

Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration at the MENA Climate Week 2023

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Program of Events (10 – 12 October)

BACKGROUND

The recent IPCC AR6 synthesis report confirmed that the world is not on track to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. According to the report, emissions need to fall by 43% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. However, projected global GHG emissions from the UNFCCC's 2022 NDC Synthesis Report, which analyses the latest available NDCs covering 193 Parties to the Paris Agreement, make it likely that warming will exceed 1.5 degrees unless more ambitious mitigation measures are implemented immediately. Similarly, current actions toward adaptation and resilience do not match the ambition for transformational adaptation and climate resilient development at large.

The increasing climate change impacts will affect all regions and in particular MENA, as one of the most vulnerable. But it is also at the regional, national, and local level where climate change solutions are being implemented, lessons being learned, and experiences are being shared.

The 2023 Regional Climate Weeks offer the opportunity to call for decisive change and for urgently responding to the need for accelerating progress by collectively embarking on a global transformation of our economic and social systems.

Building upon the successful experience from 2022, the UNFCCC and the NDC Partnership will host a Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration as part of MENA Climate Week to provide a dedicated peer-to-peer platform for policymakers, practitioners, and key stakeholders to exchange on climate actions, approaches and lessons learnt that are leading climate action acceleration.

The reflections and messages that will derive from the Regional Exchange will sum to the first Global Stocktake, which will conclude at COP 28 in UAE in December this year.

The Regional Exchange is financially supported by Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and with the collaboration of the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres

Thematic Focus

Through a three-days long curated program that is embedded in the thematic tracks of the 2023 MENA Climate Week, participants will engage in a series of learning exchanges on climate policies, sectoral approaches and key stakeholder engagement examples that are leading climate action acceleration in the context of current and new NDCs, LT-LEDS and sectoral policies to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement.

The events included in this program will provide complementary perspectives from a broad range of stakeholders and experts across a variety of topics, such as energy transition, carbon markets, and sectoral approaches.

Format

The Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration comprise the following affiliated and side events hosted by the UNFCCC secretariat and/or the NDC Partnership, plus a recommended list of related events under the MENA Climate Week 2023 program:

1. **Opening session of the Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration**
2. Implementation of energy transition in the context of NDCs
3. Accelerating Article 6 Readiness in Middle East and North African Countries
4. NDC Partnership showcase: Innovative Climate Action at the Water-Climate Nexus
5. **Closing session of the Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration**

In support of your active participation in the Regional Exchange, below you will find draft agendas for the events. The curated list of recommended events and important updates will be uploaded in the event webpage here: <https://unfccc.int/event/regional-exchange-on-climate-action-acceleration-at-the-2023-middle-east-and-north-africa-climate>

Objectives

The MENA Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration aims to:

1. Enable peer-to-peer exchange on
 - a. NDC implementation and financing to date,
 - b. The Global Stocktake,
 - c. The path towards the next round of NDCs and their link to LT-LEDS
2. Drive acceleration of climate action by showcasing examples of strong institutional arrangements, pivotal international cooperation support, key stakeholders' engagement and enhanced national capacity, among others;
3. Highlight the role of the collective action under the NDC Partnership to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and provide inputs for the first Global Stocktake.

Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration sessions

DAY 1

10 October 2023 – 9:00 to 10:30 hrs. MENA-AE-ME-017-1 Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration OPENING SESSION Room – Neom	
DURATION	SESSION DETAILS
10 mins.	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariana Panuncio-Feldman, Director of Country Engagement, NDC Partnership <p>Official Opening – Host country government representative - TBC</p>
5 mins.	<p>Moderator – Mariana Panuncio-Feldman, Country Engagement Director, NDC Partnership</p> <p><i>Explanation of the approach, expected outcomes of the Regional Exchange and set participants expectations. Guiding questions/Guiding Topics:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the greatest challenges to implement solid, long-term vision institutional arrangements [policy, regulations and laws, committees, institutions, commissions] to implement and accelerate climate action? What are the obstacles to accessing climate finance: national capacities, lack of financial schemes, country-driven approaches, need of flexibility in requirements and timing? What are key ingredients for successful private sector engagement? At what level should we start the engagement? Are there avenues settled in your country? What should be the expected outcome of private sector engagement? In light of the expected results from the GST, what should the next round of NDC 2025 take into consideration? Is the alignment of NDCs, LT-LEDS and NAPs happening? What are the main barriers to overcome for us to raise ambition further?
15 mins.	<p>Setting the scene presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MENA regional perspective on climate action acceleration: Carol Chouchani Cherrane, Director, Arab Center for Climate Change Policies and Cluster Lead at Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, UNESCWA Global overview on transition challenges with a focus on Water and climate nexus in the region: Jyotsna Puri, Associate vice president of the Strategy and Knowledge, IFAD
10 mins.	Q&A - Moderator
40 mins.	Panel: Country experiences for climate action acceleration

10 mins per panelist	This session will engage with representatives of 3 countries who will present national or local experiences of successful drivers for climate action acceleration.
10 min Q& A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and institutional changes to accelerate climate action - Mohamadou Sow, Deputy Director of Climate Change and Green Economy, Mauritania • Access to climate finance: Sub-national level and private sector engagement – Zoubir Idrissi, Head of the Environment Division, Ministry of Interior, Morocco • NDCs and LT-LEDS alignment - TBC <p>Guiding questions:</p> <p>1. Which national policies and institutional arrangements are needed or have helped to accelerate climate action? How has Mauritania's institutional arrangements in place contributes to improving the NDC implementation efforts and the inter-ministerial coordination?</p> <p>2. Which steps/framework need to be in place to access climate finance? What attracts private sector engagement for climate action implementation and support? How has Morocco's engagement within the NDC Partnership helped in attracting and mobilizing climate finance? What kind of support did you receive?</p> <p>3. How are you considering alignment of the NDCs and the LT-LEDS? will the alignment foster adaptation and increase mitigation ambition? How did the NDC development and implementation process help provide inputs for sectors engagement, scenarios modeling and data for the LT-LEDS?</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
10 mins	Closing remarks - Moderator

<p>October 10, 2023 – 10:30 to 12:00 hrs.</p> <p><u>Implementation of energy transition in the context of NDCs</u></p> <p>MENA-T1-003</p> <p>Room – Theater 1</p>	
DURATION	SESSION DETAILS
10 minutes	<p>High-level opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC secretariat
10 minutes	<p>Scene-setting presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRENA • UNESCWA
60 minutes	<p>Panel – Facilitation the Energy Transition in the context of NDC implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Panelists <p>Moderation: UNFCCC RCC MENA and SA</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
10 minutes	Closing remarks

DAY 2

October 11, 2023 – 09:00 to 10:00 hrs.		
NDC Partnership Showcase: Innovative Climate Action at the Water-Climate Nexus		
MENA-SE-T3-029		
Room AI U1a		
Time	Segment	Speaker
0:00-05 (5 min)	Welcome	Moderator: Mariana Panuncio-Feldman, Country Engagement Director, NDC Partnership
0:05-10 (5 min)	Introductory remarks	High level speaker/Minister, MENA country - TBD
0:10-18 (8 min)	Framing presentation	Jo Puri, Associate Vice President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
0:18-55 (37 min)	<p>Water nexus roundtable discussion with key stakeholders</p> <p>First, each speaker will be asked to speak for 4-5 mins, followed by a roundtable discussion with all participants in the room.</p> <p>Discussion prompts:</p> <p>For country representatives: Which impacts of climate change on water cause you the most worry in your country? What scope is there for changes to water management in your country that could contribute to mitigating climate change? What urgent needs do you have to adapt water management? Are there particular sectors, geographies, stakeholders most impacted? How are water-climate nexus approaches being implemented in your country?</p> <p>For implementing partners: Where do you see the biggest opportunity for countries to use water as an entry point to climate action, helping to raise ambition? What kinds of support are you providing to countries to implement water nexus action (including projects, policies, institutions, regulations, etc.)? How can countries access this support?</p>	<p>Moderated panel</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jihad S. Al Mahamid, Secretary General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan • Mr. Oday Hadi, Head of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Iraq • Mr. Jeremiah Njeru, Chief Technical Officer, FAO Saudi Arabia
0:55-1:00 (5 min)	Closing, Recap of key discussion items, next steps	Jacob Waslander, Envoy to the Middle East and North Africa for Water, Energy Food, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

NDC Partnership Reception

Wednesday October 11, 2023 – 19:00-21:00 hrs.

Layalia Shamia Restaurant

DAY 3

October 12, 2023 12:00 – 13:00 hrs. Accelerating Article 6 Readiness in Middle East and North African Countries MENA-SE-T1-018 Al Ula Meeting Room		
Time	Segment	Speaker
0:00-05 (5 min)	Welcome and overview of event objectives	Moderator: Mohamed Boussaid, Regional Manager, NDC Partnership
0:05-15 (10 min)	Keynote on trends in Article 6 implementation across Middle East and North Africa	Axel Michaelowa, Senior Founding Partner Perspectives Climate Group
0:15-20 (5 min)	Audience Q&A	Questions for Axel Michaelowa, Perspectives Climate Group
0:20-55 (35 min)	Country experience sharing and panel discussion Format: Panelists have 5 mins max. each to respond to the moderator questions Remaining time for discussion with audience Discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the Article 6 priorities for your country/this region?• Where does your country/region stand in terms of implementation and what lessons can you share for countries who may have similar priorities?	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ihssane El-Marouani, NDC Partnership In-Country Facilitator, Morocco• Ms. Kahramana Zeidalkelani, Director of International Relations Environment Quality Authority (EQA), Palestine• Mr. Yousif Yousif, Climate Change Director, Ministry of Environment, Iraq• Mr. Krishnan Umamaheswaran, Article 6 and Carbon Pricing Expert, UNFCCC RCC MENA and South Asia

0:55-1:00 (5 min)	Closing, Recap of key discussion items, next steps	Moderator: Mohamed Boussaid, Regional Manager, NDC Partnership
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October 12, 2023 – 14:00 – 15:30 hrs.
MENA-AE-ME-017-2
Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration
CLOSING SESSION
Room –Neom

Time	SESSION DETAILS	SPEAKERS
5 mins	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Welcome remarks and explanation of the session and expected outcomes</p>	<p>Moderator Mary Awwad, Senior Climate Action Specialist and Coordinator, UNFCCC RCC MENA and South Asia</p>
50 mins	<p>World Café/round table Dialogue</p> <p>Divided into Three groups, participants are invited to discuss challenges and opportunities for climate action acceleration around the topics presented in the opening session:</p> <p>Group 1: Access to climate finance: national capacities, institutional arrangements and governance; financial mechanisms, private sector engagement.</p> <p>Guiding questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the key obstacles to accessing climate finance - e.g. national capacities, need for further investment planning, regulatory constraints, limited options regarding financial mechanisms, and the need for flexibility on the requirements and timing? • What are the institutional arrangements needed to scale up climate finance access and mobilization? • What are the key ingredients for successful private sector engagement? <p>Group 2: NDCs and LT-LEDS: next round of NDCs in 2025 challenges for design, implementation and alignment with LT-LEDS.</p> <p>Guiding questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the expected results from the Global Stocktake, what should the next round of NDCs (due to be submitted in 2025) take into consideration? • Is the alignment of NDCs, LT-LEDS and NAPs happening or, if not yet, how can it be strengthened? • What are the main barriers to raising ambition further, and how can countries be supported to overcome them? 	<p>Roundtable Moderators</p> <p>Group 1 – GIZ</p> <p>Group 2 – UNDP</p> <p>Group 1&2 French - TBC</p>
15 mins	Report back from the World Café	Rapporteurs

	<p>Facilitators and Support Unit colleagues support the discussion in the different round tables Groups.</p> <p>A rapporteur from each group gives a brief presentation of the group's key outcomes.</p>	<p>Group 1 Group 2 Group 1 & 2</p>
15 mins	<p>Panel: Regional support available</p> <p>Implementing partners/donors showcase available support and what countries require to access scaled up support.</p>	<p>Implementing partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCWA - Carole Chouchani • RECREE - TBC • IRENA - TBC • UNDP - Abdullah Ahmad Zahiruddin
5 mins	<p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>James Grabert, Mitigation Division Director, UNFCCC secretariat</p>

- **Curated program of event in the following page** -

Curated program of events

Supporting the Regional Exchange on Climate Action Acceleration at MENA Climate Week 2023 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Events not clashing with the Regional Exchange sessions

Code	Title	Day	Start time	End time	Room	Organizer
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER						
MENA-AE-PE-001	Finance, markets and technology: Accelerating climate action	10.10.2023	14:00	17:00	Neom	World Bank
MENA-SE-T1-009	MENA Energy Transition Trilemma: Policies, Finance, and Institutional Implementation Capacities	10.10.2023	15:00	16:00	Al Jouf	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RECREE)
WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER						
MENA-T1-005	Hydrogen Horizons: Unveiling the Sustainable Energy Landscape in the MENA region	11.10.2023	10:00	11:00	Theatre 1	IRENA, ESCWA and UNEP
MENA-T4-004	Whole of society's approaches to transformation: Non-Party Stakeholders' Role in Implementing NDCs in the MENA Region	11.10.2023	11:30	13:30	Theatre 2	TBC
MENA-SE-T1-014	Navigating the Road to Net-Zero: Perspectives from the West Asia Region	11.10.2023	12:00	13:00	Al Jouf	UN Environment Programme - Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP - ROWA)
MENA-SE-T1-013	Mitigating Climate Change through Energy Efficiency and Transformative Actions, UN Tools to support Saudi Vision 2030	11.10.2023	13:30	14:30	Al Ula	UN Resident Coordinator's Office - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UN Entities
MENA-AE-PE-008	Mitigating Climate Change through Energy Efficiency and Transformative Actions, UN Tools to support Saudi Vision 2030	11.10.2023	14:30	17:00	Theatre 2	UN Resident Coordinator's Office - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UN Entities
MENA-AE-PE-009-4	COP28 workshop Tech: How to develop climate tech ecosystems in the Middle East	11.10.2023	15:00	16:00	Theatre 1	UAE COP 28 Presidency
MENA-SE-T1-012	Financing for Energy Transitions in the MENA region	11.10.2023	15:00	16:00	Al Jouf	IRENA and ETAF partners
MENA-SE-T3-026	Middle East Green Initiative	11.10.2023	15:00	16:00	Yanbu	UNDP
MENA-AE-ME-007	Achieving Climate Action and Socio-Economic Prosperity in Harmony: The use of tools for evidence-based policy making	11.10.2023	15:00	18:00	Dhahran	UNFCCC secretariat
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER						
MENA-AE-ME-013	Needs Based Finance for Arab States: Mobilization of Scaled-	12.10.2023	9:00	10:30	Diriyah	UNFCCC, RCC MENA and South Asia, ESCWA,

	Up Finance for Ambitious Climate Action					League of Arab States
MENA-AE-PE-005	Delivering Climate Solutions through Partnerships and Triangular Cooperation	12.10.2023	9:00	11:00	Neom	Islamic Development Bank
MENA-T1-006	Financing the Energy Transition: Unlocking New and Emerging Technologies on the route to Net-Zero	12.10.2023	9:00	9:55	Theatre 1	UNDP, WB
MENA-T1-007	Unlocking the potential of carbon markets for emission reductions and removals in supporting the transition to net zero	12.10.2023	10:00	11:00	Theatre 1	UNFCCC, WB