

Regional Collaboration Centre for Latin America

December 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Panama

Promoting Climate Action in Latin America



Dear RCC Friends,

As 2021 comes to an end, we conclude that it has been a rewarding year despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, with events such as Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2021, UN Climate Change subsidiary bodies sessions and most importantly COP26 in Glasgow in November. Together, these meetings show the support and interest from countries and stakeholders to act on the climate crisis. RCC Panama, the UN Climate Change – UNEP Regional Collaboration Centre for Latin America, collaborated with partners, organizations and stakeholders to empower actors and raise ambition on topics such as carbon pricing, adaptation, smart agriculture, health, NDCs dialogues, carbon footprint alliance, parliamentary policy and youth action. We saw the development of the Spanish version of an Article 6 handbook and advanced Need-based Finance and CIACA projects in the region. These initiatives had major impact on the ground and contributed to COP26 outcomes.

Next year promises to be another challenging and important year for the Latin American region. Submission of updated NDCs, implementation of Article 6, support under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and access to climate finance are on the agenda. We must build on the momentum from Glasgow and reach out to our partners to ensure that we close the gap and get on track by the end of 2022. This is how we can keep the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal within reach. In January, RCC Panama team will present a 2022 workplan and intensify the efforts with all regional partners in the run-up to COP27.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration next year.

Your partner in climate action,
The RCC Panama Team

Highlights

**Interview with recognized climate
leader for urban climate action**



The recipients of a special 10th anniversary edition of the **United Nations Global Climate Action Awards (GCA)** were announced last month, which generated momentum for COP 26 in Glasgow. From RCC Panama we are proud to highlight the winner of the initiatives in Latin America, here with an interview of **Mario Ramón Silva Rodríguez the General Director at the Institute for Planning and Development Management of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara (IMEPLAN)**.

RCC Panama: *As a winner of the 2021 UN Awards for Global Climate Action, the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (AMG) has been referred to as a climate leader. What has been the incentive for AMG to take that leadership and develop the Climate Action Plan?*

The incentive arose from the governance framework of our Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara, as it allowed to put a different emphasis to the climate action plans that have been created from a city level perspective. It is a strategy that arises as response to opportunities provided to cities by the Paris Agreement to act against the climate crisis. Beyond this, the metropolises and regions' local governments are the ones who have the possibility of implementing solutions to the climate crisis more rapidly. Cities face problems on a day-to-day basis, therefore we have to look at our own scale of what is the power and possibility of accelerating efforts.



In this regard, what inspired the plan and what was innovative and very relevant was that for the first time a mechanism was created on a regional level. In that way, the initiative is precisely focused on this aspect, to be able to raise the climate ambition and further defining the instruments that helped us from emission inventory, analysis and modeling of scenarios, recognizing that there is room for improvement. What is especially relevant is having aligned ten subnational governments with the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, which includes 9 municipalities and the Jalisco state government, which motivates us to continue joining efforts in the approach to the climate crisis.

[Read continuation of interview in English](#)

[Read continuation of interview in Spanish](#)

BURs/NCs submissions from Latin American countries during 2021



Under the UNFCCC, developing country Parties are obliged to prepare and submit **national communications** every 4 years and **biennial update reports** (BURs) every 2 years.

What are these NC and BURs? BURs are reports to be submitted by non-Annex I Parties, containing updates of national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. Such reports provide updates on actions undertaken by a Party to implement the Convention, including the status of its GHG emissions and removals by sinks, as well as on the actions to reduce emissions or enhance sinks. Non-Annex I Parties are also required to submit their first NC within three years of entering the Convention, and every four years thereafter. A national communication is a report that each Party to the Convention prepares periodically in accordance with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

During the year that has passed there are currently four countries in Latin America that has submitted an updated report of these two, which are are Brazil (*fourth National Communication*), Chile (*fourth National Communication*), Paraguay (*third BUR*), and Panama (*second BUR*).

News from UNFCCC

COP26 Launched a Decade of Action for Climate Empowerment

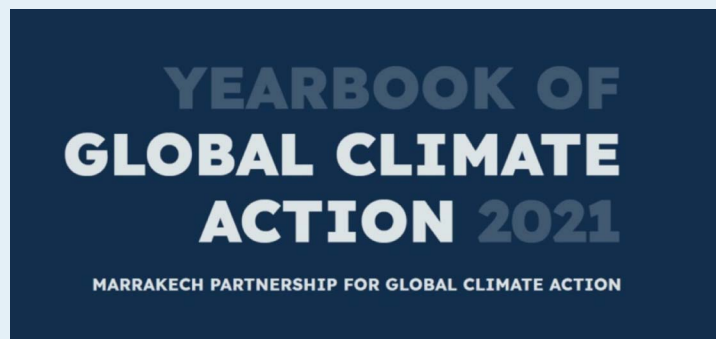


COP26 adopted the new **10-year Glasgow work programme on ACE**, which provides a robust framework for countries and all stakeholders to drive changes in action, attitudes and behaviours needed for the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient

and just society. Activities under the Glasgow work programme are focused on four priority areas - policy coherence, coordinated action, tools and support, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting - that aim to address gaps and challenges in implementing the six elements of ACE and to create opportunities to accelerate implementation. For more information, access the newsroom article [here](#).

Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2021 shows growing momentum

Underlined by the data sources such as the *Global Climate Action Portal*, momentum among non-Party stakeholders' global climate action continues to grow. This surge is captured in the recently published *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2021*, which showcases the work carried out under the *Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action* and the *High-Level Champions* since the last publication, identifies the sectors that need acceleration and took stock of this progress during the *events* at COP 26. It also sets out the future vision and 5-year plan of an *improved Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition* that was welcomed by Parties at COP 26 through the *Glasgow Climate Pact*.



Read more [here](#).

4th Informal Forum of the Consultative Group of Experts

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) organized its **fourth informal forum** on 8 December 2021, which was attended by more than 100 experts. The forum provided a platform for relevant stakeholders to informally reflect and exchange views around the experiences on some of the key issues, such as domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance, which are critical to sustaining national efforts to enhance reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The discussions will feed into the development of the CGE's work programme for 2022 – 2026.

Find the event recording [here](#), and read more about this forum [here](#).



MENA Climate Week 2022 set for February in Dubai



The first-ever Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW 2022) is slated to be held in-person from 28 February to 3 March in Dubai. This marks the first of the Regional Climate Weeks in 2022, which convene stakeholders in key regions throughout the year and advance implementation of *the Glasgow Climate Pact* and the Paris Agreement.

Regional collaboration emerged as a catalyst for global climate action last year, with recognition of the Regional Climate Weeks in the Glasgow Pact text. MENACW 2022 will bring together leaders from across the region to explore resilience against climate risks,

the transition to a low-emission economy and collaboration to solve pressing challenges. It is one of the first opportunities to accelerate implementation of COP26 outcomes.

For more information, please visit [the MENACW 2022](#) webpage. Registration opens soon, so stay tuned.

Get involved

Share your innovative solution for climate resilient and sustainable cities (SDG11) and team up with UNFCCC



#Innovate2030 How can we build climate-smart and sustainable cities and communities? Develop digital and innovative ideas based on 7 real challenges with partners from businesses and politics to address SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities. Become part of a meaningful **innovation program** and actively shape a better future!

Learn more about the program on: <https://app.ekipa.de/challenges/innovate2030>

Innovate2030-SDG11 is jointly initialized by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and its new lab for digital innovations – digilab – in collaboration with the Make-IT Alliance, European Commission and the UNFCCC.

Recording of previous webinars

Lanzamiento del Centro Internacional de Energía y Ambiente (CIEA) en Panamá

UNEP: La oportunidad de negocio de la Generación Solar Distribuida en Colombia



ORAS CONHU: 1er Foro Plan Andino de Salud y Cambio Climático



UNEP: Resultados de la COP26: Implicaciones para Centroamérica y República Dominicana



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