

Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022

28-31 March 2022

OUTPUT REPORT

18 May 2022

Hosted by:



Organized by:



In collaboration with global partners:

And partners in MENA:



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The inaugural MENA Climate Week (MENACW 2022) was held from 28 to 31 March 2022 in Dubai. The event marked a return to in-person Regional Climate Weeks events and the first ever Climate Week in the region. MENACW 2022 brought together thousands of stakeholders to explore resilience against climate risk, the transition to net zero emissions and collaboration on pressing challenges. This opened opportunities to advance progress related to key decisions from COP26 in Glasgow, where the Regional Climate Weeks received recognition as a platform to strengthen credible and durable response at the regional level.

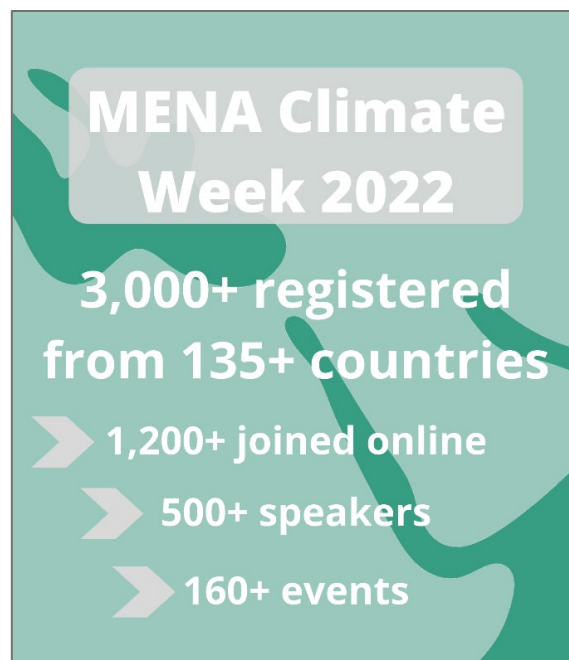
MENACW 2022 opened with high-level sessions that put the Week's discussions into the context of regional leadership and global action. Ministers recognized the risks from climate change facing the region and discussed the benefits of climate action. These overarching points were reflected in three days of thematic discussions led by MENACW 2022 global partners. The need for action was also discussed at Side Events led by regionally relevant organizations and experts, advanced in Affiliated Events that support the UN Climate Change process and showcased in the Action Hub. These events convened leaders and decision makers to engage in solution-oriented discussion and forge partnerships for action.

The first-ever MENA Climate Week closed with a wrap-up session and a strong call to action from the host government and all partners. This firms the foundation for regional action that accelerates implementation ahead of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November.

The in-person MENACW event was hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates – Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) and the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). The event is organized in collaboration with core partners UN Climate Change, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme and the World Bank Group. Partners based in MENA include the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the League of Arab States (LAS) Secretariat, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

With COP27 to be held in the MENA region and registration promoted actively by UN Climate Change, partners and the host government, attendance at the inaugural MENA Climate Week was excellent.

- 3,000+ registered from 135+ countries
- 1,200+ joined with virtual participation
- 500+ speakers including in virtual events
- 161 events in the programme, including:
 - 77 Side Events / 31 in virtual format
 - 49 Affiliated Events / 1 in virtual format
 - 17 Action Hub Events / 4 in virtual format



MENACW 2022 was held at the Atlantis, the Palm conference facility. The venue featured rooms for sessions, networking space and an Action Hub zone in open space in a central location. All relevant Covid-19 protocol was followed and badge access to the event created a secure space for collaboration.

MENACW 2022 kicked off with three ministerial sessions and an Opening Ceremony. Ministers from the region agreed that the MENA region faces numerous climate change impacts, including desertification, sea level rise and threats to water and food security. They found common ground on climate action as path to open opportunities for new business in the region, with good jobs and economic mobilization. Financial support, innovative technologies, increased sustainability action and coordination among all stakeholders emerged as crucial components to achieve change.

In the Opening Ceremony, high-level speakers highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and the opportunity of the four-day conference, addressing attendees in this order:

- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, United Arab Emirates
- Ms. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates
- Mr. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the World Green Economy Organization and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority
- Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UN Climate Change

After four days of discussion, a Wrap-up and Closing Ceremony session was held to officially end the thematic sessions. In wrap-up remarks, key takeaways from each of the thematic track discussions were presented. Closing remarks followed, with Minister Almheiri inviting a youth climate action advocate to share her time on stage. Speakers appeared in the following order:

- Mr. Venkata Ramana Putti, Director, Climate Change, World Bank Group
- Mr. Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States
- Ms. Miriam Hinostroza, Head, Global Climate Action Unit, UNEP
- Ms. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, United Arab Emirates
- Mr. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman of the World Green Economy Organization and MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority
- Mr. James Grabert, Director, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat

Overview of MENACW 2022

MENACW 2022 opens an opportunity to leverage the power of regional collaboration and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement. At COP26 in November 2021, governments agreed the Glasgow Climate Pact. The Pact formally “encourages the continuation of Regional Climate Weeks where Parties and non-Party stakeholders can strengthen their credible and durable response to climate change at the regional level”. COP26 resulted in crucial decisions on adaptation, mitigation, climate finance and a common set of guidelines for reporting progress. MENA Climate Week brings together regional stakeholders to make plans and forge partnerships that accelerate implementation in line with these decisions.

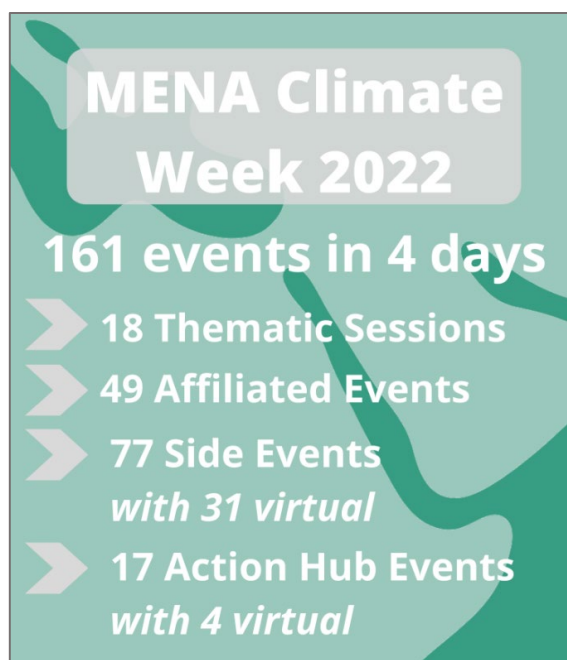
MENA Climate Week is also a step on the road to COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022. MENACW 2022 builds momentum towards COP27 by:

- Sharing action that creates regional momentum towards global progress
- Enabling bold commitments and submission of stronger NDCs and LT-LEDS
- Engaging private sector on Race-To-Zero and Race-To-Resilience
- Amplifying stakeholder voices in the UN Climate Change process

A Regional Climate Weeks 2022 High-Level Communique that includes outputs of MENACW 2022 Output Report will be presented to the COP27 President and Ministers. This will ensure that Thematic Session outcomes are captured, framed in the context of COP27 and available to decision makers and leaders as a tool to shape policy and practices.

Thematic Sessions were led by MENACW 2022 core partners – UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank Group – and organized around three thematic tracks. Each of the three tracks advances dialogue around a crucial theme:

1. *National actions and economy wide approaches* – Discussion on ambitious action in key sectors and how these actions can integrate in national planning and economic packages to enable COVID-19 recovery while supporting the Paris Agreement.
2. *Integrated approaches for climate-resilient development* – Collaboration to discuss the climate risks and opportunities in regions around the world, develop low-carbon solutions and seek partnerships for integrated approaches to adaptation and resilience building.
3. *Seizing transformation opportunities* – A platform to explore technology innovations and breakthrough solutions to deliver climate action at a scale that puts the world on a low-emission and highly resilient development pathway.



The Thematic Sessions were the focus of the MENACW 2022 agenda. The second, third and fourth days of the conference featured six hours of Thematic Sessions for each track, led by the track organizing partner and presented in collaboration with supporting organizations.

MENA Climate Week 2022 - Overview Programme (version as of 08/03/2022) 28 - 31 March						
TIME	28 Monday (DAY 1)		29 Tuesday (DAY 2)		30 Wednesday (DAY 3)	
GMT+4	TIME GMT+4		TIME GMT+4		TIME GMT+4	
8:00-09:00	REGISTRATION		REGISTRATION		REGISTRATION	
9:00-10:00	Welcome Remarks (10min)		TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	Day long events: UAE, AE, COP Presidencies
10:00-11:00	Joint Opening Ceremony		National actions and economy wide approaches	Integrated approaches for climate resilient development	Seizing transformation opportunities	Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement
11:00-12:00	High-Level Ministerial					Day long events: UAE, AE, COP Presidencies
12:00-13:00	VIP LUNCH (Action Hub, Side Events)		LUNCH (Action Hub, Side Events)		LUNCH (Action Hub, Side Events)	
13:00-14:00	Ministerial Roundtable Session 1	Ministerial Roundtable Session 2	Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement		TRACK 1	TRACK 2
14:00-15:00	Events: UAE, AE, COP Presidencies		Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement		TRACK 3	Day long events: UAE, AE, COP Presidencies
15:00-16:00	Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement		National actions and economy wide approaches		Integrated approaches for climate resilient development	Seizing transformation opportunities
16:00-17:00	Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement		National actions and economy wide approaches		Integrated approaches for climate resilient development	Seizing transformation opportunities
17:00-18:00	Affiliate Events, Side Events (In-person, virtual) and Action Hub (In-person, virtual), Press Conferences/Media, Youth Engagement		National actions and economy wide approaches		Integrated approaches for climate resilient development	Seizing transformation opportunities
18:00-19:00	Cultural Event (IBC)		Wrap up and Closing Session			
19:00-20:00	Cultural Event (IBC)		Wrap up and Closing Session			

Key takeaways for the Thematic Sessions are included in this report along with an overview of Affiliated Events, Side Events, Action Hubs and COP Presidency events that were part of the four-day MENA Climate Week 2022.

This schedule gives an idea of the overall structure of MENACW 2022. To see the schedule in more detail, please see [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Key Takeaways

While each thematic track discussion featured takeaways specific to the theme, a few overarching key points emerged. Many sessions recognized risk and the need for a well-managed economic and social transition to low-emission, highly resilient development. The need for climate finance and capacity building support was underscored.

Takeaways from each Thematic Track were developed through notetaking in the rooms during discussions. Key takeaways are presented by track and by day.

TRACK 1: National actions and economy-wide approaches

Track organization was led by the World Bank. Six sessions were held under this track, with in-person and virtual participation available.

Track Objectives

These sessions aimed to help stakeholders better understand issues related to national actions and economy wide approaches. Discussions ranged from topics on long-term national planning, including sustainability strategies, the energy transition, climate finance and carbon markets in the MENA region, and the role of youth in national climate plans. Sessions highlighted key challenges and opportunities faced by MENA countries toward the green transition.

This track has also enabled an assessment of the best practices in society-wide and economy-wide approaches for cutting greenhouse gases and building resilience, just transition and energy transition. This track also explored the impact of these approaches across SDGs, seeking synergies particularly on gender equality, reduced inequalities, decent work and economic growth.

Key Takeaways

Day 1 – The first day featured a session on ‘Planning and Implementing Long Term Strategies for Sustainable and Inclusive Development’, followed by another on ‘Green recovery and low carbon, climate resilient development’. Key takeaways include:

Planning and Implementing Long Term Strategies for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

- Establishing an economy-wide, inclusive socio-economic vision can achieve an overarching view opportunities and challenges in the climate transition. Key questions should be answered through quantified analysis to support effective long-term planning.
- Just transition and long-term planning is more than an energy transition, must be considered and implemented by planning through a cross-sectoral, economy-wide approach with deep multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Development of LT-LEDS involves the Ministries of Environment and/or Climate Change and must include Ministries of Economy, Finance, Energy to establish macro-economic roadmaps and policy options for just transition.
- Short-and medium-term actions that will contribute towards achieving the targets set in long-term strategies and plans.

Enabling Frameworks for Accelerated Energy Transition

- Energy transition is now more important than ever, especially in MENA, with benefits beyond climate – an energy system based on renewables enhances energy security and access, creates jobs and promotes gender equality.
 - Tapping 5% of RE potential provides half of MENA electricity needs by 2050 but has a low investment. A stable regulatory framework helps attract investments.
 - Energy transition investments will come from private sector, with public investments needed to mobilize private funding.
 - Policy support, capacity building, and risk mitigation instruments create an enabling environment for private investments, blended financing can play a role and private banks can coordinate financing and minimize risks.
- Renewable energy can create jobs and support industrial development. Education and training is needed to transition the labor force. Raising awareness regarding the potential and benefits of the energy transition will be crucial for its success.

Day 2 – The second day featured a session on ‘Climate Finance in MENA Region: where we stand & the way forward’ and a session on ‘Mobilizing funds from capital markets to tackle climate challenge in MENA’. Key takeaways included:

Climate Finance in MENA Region: where we stand & the way forward

- In implementation, new conceptualization of adaptation is key to mainstream innovation.
- MENA needs a better balance of finance flows for adaptation – better instruments and technical assistance. Adaptation finance needs innovation in financial engineering.
- Acceleration is required in designing policies and regulations to create supervision frameworks and domestic taxonomies that build predictability and confidence.

- Strengthening capacity of national and sub-national actors and institutions by designing and implementing “shared pipelines or hubs of expertise” is a priority.
- Carbon pricing, budget tagging and MRV systems are key mainstreaming instruments.
- The 28 March launch of the NBF technical assessment underscored these points.
 - Part of the Needs-based Finance project, the Arab Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy identifies Arab State needs and priorities to mobilize funds.
 - Scaled-up and simplified access to climate finance reduces Arab States constraints in accelerating low-emission and highly resilient development.
 - Blended finance through public-private partnerships is fundamental to mobilize the billions needed in the region.

Mobilizing funds from capital markets to tackle climate challenge in MENA

- Plenty of ESG-focused capital looking for green/sustainable projects in emerging markets – countries can do more to tap into that capital.
- Project pipeline aligned with NDCs is a plus for investors to assess investment impacts.
- Sovereign green bonds are worth it despite upfront upskilling and up tooling across ministries – sends strong signals to the investment community and mobilizes investment.
- Capital market is moving towards greater transparency and accountability and all issuances (not just green) will be scrutinized – need to build this capacity now.
- Investors see huge potential in moving from the use of proceeds (e.g., green bonds) to KPI-linked bonds (e.g., tied with performance of reforms/national policies).
- More engagement across sovereigns and investor community awareness can ensure capital goes where it’s needed and generates real impact.

Day 3 – The third day featured a session on the ‘Role of Youth in a just and inclusive energy transition in the MENA Region’ and a session on ‘The Latest on Carbon Markets & Pricing in the MENA Region’. Key takeaways include:

Role of Youth in a just and inclusive energy transition in the MENA Region

- Young people are building a movement for greater climate action and ambition, calling for a just and equitable energy transition that includes investments in youth and opportunities for training and capacity building in green jobs.
- Finding new jobs and alternative paths for jobs in the Middle East, as oil and gas independence can have negative impact.
- Health sector can be a good area to find alternatives from energy jobs.

The Latest on Carbon Markets & Pricing in the MENA Region

- There is growing interest in carbon markets within the MENA region. Article 6 guidelines decided at COP26 contribute to build momentum further.
- Companies use carbon credits to meet voluntary decarbonisation targets, a global trend that almost tripled the voluntary carbon market in 2021. Growth set to continue in 2022.
- International cooperation and government support is necessary to fully harness the potential of market mechanisms.

TRACK 2: Integrated approaches for climate-resilient development

Track organization was led by UNDP. Six in-person sessions were held under this track, with virtual participation available.

Track Objectives

Sessions under track 2 aimed to demonstrate how integrated approaches are crucial for accelerating climate-resilient development and advancing a climate-resilient recovery from not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also climate-induced disasters and situations of conflict in the region. By looking at local solutions on the ground and drawing on climate resilience and climate security expertise, discussions centred around climate action and resilient recovery, climate action in fragile settings, and community-based adaptation in the region.

Key Takeaways

Day 1 – The first day featured a session on ‘Linking Cities and Nature through Nature-Based Solutions to Build Climate Resilience in the MENA Region’, followed by another on ‘Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the importance of an Inclusive, Just and Green Recovery’. Key takeaways include:

Linking Cities and Nature through Nature-Based Solutions to Build Climate Resilience in the MENA Region

- Nature-based solutions (NBS) play a critical role in meeting climate targets and addressing climate challenges. In cities and urban areas, NBS can not only help restore natural ecosystems but also help establish green infrastructure, build resilience to adverse climate impacts and reduce associated costs. They also contribute positively to human health and well-being.
- NBS provide environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits, and support local communities. Increased public spaces to test and pilot NBS as well as funding and clear legal and institutional frameworks are critical.
- An integrated and holistic approach is key for successful implementation and entry points/opportunities for NBS should be identified during decision-making processes.

Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the importance of an Inclusive, Just and Green Recovery

- An integrated approach to mainstreaming climate change considerations into crisis recovery, health systems, disaster preparedness and development planning can increase resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and contribute to job creation and economic prosperity.
- Human health, health systems, disasters, and climate change are closely interlinked. To address these interconnected challenges and scale up efforts, cooperation and partnerships need to be strengthened at the international and national level, across sectors, and inclusive of all stakeholders.

- The severity of current challenges makes it more difficult to allocate resources for climate action. There is a need for balanced climate finance which can support green recovery, prioritizing the region's adaptation needs and avoiding additional debt burden.

Day 2 – The second day included sessions on 'Climate Action in Fragile Settings: Food Security' and 'Fostering Peace through a Sustainable Water Future'. Key takeaways include:

Climate Action in Fragile Settings: Food Security

- Food security goes beyond food production and must be looked at from an integrated food systems and holistic approach.
- There are emerging risks between conflict, disasters, climate and displacement which increase socio-economic stresses. Innovation, technology and climate-smart agriculture can play a role in early action, but we must also look to nature as innovative too.
- Value chain and climate-smart solutions to water scarcity can be a critical starting point for addressing climate risks to food security.

Fostering Peace through a Sustainable Water Future

- There is a need to bridge the humanitarian, peace and development nexus in the region when defining adaptation interventions. To date, cross-sectoral cooperation for multi-dimensional risks is reactive and crisis-driven.
- Local solutions must be at the heart of climate-resilient planning and implementation, thus strengthening community buy in, ensuring context-appropriate solutions, avoiding missed links between security and adaptation, and linking water and agriculture.
- Vulnerability can be better addressed if we understand the socio-economic impact of climate change and fragility. Innovation and data tools should shine light on lives and livelihoods and potential effects of climate action (winners/losers). Financing adaptation for food and water security with a livelihoods component is of particular importance.

Day 3 – The third day featured a session on 'Resilient Communities: Dialogue on Youth Leadership in Community-based Adaptation' and a session on 'Scaling Up Climate Risk Management and Innovative Financing for Locally-led Adaptation'. Key takeaways include:

Resilient Communities: Dialogue on Youth Leadership in Community-based Adaptation

- It is critical to engage youth as key agents of change, creative entrepreneurs and innovators. Young people are scaling up efforts and skills to accelerate innovative action, often through voluntary means, and seed funding for greater impact must follow.
- More capacity building, skills development and knowledge-sharing is needed for effective youth engagement in the region. Facilitating collaboration between young people and decision-makers through relevant governmental task forces is also key.
- Engaging youth, women and other marginalised groups in planning and early stages of initiatives can better guarantee enhanced engagement and local ownership. These groups should be meaningfully engaged in COP27 and COP28 now.

Scaling Up Climate Risk Management and Innovative Financing for Locally-led Adaptation

- Lack of access to adequate climate finance and robust data, that enables effective climate risk understanding and planning, is a significant impediment to effective adaptation at the local level in the region.
- There is urgency for action and the need to operate at scale to unlock innovative climate finance models that de-risk investment, especially for the private sector. Models that de-risk private investment and build scalability into their design is an approach that should be replicated to unlock adequate finance.
- There is significant appetite for innovative and blended finance approaches to climate finance delivery. Grants that build in capacity building and performance assessments not only reward good results but also address capacity gaps to ensure that adaptation improves over time, enabling sustainable and, importantly, scalable outcomes.

TRACK 3: Seizing transformation opportunities

Track organization was led by UNEP. Six sessions were held under this track, with in-person and virtual participation available.

Track Objectives

This track provided a platform to explore breakthrough solutions to deliver support and climate action at a scale that puts cities, sectors, countries, regions and the built environment on a low-emission and resilient development pathway. Discussions focused on key economic sectors that need deep transformation and promote a speedy, healthy and sustainable recovery.

Related events under this track enabled an all-of-society approach to developing a common vision for the future in key sectors that promotes job creation and enhances human welfare. Track events elaborated the policy and resource mobilization approaches needed today to achieve this future.

Key Takeaways

Day 1 – The first day featured a session on ‘Digital Transformation for Climate Action’, followed by another on ‘Transformative Climate Action through Digitalization: Blockchain Technologies’. Key takeaways include:

Digital Transformation for Climate Action

- Digital technologies are not a shortcut to climate resilience and mitigation but a means to achieve those through innovation, business opportunities and social inclusivity.
- Digitalization offers opportunities for the region to reduce GHG emissions in key sectors such as energy, cooling, agriculture, urban planning, Digitalization is an opportunity to empower vulnerable communities and to engage stakeholders for a bottom-up participatory approach
- Awareness and education are critical to unleash the full potential of digitalization and pave the way for stakeholder engagement and appetite, which are essential to ensure the digital revolution results in a more inclusive, fit-for-purpose and efficient economy.

- Involving the private sector is key for financing, scale up efforts to entire economies and drive shifts in economic paradigms.

Transformative Climate Action through Digitalization: Blockchain Technologies

- Digital transformation of the economy is one of the key opportunities to embed and drive implementation of the Paris Agreement. Blockchain a digital technology that can potentially contribute to making climate actions more efficient and transparent.
- Decentralized infrastructures based on blockchain technology help unite people and economically align businesses towards scaling up climate actions with enhanced transparency. Such infrastructures may include digital climate financing platforms, a tool to track mitigation outcomes in carbon market mechanisms, amongst others.
- Use of blockchain and digital technologies should be streamlined and interoperable between elemental solutions. This is an important enabling condition to build smarter cities where more efficient use of innovative technologies and digital solutions can meet societies' modern and traditional needs. Some sub-national areas are pioneering smart cities: Dubai is a good example as envisioned in its Dubai Blockchain Strategy.
- Blockchain is a powerful tool to improve the transparency, accountability and traceability of greenhouse gas emissions. In the session countries delegates raised the question of the use of blockchain to help track countries' emissions.

Day 2 – The second day featured a session on 'Unlocking the potential of Transport and Mobility to Build Sustainable Cities' and a session on 'Beating the Rising Heat: Cool Solutions for Resilient Communities'. Key takeaways include:

Unlocking the potential of Transport and Mobility to Build Sustainable Cities

- With the MENA urban population expected to double in the next 50 years, ensuring efficient access is key to competitiveness and attractiveness of the region's cities.
- Cities across the world are recognizing the potential of affordable and sustainable transport solutions to tackle climate change and improve quality of urban life.
- Shifting passenger activity from more intensive modes such as private cars and airplanes to rail and public transport is a key strategy for net-zero emissions.
- Sustainable mobility is key to providing the access that makes cities attractive to live in - key factor in quality of urban life - and tackling climate change.
- Governance is the key to delivery – commitment, vision,
- Context is critical, including culture, attitudes, traditions, local factors for a successful planning and implementation.
- Focus on solutions, technologies and business models to deliver radical transformation.
- Key role of regulation, incentives and fiscal rules (“carrots and sticks”) to support a fair transition to zero emissions.
- Time is short we need holistic and inclusive solutions. Egypt will be a model city. Level of political commitment is high. This is the kind of commitment we need to move forward

Beating the Rising Heat: Cool Solutions for Resilient Communities

- It is necessary to adopt a holistic approach – integrating mitigation, nature-based adapting to heat, considering district cooling and passive solutions. Systematic approaches with minimal environment cost are a challenge, but solutions are emerging.

- Building and energy efficiency standards must become the norm. Low-energy efficiency equipment should not be on the market.
- Nature-based Solutions are an essential solution to passively cool cities. Energy to cool cities must come from renewable sources. We also need efficient cooling. District cooling can optimize consumption, save electricity and satisfy customers.
- COP27 will be a unique opportunity for civil society and young leaders to have a say in the discussion - an opportunity to network and partner to beat extreme heat.

Day 3 – Final day sessions on ‘Technology Options for a Sustainable and Just Energy Transition’ and ‘Collaboration and Partnerships to Accelerate a Sustainable and Just Energy Transition’ opened space for discussion. Key takeaways include:

Technology Options for a Sustainable and Just Energy Transition

- The energy transition is far from being on track for 1.5°C. Ramping up renewables and aggressive energy efficiency is the most realistic path to halve emissions by 2030.
- We need market acceptance and social acceptance to decarbonize three key sectors, which represent 80% of electricity use – transport, heating, and cooling. Green hydrogen is one of the smaller contributors to the energy transition and needs to move from niche to mainstream by 2030. District energy can provide cost efficient cooling solutions in MENA and beyond.
- Governments need to lead by example, starting with public buildings.

Collaboration and Partnerships to Accelerate a Sustainable and Just Energy Transition

- Dialogue between public, private sectors and academia must continue
- Monitoring commitments from venues like COP, High-level Dialogue on Energy is key
- We need to provide more space to youth initiatives in the climate discussions.
- A just and sustainable energy transition can only be achieved if we set up clear a roadmap for the private sector.
 - Needs to be inclusive and needs to happen through the lens of development.
 - Will only be achieved in Africa if we get the African transmission system built and financed to integrate vast renewables.
- Remove fossil subsidies and include carbon pricing to achieve Paris goals and SDGs.
 - Focus on energy efficiency, as well as transport and agriculture, as this is not only about energy but a full-society shift.
- Must agree COP27 pan-African ambition, which needs international community funding.
- Countries need to ensure NDCs and SDGs align to link climate and development goals.

The complete set of Thematic Track Key Takeaways provided by track organizing partners is available to qualifying governments and organizations on request.

Affiliated Events

A series of Affiliated Events was open to core and regional partners. These sessions allow partners to convene region-specific events in the Regional Climate Weeks framework and advance the climate agenda. Opening space for collaboration can accelerate implementation and advances crucial processes towards COP27 in November 2022. Affiliated Events addressed issues such as the future of cooling, electric mobility, carbon markets, financing resilience, scaling up implementation, comprehensive risk management and more.

A complete list of Affiliated Events is in Annex A and [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Side Events

Side Events opened more opportunities for engagement at MENACW 2022. Side Event sessions were generally one or two hours in length and covered critical issues. Organizers were responsible for session format and design, with an overall aim to share experiences and expertise in an open dialogue. There were 46 in-person side events and 31 that used external platforms to host their events. Sessions were well attended online and virtually.

The 77 Side Events convened organizations to address issues such as youth engagement on climate change, green economic recovery, agriculture climate solutions, building resilience, climate finance, ecosystem impacts, education, adaptation solutions from Indigenous peoples and women, development of renewable energy and more.

A complete list of Side Events is in Annex B and [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Action Hub

MENACW 2022 featured an Action Hub with 17 sessions on climate change and solutions already being implemented in the MENA region and around the world. Action Hub sessions were held in open space at the venue at times that did not overlap with Thematic Sessions or other events.

Because of the MENA region's unique climate risks and opportunities, the Action Hub addressed topics such as the food security in MENA region, renewable energy projects, smart cities, mobility, the role of youth in climate policy and more.

Details on Action Hub sessions are found in Annex C and in [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

COP Presidency Events

The MENACW 2022 offered an excellent platform to carry forward momentum from the COP26 UN Climate Change conference in November 2021. To advance implementation in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact, the COP26 Presidency hosted a series of Affiliated Events. These events reflected key COP26 on mitigation, adaptation, mobilizing finance, and a common set of guidelines. These conversations were designed to exchange perspectives and encourage

collaboration around the COP Catalyst recommendations from COP26. Information for each of the COP26 Presidency Events is included.

Capacity building for action on adaptation: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

This session aimed to build on recommendations of the COP26 Catalyst Call to Action designed to share countries' views on the opportunities and challenges—as well as build capacities and understanding among developing country actors—associated with adaptation action.

Capacity building for access to climate finance: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

This hybrid session explored action for implementation of the recommendations developed by the COP26 Catalyst Access to Finance Group, to hear where MENA countries and partners are already applying recommendations, the challenges to implementing recommendations and what countries would like to see in any guidance for capacity building for access to finance.

Capacity building for transparency and reporting: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

Strong mechanisms to report on GHG emissions, progress in achieving NDCs and adaptation plans are key to achieving ambitious outcomes under the Paris Agreement. All countries need to be able to produce reliable, transparent and comprehensive information on emissions, climate actions and support under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) – transfer of support and long-term capacity building is crucial if we are to achieve a sustained approach. This session introduced the COP26 Catalyst's work on transparency and reporting: outlining existing support, challenges and experiences from the region and beyond – and most crucially identifying opportunities for the implementation of the COP Catalyst recommendations on transparency and reporting.

COP26 Futures We Want – Science Panel

Organised with the UK Science & Innovation Network, UK in the UAE and the British Embassy, this event provided an opportunity to hear from and interact with key academics from the UK and UAE as governments, policy makers, civil society, academia and the private sector look to assess net zero solutions and how we obtain the 'Futures We Want'.

To advance crucial regional discussions ahead of COP27 in the MENA region in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 7 to 18 November, the incoming COP27 Presidency hosted one session entitled '**Vision and the Road to Sharm El Sheikh**'. Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the COP27 Presidency Team, this event outlined the core pillars of Egypt's presidency of COP27.

COP Presidency Events are outlined as Affiliated Events #1 – #5 in Appendix A and can be found in [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Engagement

MENACW 2022 convened key regional stakeholders to raise climate ambition and encourage cooperation. The meeting is a platform to advance implementation with clarity from decisions at COP 26 and a crucial step towards COP27 in Egypt in November. To engage as widely as possible and bring all stakeholders to the table, extensive promotion in advance of the meeting put the spotlight on the MENA region in the global press and on social media.

- The [MENACW 2022 Opening Ceremony](#) was streamed on YouTube with 277 live views and has been watched more than 1170 times
- The [news article about the registration opening](#) was a top story with 5,032 views
- One article was posted to the [Climate Action Blog](#) showing inspiring initiatives
- Four promotional [MENACW 2022 press releases](#) were distributed to 4,000+ journalists in English, Spanish, French and Russian and supported in Arabic by UNIC Cairo
- Overall media coverage for RCW included +400 media mentions in at least 9 countries
- A pre-conference interview with the Executive Secretary was published by [Al Jazeera](#)
- The Executive Secretary held on-site interviews with Abu Dhabi TV, Sky News Arabic, Times of Israel and WAM News
- An Op-Ed by Patricia Espinosa on the UN Climate Change on LinkedIn channel set the scene before the event and garnered 60,000 views and 800 reactions
- A promotional LinkedIn Campaign in the MENA region had over 90,000 impressions
- Five live interviews with High-Level Champions and Heads of Agencies of IRENA, IOM and UNESCWA attracted 51,000 views and 2,500 reactions
- Ten recorded interviews with youth, civil society, COP27 and COP26 Presidencies, UN agencies and UNFCCC experts had more than 235,000 views and 7,000 reactions
- Opening and Closing press releases (promotional releases not included) garnered 127,000 impressions on social
- A Twitter Spaces conversation with IRENA, NDC Partnership and Arab Youth Climate Movement attracted 1,800 listeners
- 105 photos were curated for the [UN Climate Change Flickr](#)
- A MENACW 2022 App was used to engage participants and featured a full event programme, individual calendars, participant networking and an event newsfeed. The app was used by more than 700 active users

Moving Forward

In 2021, regional collaboration emerged as a driver of global progress and success at COP26. The Regional Climate Weeks 2022 can now accelerate implementation, engage a wider set of stakeholders and enable action ahead of COP27. MENACW 2022 discussions showed the potential of collaboration to address regional risks and advance region-specific solutions. This kind of collaboration in key regions is integral for success at COP27. The outcomes from this meeting unify the regional voice and speak to how the MENA region will contribute to the global goals of the Paris Agreement.

This MENACW 2022 Output Report will be published online for leaders, policymakers and civil society. The report will be included as part of a Regional Climate Weeks 2022 Communique presented to the COP27 Presidency as part of a package that includes an analysis of key takeaways, all other RCW 2022 Output Reports, and videos from core and regional partners. The COP27 President can then bring the voice of all MENACW 2022 stakeholders to ministers for consideration at COP27.

Recognition

The organizing partners and host government, as reflected below, recognize and thank the numerous event and collaborating partners that came together and made important contributions towards a successful first-ever MENA Climate Week.

Organizing Partners

Hosted by:



Organized by:



In collaboration with global partners:

And partners in MENA:



Event Partners

Essential for the event to engage with maximum reach and impact

COP26 Presidency	NDC Partnership
COP27 Presidency	RCC MENA & SA
High-Level Champions for Climate Action	RCC Kampala
Marrakech Partnership	UAE Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt	UAE UN Country Team
Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	UN Global Compact

Collaborating Partners

Sharing experiences and expertise, opening space to work together

#BuildingtoCOP Coalition	Climate Environmental Broker Platform
ACT Alliance	Climate Technology Centre and Network
Adaptation Fund	Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK
Addis Ababa Resilience Project Office	Community Jameel
AEON Collective	Connect4Climate
Africa Network for Walking and Cycling	Covenant of Mayors Mediterranean
African Development Bank	Dake Rechtsand
African Youth Climate Hub	DeserTech Innovation Community
Alliance for Global Water Adaptation	Digital DEWA - Siemens
Alliance of NGOs and CSOs of South-South Cooperation	DNV
American University of Iraq	Dubai Carbon
APCO Worldwide	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Arab Youth Centre (AYC)	Education International
Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar	Emirates Nature
Arup	EU Clean Energy Technology Network
Association of Moroccan Regions	FAO
BirdLife International	Federal Youth Authority (FYA)
British Embassy in the United Arab Emirates	FLACSO Ecuador
C40 Cities Climate Leadership	Forum for Environment and Climate Change
Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Care About Climate	Fundación Avina
CASCADES project	Future Earth
CDP	German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
CEWAS	German Jordanian University
CGIAR	Global Carbon Council
Climate Action Network Arab World	Global Cement and Concrete Association
Climate Action Tracker	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Climate and Atmosphere Research Center	
Climate Chain Coalition	

Global Fund for Cities Development
Global Manufacturing Organisation
Limited
GMIS Initiative
Global Resilience Partnership
Green Energy for Safe Migration
Guidehouse Germany GmbH
Gulf Cooperation Council
HSBC Middle East
ICAT
ICLEI – Local Governments
for Sustainability
IGAP Climate Prediction and
Application Center
Institute International Union for
Conservation of Nature
Institute of Regional and
International Studies
International Association for the
Advancement of Innovative
Approaches to Global Challenges
International Association of Public Transport
International Center for Agricultural
Research in the Dry Areas
International Development Research Centre
International Federation of Medical
Students' Associations
International Fund for Agricultural
Development
International Institute for Environment
and Development
International Labour Organization
International Organization for Migration
International Society of City and
Regional Planners
International Union of Railways
International Water Management
ISCP
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies
and Research Center
Liberal International
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples
Platform of UN Climate Change
MEHMED Project Partners
Mercy Corps
Middle East Institute Climate
Water Program

Mohammad Bin Rashid Initiative for Global
Prosperity
Mohammed Bin Rashid School
of Government
Mohammed VI Foundation for
Environmental Protection
Moroccan Association of Governors
Moroccan Association of Mayors
Moroccan Ministry of Interior Directorate
General of Territorial Communities
and Directorate General for
Subnational Governments
NARS
National Business Initiative
Nature Conservation Egypt
New Climate Institute
ODI
Paris Committee on Capacity-building
Partnership on Sustainable and
Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT)
Pathfinder Initiative
PATPA
Practical Action
PricewaterhouseCoopers Middle-East
Race to Resilience
Regional Center for Environmental
Health Actions
Regional Climate and Energy Project MENA
Regional Strategy on Health and
Environment (EMRO) from WHO
REN21
Reseau Thématique National Climat
Resilient Cities Network
Risk Informed Early Action Partnership
RMP
Royal Scientific Society Jordan
Save the Children International
SDG Climate Facility Project
South Pole
Stockholm Environment Institute
Stockholm International Water Institute
Sultan Qaboos University Department
of Geography
Sustain The World
The Adaptation Action Coalition
The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
The Centre for Climate Justice of Glasgow
Caledonian University



Middle East and North Africa



The Cyprus Institute
The Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources
and Irrigation
The InterAcademy Partnership
The International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies
The Nature Conservancy
The Resilience Shift
The Royal Institute of International Affairs
UK Science & Innovation Network
Ummah for Earth
UN Habitat
UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
UNDRR
UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition
UNEP Regional Office for West Asia
UNESCO
UN Women Regional Office for
the Arab States
United Cities and Local Governments Africa
United Kingdom in the United Arab Emirates

United National Convention of the
Conservation of Migratory Species
of Wild Animals
United Nations International Children's
Emergency Fund
United Nations Population Fund
UN University Vice Rectorate in Europe
Walk21 Foundation
WaterAid
World Bank Group
World Food Programme
World Green Building Council
World Health Organization
World Resources Institute
World Wildlife Fund
World Wildlife Fund South Africa
World Wildlife Fund US
Wuppertal Institute
YKCenter
YOUNGO (UNFCCC Youth Constituency)
Zest Associates

Annexes

ANNEX A – Affiliated Events

More details on Affiliated Events, including recordings of some sessions, are available online in [*the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme*](#).

Affiliated Event #1

Title: Capacity building for action on adaptation: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

Organization: COP26 UK Presidency

Description:

This session will build on the recommendations of the COP26 Catalyst Call to Action designed to share countries' views on the opportunities and challenges—as well as build capacities and understanding among developing country actors—associated with adaptation action. The session will focus particularly on how countries are navigating the transition from adaptation planning to implementation, which can require a range of actions and collaboration of stakeholders to finance and/or implement strategies, project concept notes, incentive schemes, and campaigns for action, among others. Looking ahead to COP27, this session will be an opportunity for South-South peer learning and exchange to compare approaches and share common questions among policy makers and relevant stakeholders from Northern Africa and the Middle East. It will also explore how countries are leveraging existing adaptation planning processes and vehicles (including through their Adaptation Communications, National Adaptation Plans, and NDCs) to deliver well-coordinated national approaches to adaptation.

Affiliated Event #2

Title: Capacity building for access to climate finance: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

Organization: COP26 UK Presidency

Description:

The aim of this hybrid session at the UN Regional Climate Week for the Middle East and North Africa region is to explore actions for implementation of the recommendations developed by the COP26 Catalyst Access to Finance Group, hear where MENA countries and partners are already applying recommendations, where there might be challenges to implementing recommendations and what countries would like to see in any guidance for capacity building for access to finance. This will also be an opportunity to hear how finance providers can respond to the recommendations, and what changes to ways of working and available schemes and programmes to support capacity building might be made.

Affiliated Event #3

Title: Capacity building for transparency and reporting: sharing experiences across MENA and implementing the COP Catalyst recommendations

Organization: COP26 UK Presidency

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #4

Title: COP26 Futures We Want - Science Panel

Organization: UK Science & Innovation Network, United Kingdom in the United Arab Emirates,

British Embassy

Description:

This event will provide an opportunity for you to hear from and interact with key academics from the UK and UAE as Governments, policy makers, civil society, academia and the private sector look to assess net zero solutions and how we obtain the 'Futures We Want'."

Affiliated Event #5

Title: COP27 Presidency: Vision and the Road to Sharm El Sheikh

Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt - COP27 Presidency Team

Description:

Explaining the core pillars of Egypt's presidency of COP27

Affiliated Event #6

Title: Decarbonization through the Circular Carbon Economy: The Role and Impact of Carbon Markets

Organization: Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition – GCC - EU Clean Energy Technology Network (and AEON Collective - Dubai Carbon)

Description:

The concept of the circular economy has gained a lot of attention across the middle east with some governments putting in place measures to realize it. It involves considerations around efficient resource use to minimize climate change impacts, while still promoting economic growth and prosperity. To achieve sustainability through the circular economy, a mix of policies and measures will be needed that incentivize shifts in industrial practices as well as consumer behavior. Carbon pricing policies and measures, including the use of carbon markets can provide such an impetus if included in the policy toolbox. The region has significant potential to utilize such measures, not least as part of their climate change strategies as embodied in their NDCs. Some experts note that there is a multibillion-dollar untapped market opportunity in the region to really benefit from carbon pricing policies and measures, which can be partially delivered by carbon capture storage and utilization, renewable energy, and green hydrogen mega projects deployed in the region.

This event will discuss the role and potential of carbon pricing policies and measures in the circular economy toolbox to drive decarbonization at scale. It will showcase examples of leadership and identify opportunities that can be further unlocked to realize the full potential, while also driving economic and social development.

Affiliated Event #7

Title: Marrakech Partnership Implementation Lab

Organization: High-Level Champions for Climate Action

Description:

Following the success of the Implementation Labs convened during the 2021 Regional Climate Weeks and the welcoming by Parties of the Improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition, the High-Level Champions will continue to convene the Implementation Labs during the 2022 Regional Climate Weeks as part of their regionalization efforts, starting with the Middle East and North Africa region. The aim of the event is to have an open and solutions-oriented exchange between national government representatives (e.g., from implementation agencies, line ministries, etc.) and non-Party stakeholders (e.g., businesses, cities, subnational regions, investors, and civil society) in the region whose areas of expertise can support countries in implementing their NDCs, NAPs and long-term strategies. By matching

the priorities and needs outlined in national plans with the options for policies, technologies and solutions described in the Marrakech Partnership Climate Action Pathways, this will frame the collaboration around shared sectoral goals and a common purpose. It will also provide opportunities on how to adapt and refine the Climate Action Pathways and 2030 Breakthroughs outcomes to bring in the regional context and perspectives.

Affiliated Event #8

Title: First global stock take

Organization: UNFCCC

Description:

The global stock take of the Paris Agreement (GST) is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals (Article 14).

The GST started at COP26 in Glasgow and this session aims to provide an overview of the GST, its themes, components and modalities, as outlined in decision 19/CMA.1. The GST has three components: Information collection and preparation; technical assessment, which includes meetings of the technical dialogue; and consideration of outputs, which will inform Parties in updating and enhancing their climate actions and support.

The event will be an opportunity to engage Parties and NPS in the GST process, by providing information on opportunities to participate in the GST and emphasizing the importance of the GST as a mechanism to increase ambition and foster action at all levels.

The session will also provide a space to hold conversations on the themes of the GST (mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation, as well as response measures and loss and damage) and an opportunity to discuss possible inputs at the regional level, including on the collective progress to date, challenges and barriers to achieve the Paris Agreement goals, and directions to enhance action and ambition, highlighting effective and innovative solutions in the region.

Affiliated Event #9

Title: ACE Focal Points Workshop

Organization: UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), Regional Collaboration Center for MENA and SA, UNFCCC; UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)

Description:

The in-person workshop aims to provide an avenue for ACE National Focal Points from the MENA and South Asia region to share experiences and lessons learned on ACE implementation, as well as to build capacity and to establish a regional network of National Focal Points. Along with country representatives, this workshop will also be attended by representatives from UN and international organizations. The interactive workshop will consist of a panel discussions and breakout sessions that touch on three important matters: the role of the National Focal Points at the national/regional level, the implementation of the Glasgow Work Programme and the action plan to be discussed at SB56 and adopted at COP27.

Affiliated Event #10

Title: Climate mainstreaming for a green economic recovery in the Arab Region

Organization: UN-ESCWA- IsDB

Description:

The affiliated event will discuss various avenues for mainstreaming climate change in

development planning through a holistic approach that aims at promoting a green economic recovery in Arab States.

Mainstreaming climate action is a multistage process. As such, the event seeks to examine assessment tools, integrated planning instruments, financing options as well as monitoring mechanisms for ambitious climate action.

The event will showcase inclusive processes for mainstreaming climate considerations in strategic sectors, focusing on the water, energy and transport sectors. Focus will be placed on how development priorities and enabling environments can help to channel investments towards sustainable energy transitions.

The event will also present assessment tools and interventions for advancing natural resource sustainability under a changing climate. This includes promoting a science-based approach that examines climate change impacts on the water and agricultural sectors and the implications this poses for socio-economic vulnerability in the region.

Affiliated Event #11

Title: Harnessing Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation in MENA

Organization: Islamic Development Bank- African Development Bank

Description:

The event will discuss Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as cost-effective solutions for climate change adaptation by protecting, sustainably managing, and enhancing ecosystems and habitats in a way that reduces the vulnerability of livelihoods and economic assets in North Africa and the Middle East.

Among the main approaches raised will be the use of NbS for climate adaptation and Aligning Finance with Resilience that can help in realizing the potential of NBS for Infrastructure. The focus will be placed on how NbS have the potential to make infrastructure more resilient to climate change effects and add longer-term value to infrastructure assets. Thus, investments in NbS solutions have been identified as one of the main building blocks of a transition to a Green Economy.

The event will also present IsDB publication on Nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation, done with the support of UNEP.

Affiliated Event #12

Title: Revitalizing Eastern Africa's Institutional Capacity to Engage In Global Carbon Markets

Organization: Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets, Climate Finance

Description:

Eastern African countries have been actively involved in the Clean Development Mechanism and are preparing for the new generation of carbon markets under the Paris Agreement. Article 6 brings into play new factors to take into consideration around institutional, infrastructure and legal frameworks. The member countries of the Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance have expressed strong interest to take part in these new mechanisms however the delay in an agreement on Article 6 presents risks in undertaking some of the decisions around institutional capacity at the moment. This session will unpack the findings from an assessment on institutional structures, capacity and infrastructure undertaken in all seven member countries of the Alliance (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda). Institutions and capacities will need to be updated to meet the requirements for cooperative approaches and the mechanism under 6.4. Proper Reporting and accounting will be crucial as environmental integrity and capturing sustainable development is important to the

members. Further to this, understanding and developing procedures for linkage with NDC reporting will be necessary.

Affiliated Event #13

Title: Building momentum to close adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region: Focus on climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions

Organization: UNFCCC, UNEP-ROWA, UNFCCC-WGEO RCC MENA & SA, UNESCWA

Description:

Objectives of the event:

- Showcase ongoing initiatives in closing climate smart agriculture and nature-based solutions adaptation knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the North Africa and GCC subregions in the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI).
- Engage partners and participating organizations in the implementation of these initiatives.
- Spotlight the role of the LAKI as a joint initiative that convenes and engages experts from different international, regional, national and local agencies to take further steps in closing existing knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the region.

Background:

Responding to the knowledge and resilience needs of countries through tailored information for knowledge users is crucial to implementing adaptation action – a key element of the Paris Agreement.

In the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), the UNFCCC secretariat Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) is collaborating with the UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia based in Dubai (RCC MENA & SA), the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to close adaptation knowledge gaps in addressing climate impacts in the North Africa and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) subregions. Several initiatives have been co-designed with LAKI partners through a series of virtual meetings with experts in these subregions. Building on the progress in 2021, the LAKI partners will continue to concretize actions and ideas in 2022 which will contribute to closing persistent climate adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region.

This event is an opportunity for government representatives, adaptation experts and practitioners, institutions, implementing agencies and networks in MENA and the Arab group of negotiators to gain in-depth understanding of the LAKI process and its outcomes. It furthermore provides bilateral and multilateral donors with an overview of collaborative actions that are underway in closing adaptation knowledge gaps in addressing climate impacts in the North African and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) subregions as a result of the LAKI initiative.

Affiliated Event #14

Title: Youth Event: Best Practices for Enhanced Youth Climate Action in the MENA Region

Organization: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA)- UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)- Arab Youth Centre (AYC), World Green Economy Organization (WGEO); Regional Collaboration Center for MENA and SA; UNFCCC; World Bank Group (WBG)- Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar- Federal Youth Authority (FYA)

Description:

A brief introduction to YOUNGO and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) as context for an

interactive panel discussion between youth and key climate actors, featuring examples of best practices and means to enhance the role of MENA youth in climate action.

The Youth-Circle on “The Road to COP27 and COP28” will take place at Youth Pavilion EXPO 2020 Dubai. For further information, please access: circles.youth.gov.ae

Affiliated Event #15

Title: Capacity Building for Enhanced Youth Engagement

Organization: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA)- UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)- Arab Youth Centre (AYC), World Green Economy Organization (WGEO); Regional Collaboration Center for MENA and SA; UNFCCC; World Bank Group (WBG)- Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar- Federal Youth Authority (FYA)

Description: A friendly introduction on how young people can engage in the UNFCCC process through YOUNGO, with an emphasis on the critical role of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and the road to COP27 and COP28.

Affiliated Event #16

Title: Climate Policy Perspectives and Energy Transition in MENA Region

Organization: UNFCCC secretariat and ILO

Description: This event plan to discuss planning transition from fossil fuel economies to green economy, tools and methods for assessing impact of policies, economic diversification, just transition, tracking mitigation benefits from economic diversification.

Affiliated Event #17

Title: Opening: The long-term green transition – pathways to enhancing and implementing low GHG development - MENA Regional Dialogues

Organization: World Green Economy Organization - UNFCCC secretariat

Description: The Glasgow Climate Pact reemphasizes the urgent need to address the scale of the global climate challenge and has requested Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs, submit LTLEDS and accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems. The achievement of the Paris Agreement and the enhancement and implementation of ambition requires a holistic approach with the engagement of all sectors and stakeholders delivering towards a green economy pathway. This event will bring together policymakers and key stakeholders from the region to discuss, deliberate and share information, good practices, and the challenges and opportunities specific to the region to advance the development and implementation of ambitious LTLEDS, NDCs and sectoral policies to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement and aligned with green economy principles.

This event is supported by the Government of Japan.

Affiliated Event #18

Title: Marrakech Partnership regionalization workshop

Organization: High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership

Description:

As part of the Improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition that was welcomed by Parties at COP 26, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership will convene a workshop to facilitate a deep understanding of the needs on the ground and gather regional perspectives. The aim of the event is to provide an overview of the

functions and tools of the Marrakech Partnership, including the global campaigns to mobilize and align non-Party stakeholders (Race to Zero, Race to Resilience and the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero and the tools to drive systems transformation (Climate Action Pathways, 2030 Breakthroughs), and have a solutions-oriented dialogue on how to drive ambitious action across the region taking into account regional context and how the Marrakech Partnership can help.

Affiliated Event #19

Title: 22nd CDM DNA Global Forum

Organization: UNFCCC - Mitigation

Description:

The DNA Forum provides opportunities for DNA representatives to exchange views, share their experiences relating to the CDM and bring forward common views and issues to the attention of the Executive Board. Apart from CDM discussions the much-awaited Article 6 work will also be reflected in the agenda. The DNA participants and the speakers for the DNA Forum are expected to contribute to other events taking place at MENACW 2022.

Affiliated Event #20

Title: RCC Global Forum

Organization: UNFCCC

Description:

The RCC Global Forum meeting offers an opportunity to promote the exchange of information, share experiences and exchange views among the partners hosting the RCCs, key global/regional partners of RCCs and the UNFCCC secretariat, with the view to build and enhance the capacity of the centers.

Affiliated Event #21

Title: The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance - an Arab perspective

Organization: WGEO - UNFCCC MOI

Description:

The UNFCCC secretariat, in cooperation with the Arab Group of Negotiators and the World Green Economy Organization, will convene the first consultation between the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance and climate finance experts from Arab States.

At COP 21 in Paris, Parties decided to set a new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) from a floor of USD 100 billion per year. The new goal will be set in 2024 and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

At COP 26 in Glasgow, Parties established an ad hoc work programme from 2022 to 2024 on the NCQG, to be facilitated by two co-chairs. The co-chairs of the work programme on the NCQG for 2022 are mandated to maintain regular consultations with the constituted bodies as well as United Nations agencies, climate finance experts, academia, private sector and civil society actors with a view to informing the work programme. In Glasgow Parties also decided to conduct four technical expert dialogues per year, with one to be held in conjunction with the first regular sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies and one to be held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, and the two remaining dialogues to be organized in separate regions with a view to facilitating inclusive and balanced geographical participation.

This event will provide an opportunity for the co-chairs to consult with experts from and operating in Arab States, including representatives from governments, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, international and regional organizations, academia, private sector and civil society, on their views, expectations and priorities related to the process of setting the NCQG on climate finance.

This event will also present an opportunity for the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme to provide an update on the outcomes of the first technical expert dialogue (24-25 March 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa).

Affiliated Event #22

Title: Nature stewardship for inclusive climate actions: Engaging with the knowledge and values of indigenous peoples and local communities from the Middle East and North Africa region.

Organization: LCIPP-UNFCCC

Description:

Indigenous peoples and local communities have the knowledge amassed through generations of close contact with nature. The inclusion of such knowledge can contribute to overcoming the combined challenges of climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, and combating desertification and land degradation (IPCC, 2020), and increase prospects for climate resilient development (IPCC, 2022). This is particularly relevant for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region where communities are at the frontlines of climate change impacts.

At the same time, the process of developing and implementing climate policies and actions remains scope to strengthen the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The global community could unlock fundamental changes in its interaction with nature and accelerate collective progress towards meeting the Paris Agreement commitments and reverse biodiversity decline, through meaningful and equitable engagement of the knowledge systems, values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Purpose

1. To exchange experiences and observations of climate change impacts on livelihoods and ecosystems in the MENA region, and foster inclusive and equitable partnership between indigenous peoples, local communities, Parties and other relevant entities in the global effort to address climate change.
2. To engage with concrete practices of indigenous peoples and local communities related to stewarding nature and addressing climate change.
3. To amplify the voices of indigenous peoples and local communities to inform the design and implementation of inclusive climate policies and actions.

Affiliated Event #23

Title: 14th Regional Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries

Organization: UN-ESCWA-LAS-UNEP-UNESCO

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #24

Title: Consultation on the Needs-based Finance Strategy for Arab States

Organization: UN-ESCWA-UNFCCC-LAS

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #25

Title: Transparency of action and support

Organization: UNFCCC, ICAT, FAO, PATPA

Description:

Exchanging experiences on building and sustaining transparency arrangements; discussing approaches and opportunities from different perspectives on transparency of action and support.

Objectives: Deepening exchange amongst countries and key non-Party stakeholders from the MENA region, including practitioners on preparing for the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) and on the benefits of climate data and transparency.

Exchanging experience in building strong climate data frameworks and using them to engage stakeholders.

Discussing approaches and opportunities from different perspectives and for different sectors of using climate information and advancing climate transparency to strengthen the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions and NDCs.

Affiliated Event #26

Title: Climate Change Research Network Conference

Organization: UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA)

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #27

Title: Dialogues: The long-term green transition – pathways to enhancing and implementing low GHG development - MENA Regional Dialogues

Organization: World Green Economy Organization - UNFCCC secretariat

Description:

The Glasgow Climate Pact reemphasizes the urgent need to address the scale of the global climate challenge and has requested Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs, submit LTLEDS and accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems. The achievement of the Paris Agreement and the enhancement and implementation of ambition requires a holistic approach with the engagement of all sectors and stakeholders delivering towards a green economy pathway. This event will bring together policymakers and key stakeholders from the region to discuss, deliberate and share information, good practices, and the challenges and opportunities specific to the region to advance the development and implementation of ambitious LTLEDS, NDCs and sectoral policies to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement and aligned with green economy principles.

This event is supported by the Government of Japan.

Affiliated Event #28

Title: Global Innovation Hub Launched for Transformative Climate Solutions

Organization: UGIH-UNFCCC- World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)

Description:

A new digital Global Innovation Hub has been initiated by UN Climate Change to significantly boost the effectiveness and scale of climate change and sustainability innovation as a driver of more ambitious climate action. To achieve this, the hub will have new approaches to facilitate the development and deployment of transformative and innovative climate solutions.

The hub promotes a “moonshot approach” which will assist practitioners to base climate action pledges and commitments on what science says is needed, as opposed to what is perceived as possible with current solutions and technologies.

The hub is a digital platform that hosts (i) databases of demand for solutions as well as solutions, (ii) tools to determine the impact of climate action and (iii) a space to facilitate the financing of climate solutions.

This event provides visual information relevant to the initiative in the form of a 15-minute video, explaining the basic concepts and conceptual framework of the initiative. The video will also provide some of UGIH's key messages and next steps at COP27.

Affiliated Event #29

Title: Integrated Water-Security in MENA: Challenges and Opportunities for Public-Private Cooperation

Organization: UNDP- SDG Climate Facility Project- CEWAS

Description:

The event aims to explore the business potential of catalytic public and private cooperation for innovative water security solutions. Start-ups and SMEs in the Arab States are increasingly offering potentially impactful business models and technologies that address the climate-water-security nexus. The event will stimulate engagement among governments, entrepreneurs, business accelerators and the investment community to take advantage of opportunities for public-private cooperation to accelerate climate resilience and integrated water-security in MENA.

Affiliated Event #30

Title: Scientific Partnerships for Building Resilient Food Systems. Track: Integrated approaches for climate resilient development

Organization: Community Jameel - UAE Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change

Description:

Community Jameel and the UAE Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change are coming together to host a side event highlighting the role of global scientific partnerships to help spur innovation and breakthroughs within the food systems space. The side event will discuss current issues regarding food systems in the MENA region and their impact on communities, as well as the importance of science and evidence in tackling threats. We will also highlight two case studies that harness the power of international collaboration: The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) initiative between the UAE and US governments, as well as the expansion of the GCC Climate and Health report that brings together researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), including the Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) with leading climate change academics, including from the UAE University, to assess the food security implications of climate change on food imports of key food commodities globally. Finally, we will explore pathways to how scientific research can inform development actors, policy change and change public habits, through partnerships with the creative industry.

Affiliated Event #31

Title: Comprehensive Risk Management: The How-To in Achieving Coherence

Organization: UNDRR Bonn Office | UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States

Description:

Climate change is changing the magnitude, frequency, duration, and severity of climate-related

hazards, and has become a major driver of disaster losses and setbacks in development. As a result, risks are growing and are becoming more complex, leading to compounding and cascading impacts with adverse consequences on ecological and human systems. At the same time, other underlying risk drivers such as poverty, demographic development, land degradation or conflicts are aggravating exposure and vulnerability to climate-related hazards. Therefore, the complex and systemic nature of climate and disaster risks requires the adoption of a Comprehensive Risk Management (CRM) approach. This includes applying this approach to the assessment and integration of risks into planning for the implementation of the 2030 global frameworks.

This session will address the following questions:

- Why is integrated planning important?
- What is Comprehensive Risk Management and how does it promote integrated planning?
- What are the impediments to and opportunities for integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation planning in the MENA region?

Affiliated Event #32

Title: Workshop: Empowering MENA Youth Climate Action

Organization: YOUNGO

Description:

This workshop will provide a brief introduction into key technical aspects of youth engagement in both the UNFCCC process and climate advocacy/diplomacy, while the main feature of guided breakout group discussions will encourage MENA youth to strategize around these areas in the context of upcoming participation in COP27 and COP28. The outcomes of the session will be captured as a resource toward future MENA youth engagement.

Affiliated Event #33

Title: UAE UN Country Team Climate Task Force meeting

Organization: UAE UN Country team

Description:

In preparation for the 28th Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place in the UAE in November 2023, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General has formed a system-wide coordination modality to coordinate the UN's substantive engagement in support of COP, co-chaired by the SG's Special Advisor on Climate and the UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE. This UN Climate Task Force at the country level is dedicated to support the co-chairs in the development of a UN substantive engagement package for COP28, that aligns with both the Egypt and UAE presidencies and resonates with the UAE's aspirations for their COP28 presidency. The Task Team also operates in close coordination with the UNFCCC as the lead in supporting the Conference of the Parties meetings and negotiations annually.

Affiliated Event #34

Title: Dialogue on Water Scarcity and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the MENA region

Organization: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Description:

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) faces a complex set of interconnected challenges and is particularly exposed to the adverse effects of climate change. The region is already the

most water-scarce region in the world, with over 60% of its population living in areas with high water stress. Regional water scarcity is the result of diverse factors, including climate change leading to rising temperatures, droughts, floods, saltwater intrusion into freshwater, diminished river flows and limited groundwater resources. While 56% of the region's population lives in cities, agriculture remains a critical source of income and employment and the sector consumes 80% of current available freshwater resources.

Today, war, conflict, and unemployment are more influential drivers of migration and displacement in the MENA region than events related to water, such as drought. But as the effects of climate change intensify, these historical mobility patterns may evolve. In areas that lack good governance, climate change could exacerbate vulnerabilities and create tensions over water resources, leading to a vicious cycle of water insecurity and fragility. Water insecurity is felt most acutely by the millions of forcibly displaced and their host communities. Water infrastructures are also targeted in conflicts in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, and Libya, leaving hundreds of thousands without access to water. The region also faces the greatest expected economic losses from climate-related water scarcity, estimated between 6 and 14% by 2050.

Several MENA countries have improved access to water services over the last decades, but their achievements are threatened by water depletion, unplanned urban expansion, governance issues, conflict and the impacts of climate change. Water shortages will contribute to seriously affect food security and livelihoods of millions of people in the region, to compound existing security challenges and to exacerbate the causes of migration and displacement⁴. Water scarcity will also threaten the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, the long-term socio-economic development and stability of the region.

Building water security in the MENA region is essential to strengthen the resilience of communities across the region to climate-related shocks, through addressing their ability to immediately respond to extreme weather events, whilst decreasing their long-term vulnerability to climate variability through preparedness and adaptation. Increased cooperation and dialogue between humanitarian, security, peace and development actors is also needed to respond to the multiplying effects climate change might have on already existing conflicts, water disputes, instability and displacement in the MENA region and to better protect and assist migrants, forcibly displaced persons and host communities.

This event will discuss the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, water, displacement, migration and conflict in the MENA region, the most recent findings of IPCC AR 6 report and will call for increased attention and investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, water governance and sustainable development measures to reduce related risks in the region.

Affiliated Event #35

Title: C4C Youth4Climate Fireside Chats

Organization: Connect4Climate – World Bank Group

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #36

Title: Challenge Design Workshop – Innovative Solutions for Resilient Infrastructure and Construction in Cities

Organization: Global Manufacturing Organisation Limited- Mohammad Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity - GMIS initiative- UN Habitat

Description:

The Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity will conduct a series of 'Challenge

Design Workshops' in collaboration with UN-Habitat to explore the key ideas required to develop a more sustainable and resilient construction and infrastructure sector. Following a design thinking approach – that is, idea iterations and solution development in a collaborative dynamic workshop context, the workshops will bring together policy makers, industrial technology experts, academic representatives, and some of the world's leading incubators, accelerators and start-ups and SMEs to engage in in-depth round-table discussions that provided an informed and holistic perspective around the theme "Resilient Infrastructure & Construction".

Affiliated Event #37

Title: Mobilizing Finance for NDC Action in MENA— Experience from the NDC Partnership

Organization: NDC Partnership

Description:

Now that countries have completed the process of NDC revision, and in many cases raised ambition, the focus of climate action is once again on implementation. Mobilizing finance at scale is critical if the NDCs are to be turned into effective action. The size of the challenge means that finance from all sources, public and private, domestic, and international, will be needed. This peer learning event will bring together representatives from countries and institutions working through and with the Partnership to mobilize finance for NDC action in the MENA region. It will show how countries are taking innovative action to align both public and private finance, and how working through the Partnership with expert partners makes that action more effective. By working together, we achieve more.

Affiliated Event #38

Title: Catalyzing Concerted Action on the Ground towards Achieving the Global Energy Transition

Organization: IRENA-UNDP Partnership

Description:

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has rapidly advanced energy transitions in the region, given its strong resource potential, particularly in solar energy. Renewable energy has a key role to play in the region's sustainable energy transition, which must be considered within a broader framework of socio-economic development of the region, with ripple effect of renewables deployment throughout society by economic growth and diversification, job creation, improved balance of trade as well as bolstered water security. Although energy transitions in the region are accelerating and the opportunities they bring are vast, they do bring challenges. In this workshop, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) will convene policymakers and regional energy stakeholders to discuss such socio-economic opportunities and financial and technical challenges associated with energy transitions in the MENA region. The workshop will touch upon how energy transitions can be used to help the region mitigate against and adapt to climate change, while emphasizing what can be done in the coming years to set the region on a path towards reliable, clean, and resilient energy systems.

Affiliated Event #39

Title: Networking Session by YOUNGO

Organization: UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)

Description:

A networking session between youth and both Parties and other non-Party stakeholders for the purpose of expanding partnerships and enhancing collaboration in the area of MENA youth

climate action. Small group discussions will facilitate the exchange of views and identification of synergies. The networking session will be followed by the official closing of the Youth Event from 15:15 to 15:30 hrs.

Affiliated Event #40

Title: Low Carbon Transport in COVID-19 recovery strategies in MENA Region

Organization: IsDB

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #41

Title: Informal regional networking event on blockchain4climate

Organization: IAAI & Climate Chain Coalition (UNFCCC accredited observer organizations)

Description:

IAAI GloCha is co-host with UN Environment of the MENA Climate Week 2022 Track 3 session "Transformative Climate Action through Digitalization: Blockchain Technologies" on Tuesday 29th 11.00-12.30. This session will serve as an important milestone to draw together blockchain stakeholders in the MENA region for shaping the common understanding of the technology's potential for supporting countries with the Paris Agreement's global goal. In order to add to the momentum of this official session, IAAI and globally leading blockchain4climate network Climate Chain Coalition are organizing an informal networking meeting of relevant stakeholders (blockchain solution providers, academia, public sector, impact businesses) to facilitate the formation build the thematic network/expert cluster which shall provide input to a potential digital innovation thematic focus of COP27 (Egypt) and COP28 presidencies (UAE).

Affiliated Event #42

Title: Minister Bilateral Room

Organization: MOCCA

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #43

Title: UN Global Compact

Organization: UN Global Compact

Description: N/a

Affiliated Event #44

Title: Virtual Event rehearsal

Organization: UNFCCC

Description: N/a

ANNEX B – Side Events

More details on Side Events, including recordings of some sessions, are available online in [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Side Event #1

Title: Digital Innovation for an Inclusive UNFCCC Process - United Citizens Organization for Action for Climate Empowerment

Organization: International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI GloCha)

Description:

Digital innovation holds enormous potential for all of society's climate action empowerment. With the proposed side event, we want to contribute innovative ideas to those in charge of preparing COP27 and COP28 on how to harness digital innovation for enhanced multistakeholder - and especially youth - engagement and empowerment. Starting points for the discussion will be 3 initiatives that IAAI and partners have launched at COP26: the blockchain based United Citizens Organization for Action for Climate Empowerment <https://cointelegraph-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/cointelegraph.com/news/united-citizens-organization-launches-as-a-blockchain-initiative-at-cop26/amp>, the DigitalArt4Climate initiative <https://digitalart4climate.space/> and the COP in the metaverse initiative, which shall be implemented for the first time on a small scale in the context of the ACE youth Forum 2022

Side Event #2

Title: Fairness and Justice in Advancing Climate Finance for Adaptation & Resilience

Organization: The Centre for Climate Justice of Glasgow Caledonian University

Description:

Building resilience of women and girls and to help them cope with a changing climate requires climate finance to be directed at investing in supporting their adaptation needs now rather than what is currently commonplace; reactive mode directing investment to climate disasters as they happen. The focus of this event is putting the spotlight at how climate finance can be enabled in terms of 'investing in people – especially women and girls'; supporting their mental health and wellbeing from the impacts of climate change, and findings creative and innovative ways to build resilience so that they can lead economically strong households. To do this requires a fundamental step change in lending structures, policy and programme design and rethinking how to mobilize the climate finance to those who need it the most. We intend to frame the conversation around 3 pillars; changing mind sets and vision in development institutions and banks, radical change in programme design, development, how to incorporate aspirations and needs of women and girls and measuring/demonstrating impact in terms of equity, inequality and climate justice.

Side Event #3

Title: Building the Future of Mobility: The shift to sustainable, low and zero emissions transport

Organization: International Association of Public Transport (UITP)- Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT) - International Union of Railways (UIC)

Description:

The rail and public transport sector will play an important role in getting both our economies and people moving again. Based on integrated urban planning and strong governance, by embracing digitalization, innovative and sustainable solutions towards mobility challenges, the

public transport and rail freight sector is at the core of the global transition towards a “new normal”, while ensuring the contribution to a more resilient, cleaner and safer post-pandemic world. Significant investments in rail and public transport projects show that the MENA region is witnessing a clear paradigm shift towards more public transport and “Building the Future of Mobility”. The side event will provide an update on MENA transport projects from transport leaders in the region, which equate to more than \$100 billions worth of investments, upcoming investment opportunities and plans for MENA cities and lessons learned from authorities regulators from delivering action on the ground. The event will help to provide decision makers with concrete recommendations and technical considerations needed to improve rail freight, daily urban mobility and the quality of daily life for all citizens, which represents an area of untapped potential in national efforts and contributions necessary to align efforts with the Paris Agreement and make NDCs more ambitious in 2022.

A moderated panel discussion will include short presentations and discussion with a panel of 4-5 individuals from diverse perspectives and geographies on sustainable mobility strategies applicable in the Middle East and North African region. The panelists will include enthusiastic champions of sustainable mobility and the public transport and railway sector from the partners and global/regional members of UIC, UITP, SLOCAT, CETMO and GTMO 5+5 (Group of Transport Ministers for the Western Mediterranean). Speakers will be selected from National and Regional Administrations, Policy Makers and Regulators, Infrastructure Managers, Transport, New Mobility and Logistics Operators, Sectoral Institutions, Corporations and Academia.

Side Event #4

Title: Policy and finance for a better recovery from COVID-19 in the Middle East

Organization: Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government- Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Middle East

Description:

Economies in the Middle East have been hit hard by multiple shocks throughout the COVID-19 pandemic such as the threat to human health from COVID-19 and the disruptions to economic activities from the pandemic response. In addition, the region’s oil producing countries have been confronted with an unprecedented oil demand shock resulting from the global economic slowdown, which in turn has led to reduced government revenue. As a result, countries in the region focused on the immediate health and economic relief measures with limited focus directed towards long-term sustainable recovery paths.

The long-term economic recovery from COVID-19 offers a unique opportunity for countries in the Middle East to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, there is a need to ensure that policies and investments lay the foundation for cleaner and more resilient, prosperous and equal societies. In the context of the region, this means accelerating the major shifts needed in economic sectors and jobs, increasing mainstreaming of accounting for environmental costs and risks into decision making, and strengthening social protection and inclusion. Failing to correct course could put the region on trajectories of lower economic competitiveness in an increasingly carbon-constrained world, increase its vulnerability to external shocks, and lead to higher unemployment.

The aim of the side event is to (1) Shed the light on policy agendas focused on green, resilient and just recoveries, and the most pressing 'better' practices for the region's sustainable development needs (2) Highlight the role of government in shaping the enabling investment environment and using targeted financial and economic instruments to mobilize sustainable finance.

Side Event #5

Title: "You(th) in Capacity-building": The Role of Youth and Their Capacities in Enhancing Resilience for Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation and National Development Plans

Organization: Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

Side Event #6

Title: Building a Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Systems

Organization: World Health Organization

Description:

Climate change is impacting human lives and health in a variety of ways. It threatens the essential ingredients of good health - clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply, and safe shelter - and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health. Although the Eastern Mediterranean Region is not a major contributor to climate change, it bears severe health impacts.

As observed during COVID-19 pandemic, the presence of a strong and well-prepared health system is essential to provide the health care required under any circumstances, and with the health system considered as the first and last line of defense in face of climate change impacts, countries need to strengthen and improve their health systems to be a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable.

A climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems are those that can anticipate, responding to, coping with, recovering from, and adapting to climate-related shocks and stress, to bring about sustained improvements in population health, despite an unstable climate. To do so, countries need to take different measures and steps to define the risks, hazards and gaps in addition to take the appropriate interventions to tackle these hazards.

This side event comes after a very fruitful year after which 9 countries from the region have declared their commitments to build a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health system and considering the fact that WHO/EMRO is a leading partner in this initiative and through the work of CEHA, the purpose of this side event is to provide the countries and the participant with an overview on building a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems.

The side event will include speakers experts from WHO, in addition to a special section dedicated to representatives of different countries to share their experience in this regard.

Side Event #7

Title: Supporting Net-zero Pathways in the MENA Region: Net-zero Modeling for Saudi Arabia and the Circular Carbon Economy Index

Organization: King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

Description:

The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and more recently the Glasgow Climate Pact, have accelerated global efforts to rapidly transition toward a carbon-constrained world to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century to avert exceeding 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. Ensuring cost-effective transitions will require embracing a holistic and inclusive approach – i.e., technology-agnostic and catering to different country circumstances – to solving the climate problem as embraced by the circular carbon economy (CCE) framework. Also understanding the implications of global climate change mitigation efforts is crucially important to the MENA region, and especially so for oil-producing nations like Saudi Arabia.

This side event will present work conducted at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) around net-zero emission pathways and metrics. The first presentation will showcase climate mitigation modeling and scenario analyses looking at both net-zero emission scenarios as well as the global stock take of climate pledges with a focus on the MENA region and Saudi Arabia's 2060 net-zero emission target. The second presentation will show KAPSARC's CCE Index: it will provide an overview of the global 2021 CCE Index results and zoom in on a new paper focusing on the GCC region and its CCE progress and potential, which will be launched at the MENA Climate Week. The third presentation will provide an overview of the CCE online platform including showcasing the CCE Lab tool.

Side Event #8

Title: Building Climate Change Resilience in Jordan – Partnerships, Approaches, and Lessons for Transformational Change

Organization: Mercy Corps- UN Habitat

Description:

Climate change is increasingly affecting vulnerable communities in Jordan, as the country simultaneously grapples with social cohesion and rapid population growth. Despite being one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, floods are a common hazard in Jordan, with intensity and frequency expected to increase due to climate change. Previous refugee arrival waves, including of Palestinians and Iraqis, and the indefinite presence of Syrian refugees continues to be a source of tension in the country, causing increasing levels of citizens' mistrust in local government entities and their ability to fairly manage shared resources such as water and land. Rapid population growth and public works have caused land use change, such as the decrease of land that can absorb rainwater - elevating the risk of flashfloods.

With over 7 years' experience in delivering flood resilience programming across multiple countries, Mercy Corps, a proud member of Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, and UN- Habitat are currently working with Government of Jordan and flood prone communities to support the resilience of vulnerable communities in Jordan so that they can adapt with climate change.

This event features recent analysis by Mercy Corps and UN Habitat that a clear opportunity exists for building community governance structures for disaster risk management with strong ties to local authorities, where community has significant strength in their social capital that can be leveraged for collective action in a disaster. This event will therefore highlight how climate change exacerbates social instability in flood vulnerable communities in Jordan; and emphasize the need to address both social capital and physical capital to support climate vulnerable

communities to adapt to climate change. The session will further provide recommendations on effective approaches and scalable solutions for transformational change.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Mercy Corps and will bring together representatives from Government of Jordan, UN agency, donor, research institute, private sector and field staff from Mercy Corps Jordan. The discussion will focus on issues around how to create and sustain local leadership for climate adaptation, and provide recommendations on how national governments, donors, private sector, and civil society organizations can work together to identify opportunities and scale solutions.

The session will also showcase a media video for a “virtual tour” that visually displays the risk and impacts communities face and actions that are being taken to address those risks.

Side Event #9

Title: Scaling up the hydrogen economy through international partnerships

Organization: German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy - Guidehouse Germany GmbH

Description:

Across the globe, countries have adopted ambitious climate targets to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement: Germany wants to reduce emissions by 65% and reach net-zero by 2045. The UAE plan to dramatically scale up renewable energy supply and reach net zero by 2050. Saudi Arabia’s net-zero target is set for 2050. In reaching those widespread decarbonization goals, green hydrogen, produced from renewable energy, will play a key role.

The MENA region features vast renewable energy resource potential making the countries in the region prime candidates for green hydrogen production. Particularly countries on the Arabian Peninsula are leading the way with several successful pilots for green hydrogen. Many Gulf countries have historically built their economies on income from fossil fuel resources and their emissions per capita are currently among the highest across the globe. In view of the mounting challenges of climate change, however, this economic model is being challenged. Against this backdrop, the hydrogen economy can help achieve decarbonization targets, build future-proof economic value chains and create job opportunities for generations to come.

International cooperation can be a key catalyst for accelerating the global energy transition and for slowing down climate change by facilitating the scale-up of green hydrogen production. One example for such cooperation are the energy partnerships and dialogues Germany has established with many countries across the globe including in the MENA-region. The cooperation focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy and hydrogen and sector coupling. Together, Germany and its partners initiate joint projects, facilitate knowledge exchange, and cooperate on research and development, to speed up the energy transition and support the uptake of decarbonization solutions such as green hydrogen.

The proposed side event will shed light on the importance of international partnerships for green hydrogen uptake in the MENA region.

Side Event #10

Title: Water Resilient Food Systems under Climate Change

Organization: International Water Management Institute - Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)- Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)- FAO.

Description:

The consequences of a more unpredictable and riskier water cycle on the MENA region, detailed in the IPCC AR6 report, demands urgent action if we are to meet the future food and water needs of the people there. In this region, the development of resilient food systems and sustainable healthy diets for all requires much larger water use, but these resources are limited and needed for other vital functions. Water use in food systems needs to be brought within the natural limits of the region and reflect the “new normal” hydrological conditions. If innovations are harnessed and systems carefully managed, transformations in food-water practices and policies can bring climate mitigation and adaptation, and a social and environmental space that considers water and food needs of people alongside that of the ecosystems that provision them. Achieving transformations of water resilient food systems will require a compact between national and local government, communities and the private sector that bring together bundled solutions that integrate technology, data services, enhanced governance and policy.

This session will bring together policy and law makers, farmers and water professionals, financiers, insurers and donors, implementers and researchers from across water and food systems who are tackling challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises. The opening framing will highlight the challenges faced by ministers and law makers in selected countries. The Wadi-side Chat will then explore these issues in more detail drawing on experience of leaders from different settings from across the region and world. In the final part of the session there will be a call to action followed by a focus on solutions that can be used to help build resilience in food and water systems, including nature-based ideas

Side Event #11

Title: Innovative responses to cascading climate risks: Case studies from Iraq, Jordan and Oman

Organization: Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) - Department of Geography of Sultan Qaboos University- Institute of Regional and International Studies (IRIS)- American University of Iraq - CASCADES project.

Description:

As the new CASCADES report on climate impacts in the MENA region shows, the Middle East is at the forefront of dealing with compound climatic, environmental and socio-economic risks. Looking at several successful examples from the Middle East region, this session will ask what is needed to incentivize, finance and scale up the kind of practices, infrastructure and technology that will meet climate challenges while also contributing to national economic transition goals – be that towards sustainable diversification away from oil and gas dependence, or green economy. In particular, it may consider circular approaches to waste-water management in Jordan, instituting flood management and recharge groundwater in Oman, and improving livelihoods and crop yields sustainably in Iraq. The session will aim to raise awareness of the ways in which such innovative MENA country responses can improve future approaches to climate resilience and inform international partnerships to achieve them.

Side Event #12

Title: Tapping the Potential: Actions of Resilience Partners in MENA region

Organization: Global Resilience Partnership - Race to Resilience team

Description:

Global temperatures are currently at least 1.1 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels, and many climate impacts are already locked in. These impacts will disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable. Some will be able to adapt but many will not. The consequences of extreme heat, drought, floods and rise in sea-levels will impact communities throughout the Middle East and North Africa disproportionately as well.

Building long-term resilience to the increasing risk of drought and flood – and doing so immediately – is crucial for cost-effective climate change adaptations as well as unlocking wider prosperity. Identifying effective climate resilience strategies and opportunities to create funding opportunities for them to be implemented and scaled are critical to maintaining economies and livelihoods in the region, including in urban, rural and coastal communities.

The UN-backed Race to Resilience is helping address this by catalyzing actions and investments by non-state actors. This session will focus on what Race to Resilience partners are doing in the MENA region to build the resilience of communities and businesses, and to protect the lives and livelihoods of people most vulnerable to climate change.

The side-event will focus on two of the themes for the Regional Climate Week: Integrated approaches for climate resilient development and Seizing Transformation Opportunities.

The side-event will be a 90-minute moderated and interactive discussion featuring Race to Resilience Partners who are working in the MENA region. The initiatives selected to participate are those focused on building the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities whose livelihoods are under increasing risk due to climate change.

The purpose of the side-event will be to:

- Provide the latest resilience analytics on community vulnerability to extreme heat and other climate stresses and shocks in the MENA region.
- Demonstrate the actions being taken by non-state actors in the MENA region to adapt and build resilience to climate change, specific to water security, extreme heat stress and droughts.
- Identify, through best-practice case studies, the integrated approaches state and non-state actors can adopt which build the resilience of rural, urban and coastal communities.
- Highlight the work of the Race to Resilience to address resilience and adaptation challenges by building collaborative coalitions of non-state actors and sharing knowledge to scale up best-practice.

This event will highlight the positive social, environmental and economic outcomes that investing in resilience and adaptation will bring.

Side Event #13

Title: Children Speak Up

Organization: Save the Children International

Description:

Through a generation of youth-led social movements with a strong focus on storytelling, a youth voice on climate action continues to grow and many children around the world are already

leading the way on climate change and inequality action. Building on the commitment of the Egyptian Government at the World Youth Forum, we must support children to be a meaningful part of youth engagement and urgently address the connected crises of economic inequality and climate change. We will do this by ensuring children have a voice at the table when climate action and decisions are being made, to ensure the voices of those children most impacted by climate change are heard and listened to, including supporting Children to Speak Up at the MENA Climate Week in Dubai, 2022. This will be a hybrid 60-minute event with a high-level panel in the room and children joining remotely from Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The dialogue will be led by children, speaking about the impact of climate change on their lives and their communities, and the actions they want to see taken forward on this. Children will prepare different themes of discussion based on their experience of climate change and will highlight key recommendations for the high-level panel members to help guide the discussion in creative ways, which may include storytelling, or sharing artwork.

Side Event #14

Title: The role of the energy sector for long-term strategies

Organization: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH,

Description:

The latest UNFCCC Synthesis Report, published during COP26, shows that the world is currently not on track to reach the 1.5°C target agreed in the Paris Agreement. Governments all over the world are therefore in need of increasing their ambition and try to formulate long-term strategies. Long term planning for climate neutrality provides orientation and helps to develop coherent short-term climate action. It can also provide guidance on co-benefits, such as planning for resilient infrastructure, supporting sustainable development or investing in technological innovation. However, integrated and long-term planning is a complex and challenging process. One critical element is to examine different short-, mid- and long-term energy scenarios to avoid “stranded assets” and to plan for the most cost-effective low carbon energy mix. These technical findings need to be translated into political plans.

The event will showcase short- and mid-term developments with key findings of the latest Arab Future Energy Index™ report. It will also look into long-term energy scenarios and their economic viability for a synthetic Arab country, looking into the impacts of e.g. grid integration and increased energy demand through the uptake of PtX.

The audience will then hear from a country representative on the process of their LTS development and how they had to bring together different sectoral plans – which in turn were developed on the foundation of different scenarios themselves. To point out the importance of regional cooperation, we will bring in the voice of the League of Arab States’ Energy Department as a regional actor.

Side Event #15

Title: Generating Resilience+ in the face of Climate Change: Field Evidence from Tanzania and Mozambique

Organization: The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience

Description:

In emerging economies, climate disasters like droughts or floods make people poor. The potential for disasters also keeps people poor by adding insurmountable risk to adopting

development innovations like stress-tolerant seeds, or low-cost loans. Reducing the risk of climate disasters can create opportunities for families to adopt more productive, climate change adaptive technologies like drought-tolerant seeds. These technologies can promote resilience. Mitigating climate risks results in increases in food and income that keep people from falling into poverty while building a ladder up for families who are already poor—that's Resilience+. This panel will clearly explain the policy implications of Resilience+ using evidence from field research conducted in Tanzania and Mozambique. This intervention bundled drought-tolerant maize with the financial innovation, index insurance, creating a seed-replacement guarantee. This combination of complementary climate risk reducing interventions, one agronomic, and one financial, not only smoothed the negative effects on smallholder farmers during a drought, but also spurred substantial productivity gains during post-shock recovery. Appropriate financial innovations, such as index insurance, can help shrink the resilience gap and position a family for higher income growth when those tools provide the security to invest in a new business or in more productive, or climate-smart agricultural technologies. Experts from University of California Davis, CIMMYT, and Hollard Insurance, and SUBA Seed Co., this panel session provides policy-relevant evidence to inform climate risk programming across Africa

Side Event #16

Title: Integrated Smart Management of Water with Sponge Cities

Organization: Dake Rechsand

Description:

Water is a scarce resource, we need to conserve it by Harvesting, Reducing, Reusing, and recycling. Integrated Sponge Cities can be planned and designed to manage it.

Side Event #17

Title: Coordinating Climate Action in the Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East: Initiatives in Research & Innovation and Policy

Organization: The Cyprus Institute- Climate and Atmosphere Research Center (CARE-C)

Description:

This session will present new initiatives of regional interest within the remits of Research & Innovation and Policy, which aim to accelerate climate actions in the Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East (EMME) for the benefit of the wider MENA region and expected impacts globally. It will showcase ambitious solutions and discuss opportunities to further enhance and accelerate collaboration with regional actors.

Side Event #18

Title: Youth Action and Gender-Sensitive National Climate Policies in MENA

Organization: YOUNGO (UNFCCC Youth Constituency) - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Description:

The MENA region is one of the world's hottest regions due to the impacts of climate change. According to the recently released IPCC report, tens of millions of people in North Africa will be exposed to vector-borne diseases including dengue and zika viruses. The increase in heat in parts of North Africa is projected to bring in more than 15 additional deaths per 100,000 people annually. The report indicates that climate change will reduce water availability and increase the level of water scarcity (Mekonnen and Hoekstra, 2016), especially in Southern and North Africa, and that meteorological drought frequency will increase, and the duration of these events will

double from 2 to 4 months over North Africa with a temperature rise of above 2°C. Of the 17 most water-scarce countries in the world, 11 are from the MENA region with UNICEF estimating that “nine out of 10 children in the region live in areas of high or extremely high-water stress”. An increase in temperature increases the likelihood of the threat of heatwaves across Asia and droughts in arid and semi-arid areas of the Middle East (IPCC, 2022).

Climate change is a multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities, including insufficient access to safe water and improved sanitation, food insecurity, and impacts on access to health care and education.

Side Event #19

Title: Strengthening the enabling environment to tackle water scarcity and build climate resilience in MENA

Organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Description:

The “Climate Resilient Drinking Water and Sanitation” day at the first ever Water Pavilion at COP26, clearly demonstrated the important role that climate resilient drinking water and sanitation (WASH) plays in tackling the global climate crisis, as both a necessary response, and as part of the climate action solution, from both a mitigation and adaptation perspectives.

Building on the momentum from COP26, we are proposing to do a deep dive session on the “untapped potential of drinking water and sanitation in climate action” in MENA.

Climate change is a compounding factor for water scarcity in the region and puts the COVID-19 recovery at risk. The WASH sector needs to respond to climate change, by adapting services, and by doing its part in a “whole of society” effort to address the underlying causes of water scarcity. The needed action through WASH has both adaptation and mitigation benefits.

This side event, co-convened by UNICEF MENA Regional Office, multiple UNICEF Country Offices, and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), builds on a body of work undertaken through a longstanding partnership, and will present evidence on:

- how the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector played a key role in the COVID-19 response, and that the pandemic highlighted underlying inequities and vulnerabilities, and that water scarcity was a limiting factor in the response
- how climate change is compounding water scarcity in the region, and the role that the WASH sector can play in alleviating water scarcity
- how adequately WASH is reflected in the NDCs, NAPs, and in bilateral/multi-lateral climate finance in MENA region

Then the session will zoom into multiple countries in the region to showcase how the WASH sector are bridging silos to collaborate with other sectors such as Water Resources, Climate, and Environment in “building forward better” from the pandemic, through:

- undertaking multi-stakeholder climate risk, vulnerability, and adaptation assessments, and integrating the results into planning
- presentations and films will be shown from countries that are undertaking climate action from both mitigation and adaptation perspectives:

*Mitigation cases may focus on i) green energy use in services provision ii) wastewater treatment and reuse and circular approaches to tackle water scarcity whilst simultaneously contributing to GHG reduction iii) improving efficiency in services provision to reduce GHG emissions

*Adaptation cases may focus on i) climate risk assessments ii) resilient infrastructure ii) innovations in water demand management and non-revenue water reduction iii) non-conventional water approaches, e.g., desalination etc.

The session is intended to be a mix of keynotes, presentations, panel discussion and country case studies (speakers, films etc.). Speakers will be high level representatives from the co-convening organizations, their partners, and partners in the relevant countries.

Side Event #20

Title: Roadmap to a long-term strategy: sharing lessons from the development of practical guidance for the first long term climate and development plan for Jordan

Organization: Royal Scientific Society- Jordan

Description:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has demonstrated its commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement, with its updated NDC committing the country to a 31% emissions reduction target compared to the business-as-usual scenario. As a country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, it also incorporates an adaptation vision and objective directly linked to the recently launched National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The NDC aims to drive post COVID-19 recovery processes onto a lower carbon and more climate resilient development pathway. It will also pave the way for a future climate change long term strategy (LTS), consistent with UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.21.

However, there are no established guidance, best practices or ‘one size fits all’ approaches to LTSs. It is important that the process is country driven, but the requirements for development of such a high-level strategic document, the technical inputs and the supporting processes and engagement needed, can be significant. For many countries including Jordan, more used to shorter term decision-making and dealing with urgent challenges such as water scarcity, the Syrian refugee crisis, and COVID-19, planning to 2050 can be a significant challenge. In addition, whilst the need to set and act on ambitious GHG reduction targets is recognized, there is also increasing urgency to adapt to the impacts of climate change, which is not typically the focus for LTSs. To help bridge these gaps, the World Bank supported the development of a ‘roadmap and recommendations’ for Jordan, aiming to:

- Collate key information and data for each element and contextualize an LTS for Jordan
- Provide recommended approaches and suggested frameworks for the LTS development
- Identify existing practices, examples, and outline important challenges to consider
- Summarize the important processes, steps and actions that might be required for the LTS

This was informed by a systematic review of existing international examples and the Jordanian context (existing data, policies, governance structures etc.). Likely challenges and bottlenecks were identified, and a framework for approaching each element outlined, with recommendations for content. This included not only the technical elements, but innovative and detailed recommendations for mainstreaming gender and SDGs, a detailed bottom-up citizen engagement process, governance needs, and the development of a novel approach for the overarching climate strategy that ensured adaptation could be prioritized. It also included

mechanisms for mainstreaming the strategy into sectoral plans to drive implementation.

This side event intends to:

- Showcase Jordanian leadership on climate action and provide an update on recent activities
- Share lessons learned from analyzing existing practices, national needs and priorities, to develop a country specific LTS response
- Provide a suggested methodology for the development of comprehensive and integrated climate strategy that can be used or adapted to develop an LTS
- Highlight the importance of mainstreaming cross-cutting priorities such as gender and SDGs, and the essential role of citizen and stakeholder engagement
- Provide inspiration to other countries that are planning to develop an LTS on the practical steps that can be taken, and resources needed, demystifying the tasks, inputs and activities involved

Side Event #21

Title: Enhancing agri-food system priorities in the NDCs

Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Description:

Agriculture and land use are a key node for transformative action in climate change. At COP26, countries committed to continue working on Agriculture, targeting the adoption of a COP27 Decision for establishing a financing mechanism to support action on the ground. Addressing this need, FAO is launching the Regional Analysis of NDCs in the Near East and North Africa: Opportunities and Gaps in the Agriculture, Water and Land Use Sectors. The analysis is a landmark publication that analyzes the NDCs of NENA countries on the risks, actions and needs in the agriculture, forestry, and land use sectors. The session will comprise a presentation of the findings followed by a panel discussion by 3 countries on their progress in revising and implementing AFOLU and water priorities in the NDCs. Countries will discuss, with the help of a facilitator, questions on how the Koronivia process can be leveraged to enhance climate action in agriculture and land use; coordination processes and stakeholder engagement around priority setting for the sector; and how countries are leveraging finance and innovative solutions to scale up transformation.

Side Event #22

Title: From falaj to tahliyat al-miy'ah: Local approaches to water management for climate resilience in the Middle East & North Africa.

Organization: Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)- The Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation- the Foreign- Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK- the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management- The Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC).

Description:

Building a just, inclusive, and climate-resilient future is not possible without reliable, safe, and accessible water resources. At the same time, we know from the latest IPCC report that climate change is contributing to increasing water variability in many places, including the Eastern Mediterranean. Communities in the Middle East and North Africa have already adapted to thousands of years of water scarcity; today they are combining their traditional water diversion systems, falaj, with cutting-edge desalination (tahli-yat al-miy'ah) projects. But are these methods climate resilient? Meaning, are they both flexible enough to adapt as the climate changes, while robust enough to withstand such change without risking catastrophic failure?

And how can we ensure that they are able to function effectively for decades – even centuries – to come?

The Adaptation Action Coalition (ACC), co-led by Egypt and the United Kingdom, is working to enhance climate resilience at the national level across all sectors, including water. Over the past year, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) and its partners have been working with the AAC to co-develop a new tool for national climate planners called the Water Tracker. The Water Tracker takes a whole-of-government approach, helping countries to assess the water needs of their climate plans, bringing together leaders from around the globe to share good practices in adaptation and demonstrate the importance of placing water at the center of resilient climate planning. The Water Tracker is currently being piloted in Egypt, Malawi, and Costa Rica. Following a successful event showcasing initial results at COP26, several more countries have signed up to apply the Water Tracker to their national climate plans in 2022. This side event will bring together national representatives from the MENA region, civil society organizations, and local experts to showcase the work of the AAC on water and climate resilience, demonstrating the value of combining local solutions with global methodologies to ensure a future that is both climate-resilient and water-secure for people, ecosystems, and economies.

Side Event #23

Title: Multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder engagement for effective climate action

Organization: ACT Alliance - Ummah for Earth

Description:

Climate change is one of the topmost global challenges. Tackling climate change demands a whole economy and government approach if transformation is to be delivered at scale. Climate change actions across all sectors of the economy must be viewed, organized, and delivered as part of the broader efforts that contribute to low carbon climate resilient and sustainable economies in MENA.

Whilst all sectors of the economy are affected by climate change and productivity continues to be compromised deepening levels of economic instability and poverty, responses within and across sectors are hardly effectively coordinated limiting the possibility of delivering wins in the fight against climate change.

Barriers to multi-sectoral action impede scale, impact, and sustainability of climate change actions. Uncoordinated cross-sectoral planning and mainstreaming of climate change does not enable leveraging of diverse solutions and mobilization of innovative approaches. Silo planning and limited multi-stakeholder engagement to a large extent characterizes consideration of climate change unfortunately delivering incoherent policies, strategies, plans and interventions. Efforts to address climate change must be anchored on structures, processes and approaches that facilitate joint planning and implementation while integrating perspectives of all stakeholders at a community to national and international level.

Convened by Christian and Muslim people of faith, this side event, provides the opportunity to drive a reflective conversation that aims to unravel the barriers to and offer possible solutions and pathways to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement for effective climate planning and action.

Side Event #24

Title: The role of sustainable finance Market in Transition to a Green, Robust and Resilient Post-COVID Future

Organization: Islamic Development Bank

Description:

This event will highlight the roles that green sukuk market plays in global green growth and transition effort and the lessons learned from different stakeholders and players in Islamic finance and green growth industries.

- The session would explore the role of the green/sustainability sukuk market in bridging the financing gap and how green Islamic finance products such as green sukuk can help economies build back better a robust and resilient post-COVID future.
 - Identify ways to optimize and leverage Islamic finance products and instruments to address financing gaps and accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals across IsDB sub-regions.
 - Illustrate the role of MDBs and Green Investors in supporting country efforts to mobilize more Islamic finance products for their low carbon and climate-resilient interventions

Side Event #25

Title: The Green Finance Facilities Ecosystem: a USD 3tn opportunity for Africa

Organization: African Development Bank (AfDB) - Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Description:

Green Banks (GB) or Green Financial Facilities (GFF) and National Climate Change Funds (NCCF) are institutions that support a pipeline of bankable green projects through grants and project preparation services. These innovative structures have a vital role to play in mobilizing finance for national carbon reduction targets and climate resilient green development. Around the world, an increasing number of countries and states are developing GB/GFF to mobilize funds through a “blended finance model” to leverage and increase private sector climate-related investments. Africa can benefit from GB/GFF’s to increase country-driven capacity to access and mobilize climate finance to support the implementation of NDCs and related national climate and development goals.

Through a panel of representatives of existing African Green Banks/Funds and Institutions like the AfDB, NDF who support this initiative, the event will bring perspectives on the approach to and added value of Green Banks/Green Finance Facilities to African Countries and Financial Institutions.

Side Event #26

Title: How Climate Resilient and Gender Sensitive Primary Health Care Systems can make the Difference

Organization: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Side Event #27

Title: Joining forces to achieve sustainable future

Organization: DNV

Description:

In Post COP 26 low carbon development scenario, the importance of structured process to bridge the gap between fragmented ESG initiatives, disclosures and long-term decarbonization ambition is growing. DNV would like to organize this side event to support the Thematic track of National actions and economy wide approaches to bring stakeholders on the platform in partnership to share the knowledge and global best practices on how corporates, communities and counties can develop common framework for progress towards the Paris 1.5 degrees Celsius goal achievement holistically.

Side Event #28

Title: Analysis of the NDCs through a gender and youth lens

Organization: Care About Climate

Description:

Although several analyses are conducted on NDCs, few of them reflect on gender equity, the role of young girls and women in climate action, and intergenerational equity. Care About Climate's NDC Equity Tracker provides both a platform and key education structures for international youth to develop local analysis, criticism, and suggestions for growth on their countries' NDCs through an equality and justice lens.

According to studies conducted by the UNFCCC, women and young girls are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. Hence why it is important for NDCs of MENA countries to not only identify the extent of their vulnerability but also to recognize them as change makers and leaders in climate action.

Moreover, the UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index from August 2021 indicated that 820 million children are currently highly exposed to heatwaves, 400 million children to cyclones, 330 million to riverine flooding, 240 million to coastal flooding, 920 million to water scarcity, 600 million to vector-borne diseases, 2 billion (almost 90 percent of children globally) to air pollution, and 815 million to lead pollution. These numbers are too high to ignore when it comes to creating climate policy. Additionally, there are many countries within the MENA region that are at high risk when it comes to children's vulnerability and social protection programs, environmental and climate stress factors, or both. Thus, it is crucial that youth voices are amplified in climate politics, which is one of the reasons why the NDC Equity Tracker is a beneficial project.

The NDC Equity tracker project produces concrete recommendations for how countries can improve their commitments and provides an international platform to highlight the experiences of vulnerable populations.

During our side event, we will provide insight into the policy and equity gaps in current NDCs of the MENA region. We will discuss the NDC Equity Tracker project and how it can be a useful tool for bringing intersectionality into climate decision making as well as pushing for systemic change. Speakers at the event will talk about the analyses they conducted of their respective countries within MENA and bring to light what more needs to be done to ensure a just present and future.

The project also emphasizes the importance of youth and civil society at the decision-making table. The entire project highlighted several important conclusions that will be essential for

adoption within MENA region and the globe. The importance of international collaboration, adequate representation, and community participation will be discussed and presented.

Side Event #29

Title: Climate Education, From Challenges to Opportunities

Organization: Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection - African Youth Climate Hub

Description:

This event aims to highlight the importance of climate education and the need to adapt climate education for African youth to develop concrete and innovative solutions to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

This event will also showcase some actions through the African Youth Climate Hub and its partners

Side Event #30

Title: Promoting South-South Cooperation in Climate Action to advance implementation of NDCs: Case Studies from the Islamic Development Bank and UN- Climate Technology Centre and Network

Organization: Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)- UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (UN-CTCN)

Description:

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is an important mechanism that development institutions use to support achieving development objectives, including in addressing climate change. The IsDB has long-standing experience in SSC by facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges to solve development challenges in its member countries. In recent years, the Bank has been scaling up its SSC interventions to address climate change and strengthen its member countries' capacities in climate action, including areas such as climate smart agriculture, and renewable energy. Similarly, the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network has experience promoting accelerated, diversified, and scaled-up transfer of environmentally sound technologies, practices and know-how for climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries through South-South and triangular cooperation (TrC).

During this side event, IsDB and the UN CTCN will share good practices and lessons learned – as well as barriers to and enablers of – SSC and TrC. The IsDB will present its experience in facilitating exchanges in renewable energy between member countries in the MENA region. The Bank will provide details about its Reverse Linkage mechanism as its in-house methodology for SSC to address climate change as well as other development priorities. The UN CTCN will share concrete experiences - across a broad range of sectors and encompassing diverse stakeholders - of how technology cooperation via SSC and triangular cooperation can facilitate technology development and transfer for climate action in support of the implementation of NDCs and the Paris Agreement.

Countries, multilateral organizations policy makers and practitioners will be invited to consider how to increase their engagement in SSC and TrC on climate action to support developing countries to expand the sharing of knowledge, practices, technologies and know-how, in line

with priorities contained in NDCs.

Side Event #31

Title: Renewable Energy for Urban Climate Resiliency in the MENA region

Organization: REN21

Description:

The Middle East and North Africa are rapidly evolving into one of the major hotspots for renewables, in particular mega-scale solar project. Yet, some countries in the region are not on track to reach the Paris Agreement. City governments can play a key role in shaping the region's energy landscape – including advancing efforts to meet national decarbonization goals. Across the region, city governments are acting from mandating solar roofs to developing electric public transport. With rapid population growth, urbanization and rising energy demand, cities across the MENA region recognize the potential and benefits of renewable energy use. But legislative, financial and technological constraints persist. National and sub-national efforts need to be linked to ensure that actions implemented create a cohesive, just, inclusive and resilient energy system.

The event will look at how cities are using renewable energy to 'climate-proof' their communities, while creating healthier and more livable urban environments. Speakers will discuss how cities can increase their climate ambition and action, contribute to local and national decarbonization and support development goals.

Different perspectives will be illustrated; speakers will represent local and national government, renewable energy experts and other stakeholders. Discussion will focus on exchanging approaches and identifying challenges and sharing action so we can collectively move forward on the energy transition in cities. The need for investment, building adequate policy frameworks and multi-level frameworks which are embedded in larger national strategies will also be discussed. The audience can interact and ask questions.

Side Event #32

Title: Bridging the gap between commitments and action for a 1.5 degrees resilient world: Cities and local governments going to scale

Organization: Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Africa - Race to Resilience

Description:

Whilst the Glasgow Climate Pact agreed at COP26 is an important step. It is not enough. As stated by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in his wrap up message at COP26. "Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe. It is time to go into emergency mode — or our chance of reaching net-zero will itself be zero." We see nations working more closely with non-state actors than ever before to tackle climate change. There is momentum, yet the commitment and action gap is still significant.

At the city and local government level - water, food, nature, ocean, transport, energy and industrial systems are all interconnected and being impacted by climate change. The urgency to build climate resilience across and within sectors at a city level has never been higher. To build this resilience, Global South nations who have done the least to cause climate change, but bear the brunt of the impacts, need finance, but only 5-6% of total global climate finance flows to

adaptation and resilience actions. This must change if we are to keep global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees. This session will showcase the step-change that is occurring in Global South cities and regions from around the world, particularly in the MENA region, in implementing innovative actions that build climate resilience, by unlocking finance and harnessing local political will. This session will bring together front-running leaders who are leading working in their respective cities and regions in the MENA region to build local resilience in ways that offer new insights of relevance to the world. Topics that will be covered include:

- Harnessing nature-based solutions to reduce community vulnerabilities,
- Organizing the appropriate policies, strategies and instruments to unlocking climate finance at the local level, and
- Building resilient food systems that are climate responsive.

Side Event #33

Title: Investing in nature: a viable commercial opportunity to respond to interlinked global environmental challenges

Organization: Emirates Nature - World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) MENA

Description:

This side event – in association with HSBC – will take a deep dive into the question of how we can cost-effectively create healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems where nature and people thrive; and it will explore how the regional financial sector can play a decisive role in driving change by shifting financial flows at scale to nature-positive outcomes.

Side Event #34

Title: PwC Middle East's 'Reimagining our region through ESG

Organization: PricewaterhouseCoopers Middle-East,

Description:

Addressing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues is rising on the agenda of public sector regulators and leading businesses in the Middle East. Pressure is coming from consumers, employees, board members and investors. For example, the latest PwC ME CEO survey 2021 highlighted that ESG is a topic that is growing in interest for the Middle East region; 35% of CEOs plan to increase spending investment by 3-9% over the next three years, and 11% plan to increase by over 10%. Similarly, the PwC ESG Consumer and Employee survey 2021 also found that 83% of consumers think companies should be actively shaping ESG best practices and 86% of employees prefer to support or work for companies that care about the same issues they do.

To get a deeper understanding of key ESG concerns, PwC Middle East is now conducting a ground-breaking survey targeting heads of sustainability (or equivalent) in 2000 companies and government bodies. Companies across different sectors will be targeted, including (but not exclusively) banking and capital markets, oil and gas, construction, healthcare, retail, and transport. Companies and government policy makers are also being interviewed as part of the process. The survey aims to explore how important ESG concerns are in the region, what is driving this interest and key areas of concern such as climate change, biodiversity, and human rights among others, as well as how it will evolve with time. It will also illustrate the level of maturity of ESG for corporates (from compliance driven through to leadership aspirations) and the potential for transformation across sectors to address climate change and other important

topics. It will also explore key barriers hindering action on ESG as well as their possible solutions.

The aim of this side event is to launch the preliminary results of this survey and facilitate dialogue between businesses and government bodies across the region on the implications of the results. The audience will include anyone involved in the MENA Climate Summit, survey participants and civil society organizations.

Side Event #35

Title: Private sector engagement in capacity-building activities for climate action in the MENA

Organization: UNFCCC- World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)

Description:

Through 2021, RCC MENA and SA through the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA) initiative, in close collaboration with the Capacity Building Unit of the Means of Implementation Division of the UNFCCC secretariat, led an initiative aimed at assessing the capacity building needs of SMEs in the MENA to further engage in climate action.

This side event during MENA Climate Week will enable:

- launching of the report of the mapping study for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities for climate action in the MENA countries;
- raising awareness on the identified knowledge gaps, needs and priorities for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities.
- advancing understanding of existing initiatives on engagement with the SMEs

Speakers for this event will include representatives from UNFCCC, partner organizations such as UNGC, UNESCWA and UNDP and key private sector organizations in the region.

Side Event #36

Title: Non-Party Stakeholder Collaboration and Accountability for Science-based, 1.5°C, Resilient Action

Organization: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Description:

Drawing upon insights from CDP's global environmental disclosure platform, the session will showcase ambition of non-state actors (NSA)' near- and long-term actions aligned with the 1.5C pathway, demonstrating how they can be aligned to national commitments, and ultimately contributing to a nature-positive within the planetary boundaries that serves both people and planet. The session is structured to include keynote speeches, to set the scene, followed by a panel discussion to document practical experiences and to explore the following aspects:

- How disclosure of state- and non-state actors increases transparency, leading to accountability, and catalyzes environmental action in the race to zero and resilience.
- How bold environmental policies, NSA climate leadership, and collaboration reinforce the ambition loop.
- How NSAs in the MENA region can meaningfully engage in the near- and long-term towards achieving a 1.5C and resilient future.

The event will convene a diverse panel of climate leaders in the region, from subnational government, companies, financial institutions and civil society, to bring into an engaging and diverse dialogue, and ensuring gender parity. As international processes take stock of climate

action by NSAs, this discussion is particularly timely, and demonstrates why tracking and measuring progress economy-wide is critical.

Side Event #37

Title: Local government and civil society working towards an integrated approach to building resilience and inclusion by accelerating adaptation in the MENA region and African countries

Organization: Alliance of NGOs and CSOs of South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC) - United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLG Africa).

Description:

ANCSSC is an official Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South cooperation which works in collaboration with the UN office of South-South cooperation (UNOSSC). The Alliance strives to enhance civil society's understanding of the value of South-South and triangular cooperation in developmental, humanitarian, and related spheres. It encourages sharing of knowledge, expertise and contextually appropriate technologies and assets among NGOs and CSOs, particularly the ones that have been developed in their respective organizational and operational experiences in developing countries. The Alliance liaises with governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote South-South Cooperation policies and disseminate best practices across its work. The activities of the ANCSSC are aimed at popularizing South-South Cooperation modalities and approaches in the work of NGOs and CSOs in developing countries wherever these are deemed more appropriate and cost effective in undertaking specific tasks. Towards this goal, it seeks to strengthen the capacities of NGOs and CSOs when and where needed, through partnerships with other NGOs and CSOs capable of providing such services.

Side Event #38

Title: Renewable Energy Driving Climate Action towards Net-zero in 2050 across the MENA Region.

Organization: International Renewable Energy Agency

Description:

The UN Secretary-General recently called for renewable energy and green resilient infrastructure to be prioritized to put the world on track in 2021. IRENA responded to this call and devised global strategies towards net-zero and a climate-safe 1.5°C pathway by 2050 in its 2021 World Energy Transitions Outlook.

Beyond enhancing NDCs, promoting holistic policymaking can help devise national strategies that truly address multiple socio-economic objectives and enable an inclusive and just transition. In doing so, it is crucial to ensure coherence among sectors affected by energy transition, such as, water and agri-food value chain, provision of essential public services (health, education) and promotion of productive use of energy.

This event will present the latest findings on the energy transition drawing from IRENA's flagship publication World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway (2021 edition) and contextualize it to the MENA context. Further, it will showcase the many options that MENA governments have to help them navigate towards an energy transition by exploring existing technology and innovation solutions for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures.

Building on these insights, representatives from MENA governments will provide insights into

the work being done in their respective countries to achieve the proposed climate action goals, as well as showcase examples of new patterns of socio-economic development achieved through prioritization of renewable energy development.

The panel will discuss current initiatives, as well as outline the main achievements and challenges encountered in the MENA context and identify key opportunities for incorporating development needs to achieve low-carbon climate safe energy systems.

Side Event #39

Title: Catalyzing Climate Actions through First and Only Voluntary Carbon Market based in MENA region

Organization: Global Carbon Council

Description:

This event will feature how the MENA region's first and the only Voluntary Carbon Market Program, Global Carbon Council (GCC) is catalyzing the climate actions with sustainable development benefits in the region. The event will promote Carbon Finance opportunities for GHG emission reduction projects.

Side Event #40

Title: Climate change, disasters, and emergencies from health system preparedness, adaptation, resilience, and environmental sustainability perspectives

Organization: World Health Organization - Regional Center for Environmental Health Actions - EMRO

Side Event #41

Title: The Future of Smart Cities through Sustainability & Digital Transformation

Organization: DEWA

Description:

In line with the Dubai 10X initiative to position Dubai 10 years ahead of other global cities - DEWA launched Digital DEWA – to redefine the concept of a utility and create the world's first digital utility using autonomous systems for renewable energy, storage, AI adoption and digital services.

Digital DEWA's disruptive, agile technology is the way forward to accelerate progress for: Businesses, Governments, Start-ups, Investors, Youth and Society. It comprises of four pillars, bringing together new technologies to generate improved outcomes for society:

- Solar Energy
- Energy storage
- Artificial intelligence and
- Digital services

Side Event #42

Title: The Water and Energy Nexus in the GCC region

Organization: World Bank Group

Side Event #43

Title: Launch of the REAP "Early Action: State of Play" 2021 report

Organization: Risk-informed Early Action Partnership

Side Event #44

Title: Accelerating Net Zero Cement and Concrete - Global Commitment to Local Action

Organization: Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA)

Description:

Concrete is the most consumed material on earth after water. It has shaped our modern world and will be required to build the sustainable world of tomorrow. As we face the important challenges for future generations, addressing the need for sustainable communities and prosperity, including key infrastructure, homes, clean water and providing resilient communities as our climate changes, as well as supporting the transition to low carbon energy concrete, it will be required to build the sustainable world of tomorrow.

However, cement - the key binding ingredient in concrete - has a significant CO2 challenge, representing around 7% of global emissions. Last year the cement industry made a global commitment to net zero concrete in line with the Paris climate target, with one of the most far-reaching global industry net zero roadmaps of any global sector to date. The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) is a CEO-led initiative which represents 80% of the global cement industry outside of China, as well as several key Chinese manufacturers.

Following the global net zero commitment our focus now has shifted to helping support and drive local action, especially in the global south including MENA where we are supporting our members and the wider industry to make that transition. We aim to use the MENA climate week as an opportunity to launch our programme and bring together key industry parties to begin the dialogues and activity – including local cement and concrete industry, governments and policymakers, wider stakeholders.

Side Event #45

Title: The New Middle East and National Transformation

Organization: YKCenter

Description:

In 1993, the late president of Israel, Shimon Peres, proposed "A New Middle East". A daring vision for a Middle East, free of conflict and full of regional cooperation. Tal Ronen is one of the architects of the "New Middle East" plan. As a close confidant and coach to President Peres, Tal Ronen was privileged to the thoughts from the back of the mind of Shimon Peres and other leaders working on, what at the time was, a rebellious reinvisioning of reality. Over the past decade Tal Ronen has been applying his lived experiences and learnings to create visionary change in businesses and organizations. Since 2012, Tal Ronen has also been working with Prof. Yehuda Kahane, a world-renowned economist and thinker on transformation towards sustainability, and more recently, the SDGs. Throughout their shared work, Tal has been focused on and proposing an idea called "TransformNation". TransformNation is a merging of Prof. Kahane's economic thinking, Tal Ronen's methodologies, and national alignment with the SDGs. These ideas combine to create a plan for national-level transformation and aligning with the necessary paradigm shift into sustainability. The event will be a sharing of Tal's work from

behind the scenes with Shimon Peres to this very day, where Tal is working to create national-scale transformation around the world.

Side Event #46

Title: Multi-stakeholder innovation and partnerships to drive climate action in MENA

Organization: APCO Worldwide

Description:

Historically, the MENA region has been a bastion of innovation that has significantly contributed to the development of humanity, and climate action is not the exception. This has been in part thanks to the cooperative environment that prevails in the region, which enables and accelerates the formation of partnerships between the private and public sector, together with multilateral organizations and civil society.

The present side event will showcase leading examples of how local and global company's offices in the region, in conjunction with partner governments and originations, are implementing ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation actions that are not only contributing to fight against climate change in the region, but that have a global impact and, more importantly, an example that can be easily replicated in other regions.

VIRTUAL

Side Event #47

Title: Urban Climate Change and Gender Issues

Organization: Forum for environment and climate change - Climate Environmental Broker Platform - Climate Action Network Arab World (CANAW)

Description:

The event focuses on cities that are of great importance to the economy in North Africa and the Middle East because of their activities that have led to changing the urban climatic footprint and raising the carbon footprint of these cities, which has direct and indirect effects on gender in these cities

Side Event #48

Title: Targeted Strategies for MENA Specific Climate Change Implications

Organization: Middle East Institute's Climate - Water Program

Description:

This Side Event hosted by the Middle East Institute's Climate and Water Program will include a panel of experts affiliated with the Middle East Institute to assess and discuss three main critical topics:

1. MENA's current vulnerability to climate change

The MENA region's vulnerability to climate change has escalated over the last few years as demonstrated by record breaking peak summer temperatures in the Middle East due to extreme heat, more frequent occurrences of extreme weather events associated with severe tropical cyclones forming in the Indian Ocean and striking the Arabian Peninsula (e.g. Cyclone Shaheen), enhanced wildfire activity in North Africa and the Levant, and the challenging coupling of drought and flooding due to short and intense precipitation events over the Nile River Basin. These impacts correspond to real consequences to public health and safety, infrastructure lifespan and maintenance, and the reliability of water resources and agricultural

production.

2. How projected increases in global warming will impact the MENA region

The future of the MENA under higher levels of global warming, as indicated by projections of global temperature increases from the IPCC sixth assessment report, is highlighted by an intensification of the region's current vulnerability to climate change. Higher global temperatures exacerbate extreme heat in the region, leading to more heat-related illnesses and places pressure on cooling requirements for people and critical infrastructure. Tropical cyclones originating from the Indian Ocean will occur with more frequency and severity, leading to more landfalls in the Arabian Peninsula with corresponding damages and fatalities. Coastal communities and agricultural districts around the Mediterranean (North Africa, Levant, and Turkey) will be more vulnerable to sea level rise and wildfires. More extreme flooding events are anticipated to occur in surface water systems like the Nile River Basin and other high-elevation snowpack-driven rivers due to earlier and larger snowmelt.

3. Specific climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for the region

These current and projected climate change implications to the region add a sense of urgency to adapt and mitigate. However, broad climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change need to be molded to best suit the particular climate change challenges that the MENA region currently faces and is expected to face in the future. These targeted strategies may include enhanced cooperation and coordinated reservoir operations between riparian nations that share surface water systems to better manage flooding events, advance warning systems and protection measures for dangerous and extreme weather, preventative public health initiatives that mitigate heat illness and death due to extreme heat, and rapid suppression and response protocols for wildfires during high heat index summer days.

Side Event #49

Title: Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Environmental Change Management in Mediterranean Countries

Organization: Ministry of higher education and Scientific research- MEHMED project partners and Reseau Thématique National Climat

Description:

Introducing the Tunisian National Strategy in Climate Action; and focusing on the Higher Education national programs to enhance the awareness and adapt skills of the students, professionals and researchers to be more climate active citizens. A Mediterranean joint Master program called MEHMED (involving 6 countries) will be presented as a current example of a successful example to follow/ and to improve. The importance of developing and improving common Research and Innovation projects in the MENA region will also be explained. National delegates and Contact points for the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programs will present the opportunities that Euro-Mediterranean R&I programs offer to the MENA region countries. A project of constitution of a network of climate experts for the MENA region will be introduced and set out.

Side Event #50

Title: Regional climate ambition and credibility for COP27

Organization: WWF

Description:

COP26 delivered outcomes reflecting the stark reality of collective climate ambition and finance. With COP27 in Egypt, 2022 is a crucial year for the MENA region to explore their role in closing the ambition gap on mitigation and adaptation to ensure countries are collectively on for 1.5d; and in closing the credibility gap, ensuring long- and short-term pledges and action are also in line.

The subject for discussion will be to explore to what extent MENA NDCs reflect strong mitigation and adaptation ambition; what the role is for decision-makers in fostering highest ambition in the face of multiple development challenges; and opportunities for regional and national (and global) leadership. In doing so, we will draw on the work of WWF's holistic assessments of NDCs in the region through the NDCsWeWant checklist, providing a framework for Parties in the region to consider the COP26 request for updated NDCs in 2022.

This event will also reflect on a possible roadmap to Sharm El-Sheik for the region. In doing so we will bring together the UK presidency and its campaigns of COP26 (cash, cars, coal, and trees), with activities and opportunities in MENA. The session belongs to a stream of relevant discussions on ambition by WWF during LAC, Asia-Pacific and Africa climate weeks in 2021.

Side Event #51

Title: Climate Change, Conflict and Gender: Identifying opportunities for more inclusive peace in the MENA region

Organization: UN Women- Regional Office for the Arab States

Description:

The MENA region is not only among the worst hit by the effects of climate change. It is also host to multiple protracted conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, which severely impact on these states' capacity to adapt and respond to the direct and indirect effects of climate change.

The impacts of climate change and its associated security risks have important gender dimensions that shape how men and women of different backgrounds experience, contribute to and respond to conflict. Climate change can exacerbate women's vulnerabilities, particularly in conflict-affected contexts, due to existing gender inequalities, discriminatory laws and customs, and unequal access to and control of resources. Additionally, women are often left out of decision-making processes that could help mitigate the impact of environmental disruptions. At the same time, climate change affects gender roles and livelihood patterns in ways that can create new entry points for engaging women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In communities where climate-induced resource scarcity drive men to migrate in search of alternative livelihoods, women often take on roles that challenge traditional gender norms, such as mediating local conflicts or working in traditionally male-dominated economic sectors. If capitalized on effectively, these shifts have the potential to overcome longstanding barriers to women's empowerment in peacebuilding processes, and secure more inclusive political, social and economic structures that advance gender equality and environmental sustainability in conflict-affected contexts.

The gender dimensions of climate security remain insufficiently explored in the MENA region. To fill this important knowledge and policy gap, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States has recently launched a new research initiative to study the linkages between gender, climate change and conflict in the region. The proposed virtual side-event will be an occasion to

present the initial findings of this research. The event will provide an opportunity to bring together decision-makers, experts and civil society actors to discuss ways to ensure that women are a meaningful part of climate policy development and peacebuilding processes. Panelists will share their experiences and findings from across the MENA region and formulate recommendations to enhance gender analysis of climate-related security risks and develop gender-responsive mitigation and prevention strategies in conflict-affected settings. The event will conclude with an interactive Q&A exchange with the audience.

Side Event #52

Title: Meeting the density demand - the urgent opportunity to build quality, decarbonized and resilient buildings in the Middle East & North Africa

Organization: UN High Level Climate Champions Team- #BuildingtoCOP Coalition

Description:

55% of the world's population live in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. The transformation of human settlements into urban environments must address both scarcity of resources and equitable growth. However rapid urbanization risks exacerbating existing disparities in access to quality places and spaces, due to lack of residential capacity at both pace and scale.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region is home to 65.9% of the world's urban population. Additionally, the presence of informal settlements hinders the ability of cities to deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits to their residents. The Greater Cairo City Region for instance, has two thirds of its residents living in informal settlements (according to the Cities Alliance).

With increasing population growth and rapid unplanned urbanization, there is mounting demand for buildings. Without immediate action, construction of urban housing and its associated infrastructure will significantly deplete global resources. Subsequently, given that construction and the use of construction materials are huge contributors to global emissions, the pace and scale of this required housing construction has the potential to significantly exacerbate carbon emissions. The impact of this would disproportionately affect regions like MENA, where climate change is already causing extreme heat surges along with widespread drought stresses. Our buildings are already coming under increasing pressure with the changing climate, jeopardizing their very essence of providing housing and shelter.

This event will seek to establish how buildings must avoid 'locking' emissions in inefficient and unsafe new residential construction in MENA, whilst simultaneously addressing the huge need for rapid delivery of climate-resilient housing. The lag between design and construction means that such housing needs to be developed now.

Underpinning the rapid urbanization and development of new buildings will be the need for skilled workers to deliver quality developments. The emerging understanding is that a transition to modern methods of construction such as pre-fabrication could offer more jobs available to a more diverse workforce than those currently offered in the construction market. However, in the context of rapidly developing economies, understanding impacts and perceptions of these technologies on the labor market will be critical.

The UN High Level Climate Champions team will convene a chaired discussion to explore this immediate opportunity from two perspectives: We will showcase local community-led projects to evidence exemplary ground-up projects and action which can be scaled up. Highlight radical collaboration opportunities - examples of national and local governments as well as the private sector working together to advance green buildings and the role of the green buildings sector in meeting urbanization challenges in the MENA region.

Side Event #53

Title: Nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment in MENA: successes, challenges & opportunities

Organization: BirdLife International- United National Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UN CMS)

Description:

Increasing deployment of renewable energy on a global scale has been identified as a key mechanism to reduce emissions and limit warming to 1.5°C. At the same time, associated threats to biodiversity are rapidly multiplying. Renewable energy can help revitalize the economy by generating green jobs, ensuring energy security, improving clean air and health benefits, and strengthening community resilience. However, if located in the wrong place or without safeguards, these developments can have significant and detrimental impacts on wildlife, key areas for biodiversity and the wider contributions to people that nature provides. Building on the momentum of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 in Glasgow and the handover of the UNFCCC COP Presidency to Egypt for COP27, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure positive outcomes for nature, climate, and people with strong leadership from across the MENA region.

This webinar seeks to showcase key mechanisms and innovative tools for the nature-sensitive deployment of renewable energy, such as those that are being established through the United Nations (UN) Convention on Migratory Species' Energy Task Force (CMS ETF), a leading global multi-stakeholder platform. Examples will be drawn from across MENA and where appropriate more widely, to highlight transferable opportunities for the region.

Key experts from across the renewable sector in MENA as well as specifically in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Ethiopia and Morocco will explore examples of how nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment is becoming increasingly championed and mainstreamed by governments, industry, international finance institutions and other stakeholder groups. Amongst other key successes in the region, the event will highlight initiatives such as the award-winning Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) Project (<https://migratorysoaringbirds.birdlife.org>), which focusses on mainstreaming the conservation of migratory soaring birds within countries located along the Red Sea/Rift Valley Flyway. This project is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the UN Development Program (UNDP).

Speakers will highlight opportunities for the scaling-up of such good practice approaches and demonstrate how the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 and the UNFCCC COP27 provide opportunities to enhance synergies and deliver nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment for these joint agendas.

Side Event #54

Title: Youth Leadership on Global Climate Action,

Organization: United Nations University Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE)- Fundación Avina- FLACSO Ecuador- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) - Future Earth

Description:

The session will engage youth representatives and practitioners from public, private and academic sectors to discuss and advocate for policies, practices, and innovations that advance national plans and improve reporting at the 2023 Global Stock take. A keynote speaker will reflect on the role of youth and women to respond to broader climate action in a transformational way and how integrated capacity building approaches can facilitate their leadership in the MENA region. After the insightful presentation, short interventions will be made by panelists from youth organizations, government, universities and the private sector sharing their experience, particularly at strengthening national capacities toward 2023 global stock take, preparation of a generation of thought-leaders who are proactive in current and subsequent Paris Agreement ambition cycles, support in the development green businesses and entrepreneurship, and overcoming the challenges in promoting green innovations. One speaker will share the experience from Latin America to foster south-south collaboration and strengthen partnerships in climate action. This will be followed by a Q&A session. The major outcome of the session will be to encourage more inclusive policy making, collaboration, innovation, investment, and capacity building for stakeholders involved in Climate action.

Side Event #55

Title: Carbon removals: an exciting hidden investment opportunity

Organization: South Pole

Description:

In the fight against climate change, the carbon removal industry is emerging as an important contributor. A leading group of major corporations and governments are now taking an interest. In addition to helping address the climate challenge, carbon removal presents a new climate finance theme that is particularly well tailored to the MENA region.

Carbon dioxide removal solutions can reduce the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas effect. The MENA region is very well suited for engineered removals, with an abundance of solar and wind power and geological storage options. Unlocking this removal capacity is a major opportunity for the region, with various Direct Air Capture projects already being undertaken.

This session will look at what is needed to advance engineered removals in the MENA region, keeping in mind that both the COP27 and COP28 will be hosted here. We will assess the technological ramifications, particularly focusing on Direct Air Capture and storage solutions, and discuss the business models, investment vehicles, and regulatory incentives to help address the current investment gap.

Side Event #56

Title: From COP 26 Glasgow Commitments to COP 27 Egypt Opportunities: The MENA perspective

Organization: Liberal International

Description:

The panel discussion is intended to bring a vast array of influential experts and politicians that are either from the MENA region working on environment related issues, or from other regions in the world that have supported the implementation of net zero agenda in the region. Drawing from their rich expertise, the panel will aim to answer the following questions:

1. How will COP27, presided by Egypt, approach the issue of food security, considering the latest IPCC report announcing grave warnings on land degradation and deforestation?
2. How will the Egyptian presidency push the developed world and the biggest emitters in increasing their ambitions and NDCs?
3. How can COP27 ensure a balance between adaptation and mitigation finance?
4. What needs to happen to ensure the promised target of carbon neutrality, and what is the role of the MENA region in it?

Side Event #57

Title: National Agendas for Walking and Cycling: Harnessing the Africa Network for Walking and Cycling to address the Climate Challenge

Organization: Walk21 Foundation- UN Environment- Africa Network for Walking and Cycling

Description:

The Africa Network for Walking and Cycling is chaired by Walk21 Foundation, with Lead Agency UN Environment and membership drawn from across the African continent including local, national, regional and global groups, both government, inter-governmental and non-government.

The Network runs 7 working groups addressing different needs from Research, Data, Public Transport, Rural Mobility and Financing, Advocacy and Government Support. With a coordinated workplan and support from the secretariat it is action focused and very collaborative - working to raise the profile of these modes across the continent.

This side event will draw on the work of the network to focus on what action national governments can take to support walking and cycling as part of their low carbon transport solutions. It will explore the opportunities for policy commitments and investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, within road projects, public transport and across neighborhoods. Currently only 11 countries have walking and/or cycling in their NDCs but all have much more potential for these modes.

The meeting will consist of the following points:^[1]_[SEP]

- Identify key actions national governments can take to demonstrate ambition for walking and cycling as part of their climate goals, e.g. building commitment into NDCs and strategic transport plans and financial frameworks
- Share examples of effective national policy, fiscal levers or stakeholder engagement to support walking and cycling esp. in response to the climate challenge.
- Foster opportunities to build momentum towards COP27 and better adoption of actions for walking and cycling in NDCs.
- Showcase the network as a resource for others to utilize and engage with walking and cycling in their national agendas

Speakers and participants will be drawn from the network and key government agencies to

bring experience and examples. Invitations will be extended to World Resources Institute and World Bank to draw on the learnings from their Transport Decarbonization Investment Series: Investing in Momentum in Active Mobility and how they apply in an African context. The event hosts will draw together the discussions into a set of action points for the network to progress during the year in the lead up to COP27 and beyond, building them into the network work plans.

Side Event #58

Title: New and radical spatial planning for systemic change in cities

Organization: Int. Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)

Description:

Cities – intended in their essence of complex human ecosystems of people, movement, activities, buildings, nature and infrastructure – major emitters, vulnerable and unsustainable, have not been sufficiently prominent in COP negotiations and in the national pledges (NDCs). The work of the Marrakesh Partnership, C40 and Global ABC is so far mainly concerned with some aspects of cities: reducing emissions from vehicles and the fabric of buildings.

More needs to be done to achieve the goals we are setting and the systemic change in cities and the just transition that has been loudly advocated by youth leaders and activist groups. To date, the contribution of spatial planning to Race to Zero and, very importantly, to Race to Resilience has not been fully explored. Yet, the Glasgow Climate Pact calls on nations to finally integrate mitigation and adaptation into local, national and regional planning. Planning systems across the world have to step up to a new role, beyond exploitative and outdated concepts of land use and infrastructure and embrace new objectives of balance with nature and climate and social justice.

Our proposed event explores how spatial / territorial planning can support and accelerate the net-zero and resilience agenda for the built environment. We propose speakers from various parts of the world to report on ways in which spatial planning can make a marked contribution to climate action with a specific focus on the MENA Region and its potential for planning innovation. This will offer insights and actionable inputs to:

1. Balance between human settlements and natural systems
2. Liveable cities include integration of health, transport, built and natural environment and employment
3. Comprehensive change in urban systems and lifestyles
4. Mitigation and adaptation are different priorities in different parts of the world
5. Planning must have global aspirations with locally based, contextual, equitable, nature-based and collaborative solutions.
6. Investment in new planning skills

Side Event #59

Title: Partnership to build water resilience

Organization: Arup- The Resilience Shift- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)- World Resources Institute (WRI)- Resilient Cities Network (RCN)- Addis Ababa Resilience Project Office- WaterAid

Description:

The aim is to accelerate water resilience action linked to key COP26 and COP27 campaigns and desired outcomes. At the event, partners will share their experiences and perspectives on

building water resilience across African cities.

Climate change, population growth and increasing urbanization has put increased pressure on our water systems. Much of the world is experiencing a combination of too much, too little, and polluted water affecting people's health and well-being, devastating economies and threatening lives and livelihoods. The means to build urban water resilience requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues that impact on urban water resilience. This in turn, requires expertise, experience, and insights from a wider range of stakeholder groups, sharing different perspectives and differing needs. We propose a storytelling session on the evolution of the City Water Resilience Approach with our city and industry partners as well as a discussion into the future of the CWRA and its place within the wider themes of Urban Resilience and Adaption.

The City Water Resilience Approach is a multi-stakeholder systems-structured methodology which takes a city from understanding its urban water shocks and stresses to supporting the development of interventions to build its resilience. It was co-developed through extensive desk and field research and testing and piloted in cities across the globe. Arup, Resilience Shift, the Resilient Cities Network (RCN) – formerly 100 Resilient Cities – and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) developed the City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA) – an open-source methodology to help cities understand the water-related risks that they face and improve the way they plan, manage and maintain their water system. To date, the approach has been used in 15 cities globally including four in Africa with another four cities planned for 2022 influencing and supporting investment to build water resilience.

We will involve our partners the World Resources Institute, the Resilience Shift, Resilient Cities Network and the Stockholm International Water Institute to explore how cities in the Middle East and across Africa can build their water resilience. Specifically, we hear from city representatives on their experience of urban water resilience - sharing learning and experience, including Cape Town, Addis Ababa, Kigali and how this experience can be applied to the MENA region.

Side Event #60

Title: Anticipatory Action As a Way to Address Climate Risks and Impacts in the Arab Region??

Organization: World Food Programme (WFP)- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)- ODI - Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

Description:

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis. Finding a solution to mitigate the loss and damage experienced across the Arab Region is a complex task that requires a coordinated approach in which governments, donors, local, national and international organizations come together. In a joint side event, WFP and IFRC will demonstrate the contribution of anticipatory action and the opportunities that this entails for governments, communities and people in the Arab Region. The side event will present recent evidence based on a regional study and provide examples from the region where early warning, climate services and acting early are central to supporting adaptation and ways to mitigate increasing shocks and stressors.

Side Event #61

Title: EI's Climate Education Ambition Report Card: Are MENA countries making the grade?

Organization: Education International

Description:

Which countries are prioritizing quality climate education for all? Join Education International as we present analysis of education's inclusion in 18 MENA countries' NDCs. This side event will discuss the role of education in the fight against the climate crisis and will include a dialogue about how countries can step up their climate education ambition.

Analysis of newly submitted NDCs globally shows that despite the urgency of the climate crisis, countries around the world are failing to make the grade on climate education, a fundamental component of a sustainable future. How do countries in the MENA region compare to the rest of the world on 6 criteria: policy ambition, pervasiveness, inclusiveness, quality, climate justice and system strengthening? Are their NDCs recognizing the role of key stakeholders such as teachers and students when it comes to including education in climate policies and ensuring quality climate education for all? What can be learnt from countries that scored relatively high on the EI climate education report card? This session will explore these questions through an interactive online side event that highlights the importance of harnessing the transformative, yet under-recognized role of education in addressing climate change.

Side Event #62

Title: Enhancing Climate Change Commitments through the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants with local benefits for air quality, human health and food security

Organization: UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat- Stockholm Environment Institute

Description:

The event aims to highlight how integrated air pollution and climate change planning, and action on SLCPs can be an effective strategy for the region.

Side Event #63

Title: Climate Change and Health under the Gender Lens

Organization: International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

Description:

According to the WHO report on "Climate change and health research: Current trends, gaps and perspectives for the future", there remains a huge gap of evidence on the interlinkage between climate change and health and even a wider gap on Gender-disaggregated data, as well as the impacts of climate change on the health of vulnerable communities. In addition, in the MENA region specifically, an enabling environment for all genders to meaningfully engage in climate and health action is not adequately provided. This has been evident in the UNFCCC 2021 Gender Composition report that indicated that "women government delegates occupied, on average, 33 percent of all constituted body positions in 2021, as was the case in 2020 and 2019". This represents a simple example of not just the lack of equal gender representation, but also the absence of sufficient powerful improvement plans over the years. Therefore, we find it is of utmost importance to ensure that a gender lens is present in the climate and health action to ensure a healthier climate and healthier planet for all.

The side event will have the following outline:

- Introduction through sharing some evidence and data on the interlinkage between gender, health and climate change
- Panel discussions involving climate activists addressing the issue of gender in the climate

change and health space

-Open Space Discussion for sharing experiences, thoughts and inputs on how to improve gender inclusivity in climate action on national, regional and international levels

The outcomes of this side event will be used by the IFMSA to plan advocacy and mobilization of their medical students on the national, regional and international level and ensure that gender-inclusive environments are present in the climate action field within the IFMSA and outside it.

Side Event #64

Title: Preparing for an “African” COP: the importance of climate governance in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa in accelerating the transition to a zero emissions society

Organization: Climate Action Tracker- New Climate Institute- IGAP Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC)

Description:

While governments made some progress in Glasgow on closing the 2030 emissions gap, there is still a long way to go to align with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C. All governments need to take heed of the request to ‘revisit and strengthen’ their targets in 2022. While strong targets are critical, so too is ensuring that the necessary governance structures are in place to achieve these targets. Under its Climate Governance Series, the Climate Action Tracker evaluates the ability and readiness of national governments to enable the required economy-wide transformation towards a zero emissions society, including a few African countries.

As COP27 will be hosted by Egypt, the meeting presents a unique opportunity for African countries to shed more light on their climate change initiatives and political actions and to present priorities that are advancing the implementation of low carbon development strategies and sustainable development, as well as highlight their climate finance needs.

At this side-event, the Climate Action Tracker will launch its assessment of Egyptian climate governance and how this relates to climate governance in other African countries. The state of the climate policy landscape in African regions more broadly in meeting decarbonization objectives will also be discussed, along with the key elements that can drive and keep momentum ahead of the “African” COP to convene in Sharm-EI-Sheikh.

The side-event is organized jointly with the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC).

CAT Speaker: Focus on the findings of the Climate Governance Series’ assessment of Egypt and other governance assessments.

ICPAC Speaker: Focus and highlight climate governance in the Eastern Africa (IGAD region)

Speaker from West Africa: Focus on the governance and perspectives from West Africa

Other speaker: Focus on Egypt/Middle East’s perspectives and building momentum ahead of Sharm-EI-Sheikh

Side Event #65

Title: Environmental Reporting - Measuring and Managing local and regional Climate Impacts?

Organization: Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Description:

The international environmental charity Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) would like to host a side event under 2 with the aim of introducing its cost-free services to local and regional

stakeholders in the MENA region.

Why CDP

CDP hosts the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting system which guides cities, States and regions to identify, formulate, prioritise, and their climate change related risks and vulnerabilities. As a holistic planning tool, it also guides participants to reflect on which groups are particularly impacted by the identified risks. Subsequently, the questionnaire supports cities in drafting adaptation plans for the identified risks and to adopt adaptation actions that include the needs of vulnerable groups. The reporting system can be used to annually the progress against set targets.

In 2021, more than 1000 cities participated, including 27 MENA cities, and CDP aims to increase its support in this region.

Proposed Workshop

A 2-side event is particularly suitable because locally led climate-resilient development including a focus on the integration of vulnerable groups is a main pillar of CDP's work. Based on an analysis of the outcomes of the 2 discussions in the Africa Climate Week 2021, CDP would like to host a webinar addressing several key issues that participants identified in the main sessions. These key issues are consistent with CDP's experience working in both, the African and Middle Eastern region, and similar issues are likely to arise in the MENA Climate Week as well.

A key issue raised was the need for a strengthened data system to formulate risk assessments and inclusive policies and plans as well as the ability to progress adaptation actions. CDP would therefore like to present its free reporting system that aims to fulfil this need and highlight how it directly supports participants in their individual journey to improve local and national climate actions.

Moreover, participants expressed the need for regional collaboration, data sharing, and capacity building. CDP facilitates knowledge-sharing through thematic group webinars with different stakeholders from the same region, comparative reports, and access to the free Open Data Portal. In the webinar, CDP can demonstrate how interested stakeholders can browse its Portal to get inspiration from adaptation plans and actions from other reporting cities, States and regions. Moreover, CDP can showcase how it works as a hub for cities, States and regions to get connected to other environmental initiatives. When responding to the CDP questionnaire, cities can also join the UN-backed global Cities Race to Resilience Campaign for which the CDP questionnaire is a core requirement.

Another identified key issue was the need for science-based policies and plans to attract investments for adaptation actions. In its webinar, CDP would like to address this, by introducing its scoring system and individual science-based feedback services which support participants in improving their adaptation plans, actions, and targets every year. Moreover, CDP would like to present its Matchmaker Portal which focuses on connecting cities in need of funding for their climate actions with green investors.

Side Event #66

Title: Climate change and health: from impact to action

Organization: The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)- The Cyprus Institute- Pathfinder Initiative

Description:

There is increasing evidence for the adverse effects of climate change on health, both physical and mental, posing serious challenges to health gains made over recent decades. Climate change in the extended region of the Mediterranean-Middle East-North Africa is considerable, and affects health through multiple pathways, both direct (e.g., heat, drought, wildfires, flooding) and indirect, via disruption of ecological and socio-economic systems (e.g., air pollution, food insecurity, infectious diseases, migration).

This session is based on work by the InterAcademy Partnership, the Cyprus Institute and the Pathfinder Initiative. As one strand of this work, outputs from a recent regional workshop (that included participation by academy experts from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Sudan and Tunisia) will be shared. Collaborative activity identified and compared national climate-health effects, cross-border impacts, and their regional implications, to explore how robust science can help to clarify attribution of impacts, and support climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions. In addition, opportunities were explored to inform policy development at national and regional levels, and with neighboring regions (e.g., EU, sub-Saharan Africa, Western Asia).

Although the MENA region is diverse in many respects, there are common challenges in responding to climate change, focusing on vulnerable groups, in developing resilient and equitable health systems and addressing fragmentation of research systems. Climate change and COVID-19 are converging health crises. Analysis will also be presented of the objectives for planning economic recovery planning for economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19. Investments to help MENA countries recover their economies must set the world on a more sustainable, resilient and equitable pathway.

Taken together, the evidence discussed in this session will demonstrate how delivery of the Paris Agreement in a fair and just way is an essential component of delivering multiple SDG outcomes. Transformational change in the MENA region must be based on collaboration between scientific disciplines, inter-sectoral action (e.g., between health, agriculture, water, energy, transport and urban planning sectors) and coordination between countries in research and data collection, sharing infrastructure, skills and methodologies, and building trust in responsible science.

We emphasize that health issues are not a matter for the health sector alone but that there must be “health in all policies”. Moreover, the wide expertise and geographical representation of the session organizers is valuable in expressing the voices of those who are not always heard during the processes whereby evidence informs international policy. The session will share examples of good practice from across the region, identifying gaps in knowledge and how to fill them. Despite the accumulated evidence, protecting human health has only recently become a major consideration in global policy discussions about climate change. The MENA Climate Week can have an important role in focusing on these urgent issues and helping to develop regional policy momentum as part of the preparations for COP27.

Side Event #67

Title: Global Cities Climate Action

Organization: Arup- The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

Description:

What: This one-hour virtual side event for the MENA Climate Week from Arup and C40 Cities will be an introduction to our virtual Global Cities Climate Action exhibition, which showcases how eleven or more cities on five continents are taking climate action.

The exhibition comprises a series of 'virtual city rooms' for anyone with an interest in climate change and climate resilient development to experience how cities are taking climate action.

Our proposal is to build on the content we already have, hopefully to add more cities in the MENA Region, introduce some of the key climate action and future plans in the cities and signpost people to the virtual exhibition.

Working with the cities, Arup and C40 Cities created the exhibition for COP26 as a physical exhibit in the Green Zone and as a virtual platform using Arup's 'Virtual Engage' platform - see <https://global-cities-climate-action-exhibition.virtual-engage.com/>. Fully mobile phone compatible, the exhibition can be accessed and shared anytime from anywhere with internet connectivity.

We believe we have created an inspiring collection of virtual city rooms that feature climate action, focusing on the most promising policy developments and projects being implemented in response to city climate action plans. We have received feedback about the value of the exhibition in terms of the quality of the information, images, videos, 3D models, augmented reality, and soundscapes, and the ease of engagement and knowledge transfer among participating cities.

Audience: We would target a broad audience of virtual visitors to the side event and to visit the exhibition from all corners of the world who are interested in understanding and participating in city-scale climate action. We know that people understand and respond powerfully to climate change issues at a city level. This is because people understand, care about, and identify with the cities they live and work in, or visit.

We would tap into this human understanding of cities to capture the attention and imagination of a wide demographic, including students, professionals, policymakers, and members of the public. Visitors would be free to explore virtual city rooms without physically exerting themselves or being overwhelmed by the quantity of information. Each virtual city room is an entry point to an easy-to-navigate museum of projects and ideas showcased strategically and creatively.

Collaboration, Inclusivity and Representation: This collaboration between Arup and C40 Cities does more than showcase the formal climate policies and action of city administrations across five continents, including the global south. It also involves and draws on the work and voices of the organizations achieving change at grassroots level in cities, from NGOs, community groups and the private sector. In this way, our Global Cities Climate Action exhibition of virtual city rooms includes experiences and ideas of marginalized communities, people most vulnerable to climate impacts, and Indigenous Peoples.

Side Event #68

Title: Climate-smart agri-food systems for MENA

Organization: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)- CGIAR- NARS

Description:

Led by Mr. Aly Abousabaa, CGIAR Regional Director of Central and West Asia, and North Africa / Director General, ICARDA, this 'fishbowl' style event begins with experts kick-starting conversation on the relevant themes before inviting the audience to swap chairs to inhabit the 'inner virtual circle' and offer their expertise and informed opinion.

Speakers and audience are invited from national agriculture research centers, farmers, public and private sector, civil society, and donors, to present and discuss the viability of 'new science' innovation that breaks from business-as-usual approaches to address today's complex challenges.

Themes will include regional collaboration and knowledge sharing, water productivity, improved crops, integrated innovations, pillar industries, private-public partnerships, conserving and nurturing biodiversity and environmental health, women and youth, and market access.

Side Event #69

Title: Cascading & Localizing Climate Finance: The Next Frontier Market?

Organization: Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) - Moroccan Association of Mayors (AMPCC) - Moroccan Association of Governors (ARM) - Directorate general for Subnational Governments, Moroccan Ministry of Interior (DGCT) - Mohammed VI Foundation for Environment Protection, Morocco (FM6E)

Description:

This session introduces key initiatives illustrating the still unleashed potential of the Climate Financing Value Chain « continuum » from international funding and financing to subnational climate action. Examples of integrative approach, encompassing international, national and subnational channeling of resources for transactions supporting local infrastructure projects financing will be showcased with a specific focus on the Moroccan flagship and innovative National Program for Climate Financing Subnational Action, called SISTIF.

Challenges and barriers for an integrative financing value chain and Solutions/Initiatives already delivering and needing scaling up and out:

- Inspirational initiatives for: partnering for success, addressing the Subnational Project Preparation & Match Making Gaps, showcasing key initiatives linking all levels of action and multi-stakeholder coalitions
- Gain and disseminate an overview of the latest innovative programs developed in the MENA Region including Parties, Multilateral, bilateral, national and subnational development banks/agencies; Coalitions of Investors and other partners along the financial value chain on project preparation and match making, and consequently identify, reinforce and demonstrate convergence among the actors involved in this key issue for the MENA region transition and transformation.
- Define a joint strategy between coalitions and stakeholders – under the Global Action Framework for Localizing Climate Finance integrated in the MPGCA Human Settlements Pathway- to align Global and National efforts to Local and Regional Governments efforts in

supporting NDCs implementation

- Build bridges and encourage partnerships among constituencies to obtain sufficient financing for each stage of project preparation for SDG11 and local climate action implementation.
- Link investors and projects, filling the gap between supply of and demand for urban climate finance; sustainable, inclusive and resilient development; capacity building efforts that better position local and subnational governments and their partners to take action and access funding.

Side Event #70

Title: Energy Transition Phase Model for the MENA

Organization: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Regional Climate and Energy Project MENA-Wuppertal Institute

Description:

To support transitions of energy systems in MENA countries, a clear understanding of the socio-technical interdependencies and system innovations in the energy system is required. To improve the understanding of transition processes, a phase model for energy transitions in the MENA countries was developed and applied to 10 selected countries in the region and were detailed in separate reports. These analyses can provide valuable insights at the country level and offer key learnings for the whole region from findings across the analyzed countries. These reports provide a framework which structures the process of the energy transition over time through the differentiation of a set of phases. The model provides a vision for the transition and facilitates the early-on development of consistent policy strategies and policy instruments according to needs of the different phases. In this side event we will bring together national experts and partner organizations from different MENA countries and explain the needed steps for the energy transition for these countries as explained in the reports. This will be followed by a discussion on overcoming the challenges to proceed in the next steps of the transition and how to achieve a just energy transition for all.

Side Event #71

Title: Engaging MENA Youth in Climate Action and their Perspectives for the Region

Organization: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Regional Climate and Energy Project MENA

Description:

A crucial part of mobilizing Arab youth for climate, is to make them understand the severity and context of the climate crises and climate justice. This requires youth to come across climate related content that is simple yet effective in delivering information, with a strong message for a call for action. And with this an importance rises to carefully tailor climate communication to youth audiences, ensuring the grasp of their attention, and swaying their energy to get involved in the climate movement. The purpose of this event is to discuss the effective mechanisms to inform Arab youth of the climate crises and climate justice, through investigating innovative formats and high reach channels, and having an inter-generational dialogue on what is among the best approaches to adhere to climate science to the Arab youth audience at the moment. In addition to hearing the testimonies of young climate activists on how climate was communicated to them in their journey to climate activism, a time slot will also be allocated for a youth group from different countries in the regions to talk and present their work on climate.

Side Event #72

Title: Together for Implementation: Unlocking Sectoral Decarbonization through Collaboration

Organization: World Wildlife Fund South Africa- C40- National Business Initiative (NBI)- WWF US

Description:

As countries pivot from planning to implementation following COP26, this event will explore how subnational and non-state actors can work together with national governments to accelerate domestic transitions to net-zero resilient societies in the African continent and beyond. Representatives from Alliance for Climate Action South Africa (ACA-SA) and other national alliances from the ACA network will reflect on how subnational and non-state actors are aligning efforts to reduce emissions in key economic sectors, including energy, transport and buildings, and how their engagement in the policy process is contributing to the development of national climate targets and better enabling policies to accelerate decarbonization.

Side Event #73

Title: Climate-Energy-Economy Modelling for a Low Carbon Future: A Participatory Approach

Organization: GIZ - The Cyprus Institute - German Jordanian University (GJU)

Description:

Striving to meet the obligations arising from the Paris Agreement, faced with the looming impacts of climate change, and having to meet a rapidly rising energy demand at the same time, policy makers in many countries of Western Asia and Northern Africa are forced to make decisions in an increasingly complex environment. Models combining climate, energy, and socio-economic aspects can assist in this process. Not only do they e.g., allow for finding a both cost-efficient and climate-friendly energy mix, but models can also serve as a tool for reflecting the wider implications of policies on the economy, the environment, and the people, enabling countries to shape their transition to a green economy in a just way.

However, their effective use is highly demanding. The development of tailor-made tools requires not only advanced modelling capabilities as well as high-quality data – beyond that, the success of their application also equally depends on the finetuning of the underlying modelling assumptions and a careful communication of the resulting scenarios. To meet these demands, a broad range of different types of expertise is necessary: In addition to technical skills in the development of mathematical models, project teams should also cover insights from the fields of economics and the environment, for instance, and consider the social interests of civil society.

Structuring the model development process in a way that ensures the integration of different scientific disciplines and sectoral perspectives benefits not only the quality of the model but, at the same time, helps experts to overcome the silo mentality, increases transparency, and ultimately boosts acceptance of the model and modelling results. In this session, we explore the benefits and limitations of applying a participatory approach for the development of climate-energy-economy models and their use for policy design in Western Asia and Northern Africa. We showcase what formats of cooperation are suitable for producing meaningful scientific outputs, present good practice examples based on country case studies, and discuss success factors for a participatory model development approach

Side Event #74

Title: Integrated approaches to enhance climate finance access for adaptation

Organization: Adaptation Fund

Description:

The Adaptation Fund finances projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change. Initiatives are based on the country's needs, views and priorities. Since 2010, the Adaptation Fund has committed US\$ 850 million to projects and programmes to date, including 124 concrete projects and 5 small grants for innovation, serving about 33 million total beneficiaries. It also pioneered Direct Access, empowering countries to access funding and develop projects directly through accredited national implementing entities.

The event provides an opportunity to discuss the recent development of access to climate finance for adaptation highlighting the work of the Adaptation Fund as one of the very few climate funds under the UN Climate Convention and Paris Agreement that is dedicated to financing concrete, country-driven and scalable adaptation initiatives. The session will include a presentation from two National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from the MENA region on their projects presenting innovative climate adaptation practices and project sustainability approaches and will link current investments with future funding opportunities, for example under the Adaptation Fund's innovation facility to encourage breakthrough solutions to deliver climate action.

Specifically, the session will highlight experiences and lessons from NIEs actions on the ground to advance climate change adaptation actions, including innovation in climate change adaptation and locally-led adaptation, and will present new funding opportunities for the Fund's Accredited Implementing Entities (project scale-up grants; grants under the innovation facility) and for a broad range of potential finance recipients, including governments, non-governmental organizations, community groups, entrepreneurs, young innovators and other groups, through the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA), which aims to foster innovation in climate change adaptation in developing countries.

The main outcomes of the side event are to show integrated approaches to enhance climate adaptation finance access, through concrete examples from the Adaptation Fund portfolio with respect to lessons learned and innovative best practices to advance climate change adaptation actions through local leadership and indigenous knowledge. The session also aims to share how the Fund is further enhancing climate finance for adaptation through new funding opportunities to ensure projects scalability and to support the development and diffusion of innovative practices, tools and technologies under the Fund's innovation facility and AFCIA.

Side Event #75

Title: Building Resilience through Sustainable Reconstruction and Urban Regeneration in the MENA Region

Organization: World Green Building Council

Description:

Urban areas and essential infrastructure across parts of the MENA region have suffered large-scale damage and destruction due to multiple, ongoing conflicts. Estimates suggest that over US\$ 560 billion will be needed across the region just to repair and rebuild what was previously there in countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Gaza. In Lebanon, losses from the 2020 port explosion are estimated between US \$4-5 billion and the reconstruction costs are estimated

around US \$10 billion. In Jordan, there are 660,000 UNHCR-registered refugees, resulting in one of the fastest population increases in history and an urgent need for expansion of infrastructure and the provisioning of services in a sustainable and equitable manner.

With both COP27 and COP28 being hosted in the Middle East & North Africa region, it is important to ensure that this need for reconstruction, growth and recovery in MENA is coupled with integrated approaches for climate-resilient development. MENA countries are vulnerable to climate change impacts as they are naturally affected by harsh climate conditions, extremely high temperatures, limited groundwater and rainfall and scarce agricultural and arable land. MENA countries are also particularly vulnerable to sea level rise due to climate change. About 7% of the total population in MENA lives in areas where elevation is less than 5 meters above sea level and a large share of economic activities, urban centers, agriculture and population is concentrated in coastal areas which are exposed to increasing risks of flooding, land erosion and salinization.

Together with our partners, UN Habitat, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and our Green Building Councils in the WorldGBC MENA Regional Network (including Egypt GBC), this panel will discuss regional case studies and insights to building climate resilience through Sustainable Reconstruction & Urban Regeneration efforts.

This MENA Climate Week side event will lead up to the regional launch of the WorldGBC Sustainable Reconstruction and Urban Regeneration Guidelines on 10 March 2022 and will provide access to internationally and locally recognized best practices across the key themes identified, including efficient resource utilization, environmental and climate resilience, sustainable mobility and accessibility, integrative social and economic resilience, health and wellbeing, and heritage and identity.

Panelists across the MENA region for this side event will discuss the following questions:

- How do we strengthen climate-resilience and adaptation through sustainable reconstruction and urban regeneration?
- What are the challenges and opportunities to sustainable reconstruction and urban regeneration in the MENA region?
- How do we ensure that buildings and infrastructure are addressed in the sustainable reconstruction and urban regeneration process?

Side Event #76

Title: Supporting Locally Led Adaptation Action

Organization: World Resources Institute - International Institute for Environment and Development

Description:

The Principles for Locally Led Adaptation are a set of 8 principles that guide the adaptation community as it develops funding, programs and new practices toward adaptation that is increasingly owned and led by local partners. The World Resources Institute, the International Institute for Environment and Development, in partnership with a coalition of actors engaged in the community of practice on Locally Led Adaptation, proposes a side event at MENA Climate Week to explore the 8 Principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), and share lessons learned from examples of LLA from the MENA region and around the world.

More than 70 organizations have endorsed the Principles for LLA as of November 2021. By aligning their work with the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation, these organizations acknowledge that business-as-usual approaches to planning and financing adaptation are not working for the people and communities most directly at risk, and they commit to doing things differently to support more finance and decision-making power for local partners.

Our proposed session will contribute to efforts to put these principles into practice and to support follow-through on commitments. The format of the session will include expert remarks and time for open, frank discussion about challenges and solutions for supporting and scaling LLA, drawing on expertise from MENA and the African continent. Through the session we hope to share valuable knowledge on what it takes to implement LLA, and why LLA is a growing priority among governments, funders, and civil society organizations alike.

Side Event #77

Title: Racing to 1.5°: cities mainstreaming evidence-based climate & energy policies in Europe & Mediterranean

Organization: Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy- Covenant of Mayors Mediterranean (CoM-MED)

Description:

The session will take stock of how local governments in the Middle East and North Africa are accelerating climate action, implementing science-based measures to fund and secure a resilient, climate neutral future. Global Covenant of Mayors cities and regions will reflect on their evidence-based, climate and energy plans and showcase how their ambition turned into impact-driven success stories.

ANNEX C – Action Hub

See the Action Hub videos online in [the MENACW 2022 Daily Programme](#).

Action Hub #1

Title: Role of youth as National Actors for Climate Action

Organization: Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar

Description:

Young people are actively engaged at local, national and global levels in raising awareness, running educational programmes, conserving our nature, promoting renewable energy, adopting environmentally- friendly practices and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects. This Panel will have three MENA region youth sharing their work in their respective countries.

Action Hub #2

Title: Get on Board: the role of rail and public transport and rail freight in a sustainable mobility system

Organization: International Union of Railways (UIC)

Description:

Under the current policy trajectory, transport demand will double by 2050, while CO2 emissions are expected to increase by 15%. The urgency to transform the way we move has never been clearer. The UIC and UITP will present the 11 key transformation they share as essential for sustainable mobility, focusing on two: Prioritising Public transport and low carbon freight logistics

Action Hub #3

Title: DigitalArt4Climate

Organization: International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges

Description:

DigitalArt4Climate is a youth climate action empowerment initiative, which uses creative economy concepts and blockchain technology (NFTs) to engage artists and resource holders in Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). At the Action hub event we will present the DigitalArt4Climate COP26 art competition, <https://digitalart4climate.space/#rec374020001> - which has seen very positive response from MENA region, with 4 of the 30 finalists coming from MENA region (1 Saudi Arabia, 1 Morocco and 2 from Iran). With the presentation of the DigitalArt4Climate initiative at MENACW2022 we want to start preparations for similar art competitions to be held in the context of COP27 and COP28 with a focus on mobilizing artists/creative community in Africa/MENA region.

Action Hub #4

Title: Transforming the way we move: Building the future of mobility in the MENA region

Organization: International Association of Public Transport (UITP)

Description:

2022 is the time to act and get the transport sector on track to achieving the Paris Agreement. If we really want to enable the transition to zero emissions road transport and make it faster, cheaper, and easier for all, we must first provide people with more and better rail and public transport. The region is leading the way in innovation on many public transport and rail fronts. The TED style talk double act will discuss success factors to scale up ambition to move from

concept to implementation of integrated and innovative low/zero carbon transport solutions needed for a resilient recovery and leaves no one behind.

Action Hub #5

Title: An Innovative Tool for Flood Resilience – A Case study in Jordan

Organization: Mercy Corps

Description:

Our session will focus on highlighting the importance of understanding on how resilience is built and locally led decision making to adapt to climate change by introducing the Flood Resilience Measurement for Community (FRMC) framework which is used to help government and development practitioners develop a deep understanding of their communities and facilitate community participation in decision making and intervention design. The session will include audience quiz and interactions with Mercy Corps staff working on the ground to learn about how we are building flood resilience in Jordan

Action Hub #6

Title: Young People Lead: best practice on how to support children and youth to raise their voice

Organization: Save the Children International

Description:

This event will showcase several methods for engaging with young people, including through child-led campaigning, and through facilitated workshops and events using storytelling and arts. We will present a short video highlighting some examples of these methods from across countries where Save the Children works in the region and with partners, before engaging the audience to take part in a short facilitated activity using child-friendly creative methods, to enhance their work with young people in preparation for COP27 and leading to COP28.

Action Hub #7

Title: UAE-UK Clean Hydrogen Collaboration

Organization: Zest Associates

Description:

The UAE and UK have huge ambitions for the clean hydrogen sector, but how can they turn ambition into action? Zest Associates Managing Director Jeffrey Beyer will explore areas where collaboration across policy, innovation, trade and investment can accelerate both countries' clean hydrogen agendas. At this Action Hub, you will get a preview of key insights from a soon-to-be-released landmark study on UAE-UK clean hydrogen collaboration opportunities, delivered in partnership with the World Green Economy Organization and HSBC.

Action Hub #8

Title: Accelerating Renewable Energy Projects in MENA

Organization: International Renewable Energy Agency

Action Hub #9

Title: Achieving climate-resilient food security in the NENA region

Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Description:

This event will be a live interview with Dr. Abdulhakim Elwaer, Assistant Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. The interview will cover the intersections between the food and climate agendas, the significance of

the Food Systems Summit, and how the agri-food system is an important locus for solutions to the climate problem as well as to pressing issues in the region such as water scarcity.

Action Hub #10

Title: Driving sustainability through innovation

Organization: DNV

Description:

The session will explore concrete and viable ways to put together their best energies and competences in order to advance initiatives and partnerships in the field of sustainable development through innovative and appropriate technological and financial resources.

Action Hub #11

Title: Choose a better future now

Organization: Practical Action

Description:

Adapting to climate change in Sudan: For more than 10 years Practical Action has worked with communities in Darfur to help them overcome the challenges presented by their changing weather patterns. In the 1990-2000s, climate change plunged Darfur into civil war as desertification and drought displaced communities and created conflict over scarce resources. Practical Action continued to operate, creating networks so that skills, training and knowledge could be shared, and ploughs made by local blacksmiths were distributed so farmers could continue to feed themselves.

North Darfur is acutely drought prone. Farming crops and animals has been tough due to droughts, flash flooding, new pests and weeds. Growing crops and raising animals has never been tougher. With Practical Action's support, the Korga dam was built, running for kilometers after the community helped map the catchment area in 2016. Our long-standing presence and community links in Darfur helps us understand these local challenges and work together to form solutions.

Our water management techniques store floodwater before it runs off, rehabilitating land lost to drought, routing water close by, giving women who collect it more time for their businesses.

Action Hub #12

Title: RISE2030

Organization: Sustain The World

Action Hub #13

Title: The Future of Smart Cities through Sustainability & Digital Transformation

Organization: Digital DEWA

Description:

In line with the Dubai 10X initiative to position Dubai 10 years ahead of other global cities - DEWA launched Digital DEWA – to redefine the concept of a utility and create the world's first digital utility using autonomous systems for renewable energy, storage, AI adoption and digital services.

Digital DEWA's disruptive, agile technology is the way forward to accelerate progress for: Businesses, Governments, Start-ups, Investors, Youth and Society. Digital DEWA comprises of four pillars, bringing together new technologies to generate improved outcomes for society:

-Solar Energy

- Energy storage
- Artificial intelligence and
- Digital services

VIRTUAL

Action Hub #14

Title: Two IFAD Projects in MENA

Organization: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Description:

Supporting Rural Resilience to Climate Change: A Virtual Trip across MENA with two projects: Djibouti, Restoring Mangrove Forests and Sudan, Resolving Climate Conflicts

Action Hub #15

Title: Green Energy for Safe Migration

Organization: Nature Conservation Egypt

Description:

Green Energy for Safe Migration. Toward a bird friendly energy infrastructure; power lines survey by NCE and NCS, EEAA. This is a project with the Ministry of Electricity to account death among birds in the power lines infrastructures. We hope to improve the natural resources management and its usage in Egypt.

Action Hub #16

Title: DeserTech Innovation Technology

Organization: DeserTech innovation community

Desert environments cover approximately 40% of the world's land area and are already home to over 20% percent of the world's population. According to the UN, by 2025, 1.8 billion people will experience "absolute water scarcity" with 2/3 of the world living under water scarce conditions. Desertification poses serious implications for biodiversity, eco-safety, poverty eradication, socio-economic stability, and sustainable development.

The DeserTech Community was created drawing on Israel's experience in coping with resource scarcity in an arid and semi-arid climate. The DeserTech community brings together entrepreneurs, startups, researchers, industry and policymakers, and is designed to capture the synergies among these actors to spur the development and commercialization of new technologies that enable sustainable living in arid climates.

The DeserTech community is a joint initiative of the Merage Foundation Israel, the Israel Innovation Institute, The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ben Gurion University. The community seeks to promote and implement technological solutions in the MENA region, who's in the frontline of desertification and climate change.

Action Hub #17

Title: Regenerative foodscapes as an integrated solution for climate-resilient development

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Description:

By mid-century, accelerating climate change will be generating acute stress on the global food system, a system which is also responsible for more than a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions and is the primary driver of nature loss. Shifting to a regenerative food system – one which increases natural capital and ecosystem services while food is produced – is imperative



and will reorientate the system towards social and environmental outcomes as well as production. But reforming the global food system requires moving from high level concepts to tangible actions in place. Regenerative foodscapes put food production at the heart of an economy-wide, landscape-scale approach and by working at the foodscape level we can envisage how policy, markets and socio-cultural norms impact transition and hence model trade-offs and understand barriers and opportunities.

Focusing on developing an integrated systems-level approach that brings in science, policy levers, catalytic financing and market led initiatives, we can support the transition of foodscapes to more regenerative approaches that increase farmers' and the agriculture sector's climate resilience and reduce GHG emissions by mainstreaming ecosystem services and biodiversity in production systems. By strengthening or creating the enabling mechanisms to support and ensure systemic change across diverse foodscapes and value chains, we can support economy-wide transitions that ultimately influence global, system-level change that leads to new sector norms.