ministers has endorsed environmental sustainability criteria to be applied to all projects of the national investment plans.

Egypt restructured the National Council for Climate Change, to be headed by the Prime Minister, with involvement of all line ministers to ensure mainstreaming of climate change into all national plans and policies.

Sustainable Energy strategy 2035 has been developed with a target to increase the share of power generation from renewable energy sources to 42% by 2035, with the effectiveness of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP),

National Adaptation Plan is under development to repackage the potential adaptation activities and initiatives with investment projects, built on the 2011 National Adaptation Strategy (NAS 2011). Currently, Egypt is in the process of finalizing an interactive climate change vulnerability Map to provide precise location for sites where people, natural environment or property are at risk because of climate change threats and disasters potential risks.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the critical role of international cooperation, global partnership and regional collaboration, in providing the necessary means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity building) to achieve our goals and to raise our ambition.

Ovais Sarmad at the 17th Edition of DIHAD



Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC secretariat, spoke recently at the 17th Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference (DIHAD) on the impact of Climate Change on Africa.

[More on 17th DIHAD here](#)

Greater Climate Ambition Urged as Initial NDC Synthesis Report Is Published



The UNFCCC secretariat has recently published the Initial NDC Synthesis Report, showing nations must redouble efforts and submit stronger, more ambitious national climate action plans in 2021 if they're to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise by 2°C—ideally 1.5°C—by the end of the century.

The initial version synthesizes information from 48 new or updated NDCs, representing 75

Parties, submitted as at 31 December 2020 in accordance with decision 1/CP.21. These 75 Parties represent about 40% of Parties to the Paris Agreement and account for about 30% global GHG emissions.

As Parties continue to have the opportunity to communicate an updated or new NDC during the course of 2021, the final version of this report is likely to provide a more complete synthesis.

[**More about the report here**](#)

NDCs submission in time for the initial NDC synthesis report

[**Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal**](#) and the [**United Arab Emirates**](#) submitted their new or updated NDCs in December 2020.

These NDCs have been included in the assessments contained in the [**initial NDC synthesis report**](#).

Nepal committed, in their NDCs, to submit Long-Term Strategies in 2021 with an aim to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

[**Click here**](#) to see all NDCs submissions.

Regional Climate Weeks are Back!



The Regional Virtual Roundtables on the **Regional Climate Weeks** were held from 3-4 March 2021. The event brought together a number of high-Level participants together with the High-Level Champions, the COP Presidencies and the co-organizing partners of the Regional Climate Weeks in roundtable discussions with non-Party stakeholders.

The first-ever **MENA Regional Climate Week** to be held in Dubai, UAE was launched at the Roundtables by **H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE and **H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer**, Chairman, World Green Economy Organization (WGEO).

MENA Regional Climate Week will take place in March of 2022!

[**Watch the Regional Virtual Roundtables here**](#)

Apply Now for the 2021 UN Global Climate Action Awards!



APPLY NOW

momentum.unfccc.int

Climate Leaders



Organizations, businesses, universities, governments and others taking bold leadership on climate change can nominate their work for a special 10th anniversary edition of the [UN Global Climate Action Awards](#).

The annual award programme, run by United Nations Climate Change since 2011, recognizes the world's most innovative, scalable and replicable examples of action to tackle climate change.

This year's award will showcase people and projects taking bold and effective climate action in the areas of climate neutrality, innovative climate finance and climate leadership.

The 2021 award winners will be celebrated at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland, in November - the most important climate conference since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015.

Applications for the 2021 UN Global Climate Action Award are being accepted from now until 30 April 2021 at: <https://momentum.unfccc.int>

[More information here](#)

Institutional Arrangements Toolbox: Guide to strengthening national institutional arrangements for transparency of climate action and support



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Transparency of action and support is critical to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Well-functioning institutional arrangement is key to transition to the enhanced transparency framework by 2024. In that context, [the toolbox on institutional](#)

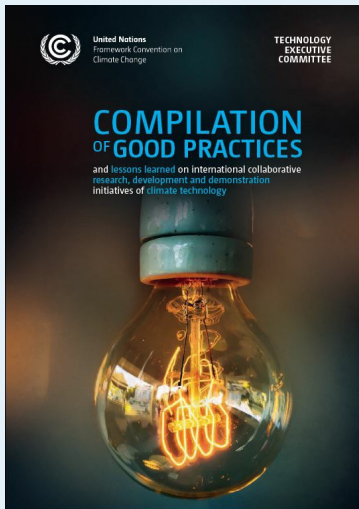
[arrangements](#), developed by the [Consultative Group of Experts \(CGE\)](#), is a one-stop shop that offers a technical handbook (available in all UN languages), video interviews and case stories presenting experiences of developing countries in improving and sustaining national MRV process, and a list of relevant technical resources.

Survey: The CGE will continue to update the toolbox, please complete a short survey to identify and respond to evolving needs of developing countries.

[Respond to the Survey](#)

Open call: Those interested in sharing country experience and lessons learned, please contact tisu@unfccc.int.

Technology Executive Committee: International Collaborative Research, Development and Demonstration on climate technology



Check out the [compilation on international collaborative initiatives on climate technology RD&D](#) produced by TEC.

Several bilateral and multilateral initiatives from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America promote and support RD&D of various climate technologies, from smart electricity grids and energy storage to water management and drought forecasting. The publication analyzes these initiatives and extracts good practices that can be replicated in other locations and future initiatives. The aim is to facilitate the effective participation of developing countries in collaborative RD&D initiatives on climate technologies.

Mobilizing efforts to close private sector capacity gaps

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

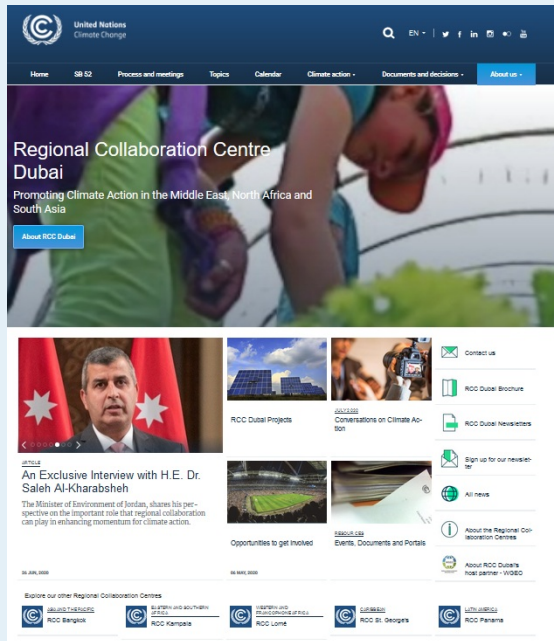
To support, strengthen and enhance their efforts, the [UN Climate Change secretariat](#), in collaboration with the [UNFCCC-WGEO RCC Dubai](#) are conducting a mapping of the capacity needs of private sector entities in Middle East and North Africa in relation to climate action through a first-of-its kind survey in the region.

The survey and mapping will contribute to the preparation of next steps for engaging private sector players in the region in required action-oriented capacity-building measures in relevant areas such as climate risk assessment, identification of climate action measures, understanding of business-relevant climate policy, financial opportunities & technical capacities.

**Are you a private sector entity based in MENA?
Reach out to RCCDubai@unfccc.int to access the survey**

[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](#)

...and a lot more!

Visit our website

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