



United Nations  
Climate Change



WORLD BANK GROUP



**Date:** Day 2 – 29 March; 9:00 – 10:30 Dubai time

**Title:** [Planning and Implementing Long Term Strategies for Sustainable and Inclusive Development](#)

**Organizer:** UNFCCC Secretariat

**Supporting organization:** 2050 Pathways Platform

**Description:**

In this session, participants will learn from government and non-government stakeholders on their efforts to prepare the grounds for developing long-term targets and LTLEDS. It will explore the regional challenges and opportunities regarding the design and implementation of long-term climate strategies as well as the effective translation of long-term strategies into short- and medium-term actions. This will be achieved through a panel discussion providing a platform to regional State and non-State actions to share experiences and lessons learned, along with a discussion on how development partners can enhance country-led efforts for long term low GHG development that support sustainable and inclusive growth while ensuring a just transition.

**Speakers:**

- Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat
- Adeel Abbas Syed, MENA Regional Coordinator Climate Change, The World Bank
- Bernd Hackmann, Team Lead, NDC, LT-LEDS, Sectoral Support Unit, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat
- Richard Baron, Executive Director, 2050 Pathways Platform
- Estefania Luraschi, Associate, 2050 Pathways Platform
- Bouzekri Razi, Director of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Green Economy, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco
- Simon Benmarrage, Head of Unit, IRENA Innovation and Technology Center, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- Olatunji Yusuf, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Islamic Development Bank Group
- Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, UNESCWA
- Mahmoud Fathallah, Director, Department of Environmental Meteorological Affairs, Economic Sector, LAS secretariat



**Date:** Day 2 – 29 March; 11:00 – 12:30 Dubai time

**Title:** [Enabling Frameworks for Accelerated Energy Transitions](#)

**Organizer:** International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

**Supporting organization:** Global Wind Energy Council

**Description:**

The MENA region is vast in challenges and opportunities in terms of the energy transition. While the region has vast renewable energy potential, it is extremely dependent on fossil fuels. IRENA estimates that tapping only 5% of the region’s renewable power potential would enable renewable energy to generate more than half of the electricity mix by 2050. This generation would primarily come from wind and solar PV energy, with smaller roles for hydropower and bioenergy. How can countries shift their focus to technologies on renewable energy like wind and solar PV energy, as well as those on energy efficiency, and implement policy frameworks which can mobilize private sector investment in these areas?

This session will convene policymakers, businesses, and civil society in the MENA region to discuss what country-driven ambitions, measures and policies are needed to create an enabling framework that supports an accelerated energy transition.

**Speakers:**

- Gonzalo Muñoz, COP 25 High-level Champion
- Diala Hawila, Programme Officer - Policy Advice, IRENA
- Elizabeth Curmi, Director, Global Thematic Analyst, Citi Global Insights
- Faisal Eissa, General Manager, Lekela Power Egypt
- Amani Dibo, Development Director, Sustain the World
- Nasma Jroni, Senior Expert Climate and Decarbonisation, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



**Date:** Day 3 – 30 March; 14:00 – 15:30 Dubai time

**Title:** [Climate Finance in MENA Region: where we stand and the way forward](#)

**Organizer:** FMDV - Global Fund for Cities Development

**Supporting organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

### **Description:**

Current efforts to meet targets for net-zero by 2050 have so far fallen short, and countries, globally and in the MENA region, begin to re-adjust existing targets and introduce new policies to curb the impacts of climate change. Financing these initiatives will be a particular struggle especially for developing countries. The MENA region is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change with low penetration levels of renewable energy (13% of the energy consumption mix) despite vast renewable resources and some of the lowest cost generation in the world, and energy efficiency, whilst the fiscal space for financing efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation remains limited, especially in climate adaptation where the region attracts the lowest share at only 6 %, so as to protect nature and support sustainable livelihoods. The role of international financial institutions and the development of climate change funds and mechanisms are critical in de-risking investments and providing much needed funding and financing in especially challenging investment climates such as those in/recovering from conflict.

This session aims to:

- Set the scene of climate finance in the MENA Region: key data, challenges, trends and achievements in public and private sector climate finance (exploring key elements such as: access, flows, intermediation/channelling, adaptation/mitigation finance distribution, risk management, guarantees/credit enhancement, regulations, etc.), at regional and national scales of action, including a focus on subnational dynamics with the example of Morocco's National Program on subnational climate finance.
- Present national best practices and initiatives, and regional stakeholders' dynamics (laws/regulations, specific partnering/blended finance mechanisms, sectorial dynamics and market analysis on climate finance opportunities).
- Showcase regional drivers for change in financing NDCs and stakeholders' climate action (especially on adaptation)

### **Speakers:**

- Venkata Putti, Program Manager, Carbon Markets and Innovation, The World Bank
- Shada Al Shariff, Investment Priority Lead/Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU), Jordan
- Ignacio Carreras, Special Projects Manager, AMEA Power
- Carlos de Freitas, Strategy Advisor, FMDV-Global Fund for Cities Development
- Nabil Badr, Deputy Director of Banking Supervision, Bank Al-Maghrib, Network for Greening Financial Systems (NGFS)
- Dahlia El Hawary - Lead Consultant United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative UNEP FI (Egypt)
- Jan-Willem van de Ven, Head of Climate Finance and Carbon Markets, EBRD
- Mohand Laenser, Honorary Chairman of ARM- Moroccan Association of Governors, Former Minister of Home Affairs, Morocco



**Date:** Day 3 – 30 March; 16:00 – 17:30 Dubai time

**Title:** [Mobilizing funds from capital markets to tackle climate challenge in MENA](#)

**Organizer:** Climate Investment Funds (CIF)

**Description:**

Capital markets have been changing fast over the last decade due to expectations for the financial sector to play a pivotal role in transforming the economic system to be sustainable and equitable. Investors have been responding to the evolving landscape by integrating sustainability or ESG considerations in their investment decisions and declaring their goals in contributing to climate action through numerous market initiatives, such as Net Zero Alliance, Climate 100+ and others.

While sustainable finance is becoming mainstream in developed and higher income countries, lower income countries' access to sustainable capital has been limited. Out of 20+ issues of green bonds, there has been only several emerging markets issuing green bonds and there have been only four emerging market issuers that are included in investment benchmarks that drive institutional investors flows. Out of \$1 trillion of green bonds issued globally, less than 1% of that has been issued in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa.

This panel will explore existing experience and opportunities for MENA countries in accessing capital markets for their green/climate investments from the recent green bond by Egypt, green sukuk by Islamic Development Bank, a prospective sovereign green bond issuance by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and from the lens of private sector financial institutions and investors.

**Speakers:**

- Zamir Iqbal, Vice President and CFO, Islamic Development Bank
- Ekaterina (Katya) Gratcheva, Lead Finance Officer, Climate Investment Funds, World Bank
- Ahmed Kouchouk, Vice Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policies & Institutional Reform, Egypt
- Lydia Harvey, Executive Director, ESG Specialist, J.P. Morgan
- Steven Liberatore, Head of ESG/Fixed Income, Nuveen
- Guly Sabahi, Senior Advisor, Senior Advisor, Climate Finance, NDC Partnership Support Unit, World Resources Institute



Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar  
أرب يوث كلايمنت موفمنت قطر



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



**Date:** Day 4 – 31 March; 9:00 – 10:30 Dubai time

**Title:** Role of youth in a just and inclusive energy transition in the MENA Region

**Organizer:** Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar (AYCMQA)

**Supporting organization:** UN-ESCWA, ILO, World Bank, Connect4Climate

### Description:

As the transition from predominantly fossil fuel-based infrastructures to more sustainable renewables-based energy systems progress across the MENA region, the need for inclusion in the process has become apparent. The renewable energy knowledge gap between developing and developed countries continues to increase as equity and equality become more prevalent topics in the world. In all of this, it is still evident that if critical members of society like youth and especially women, children, and the poor are not included in the energy transition, the success and objectives of the transition are risked as well as the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

An inclusive and just energy transition in the MENA region would promote increased innovation capacity and encourage a widespread adoption of renewable energy practices, policies, and action all while broadening opportunities for youth, women and other members of civil society that have traditionally been left excluded. Further to discuss practical means through the NDC formulation and implementation to achieve a just transition for all and consider policy frameworks that countries MENA region can employ.

This panel will explore, and showcase work being done by proactive youth in the just and inclusive climate action and energy transition in the MENA region that addresses various aspects of the transition including inclusiveness and justice. The dialogue will provide insights on how young people are building a movement for greater climate ambition and will focus on the social and employment impacts, inequality, and inclusiveness of a transition towards low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. Finally provide concrete policies that support a just transition coupling climate action with decent job creation for young people in the MENA region.

### Speakers:

- Mari Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, The World Bank
- Neeshad Shafi, Executive Director, Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar (AYCMQA)
- Marek Harsdorff, Economist, International Labour Organization
- Peter Govindasam, Director, Climate Change International Team, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore
- Sean Ratka, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section, UN ESCWA
- Ismail Farjia, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection & Coordinator African Youth Climate Hub, Morocco
- Omnia El Omrani, Youth Sounding Board of the European Commission and the Lancet Commission on Post-COVID Population Health, Egypt Youth4Climate Delegate
- Giulia Braga, Program Manager, Connect4Climate, The World Bank



**Date:** Day 4 – 31 March; 11:00 – 12:30 Dubai time

**Title:** [The Latest on Carbon Markets & Pricing in the MENA Region](#)

**Organizers:** International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC)

**Description:**

Following the Article 6 agreement among parties during COP26, the momentum for carbon pricing and markets has risen as key tools to tackle climate change. Public and private stakeholders have recognized the benefits of carbon markets.

At this session, participants will discuss challenges and opportunities of carbon pricing and markets that the MENA region faces after COP26, including the key role played by the private sector through such as participation in voluntary markets and adoption of internal carbon pricing. It will provide stakeholders with a better understanding of leading carbon pricing developments and an opportunity to explore collaborations among jurisdictions in the region after COP26. For example, it will discuss some key takeaways of Article 6 rules and its implication for the region, most notably for the private sector, and how regional cooperation can support the efforts.

The session will include a fireside chat bringing together leaders from the region to discuss mobilization of private sector actions for low carbon transition.

**Speakers:**

- Venkata Putti, Program Manager, Carbon Markets and Innovation, The World Bank
- Stephanie La Hoz Theuer, Senior Advisor, Adelphi
- John Kilani, Director of Sustainable Development, The Al-Attiyah Foundation
- Ignacio Carreras, Special Projects Manager, AMEA Power
- Andrea Bonzanni, Director, International Policy, International Emissions Trading Association
- Mashael Al Shalan, Founding Partner, AEON Strategy
- Ana Haurie, Co-Founder & CEO, Respira International
- Kishor Rajhansa, Chief Operations Officer, Global Carbon Council
- Perumal Arumugam, Programme Officer, Regulatory Development Unit (MRV) of SDM, UNFCCC