

# UNITED NATIONS



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## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Eighteenth Regional Training Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries, 25 – 27 September 2024, Tunis, Tunisia

### Agenda

Day 1 – Wednesday, 25 September 2024	
14:00 – 14:15	<b>Registration</b> <i>The meeting will be held at Hotel Occidental LAC, Elysée Room.</i> <i>To participate virtually, kindly connect through the following link:</i> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83871467200">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83871467200</a>
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Opening Statements and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Mr. Lotfi Msadki, Director of Mitigation, Objective-Based Management Unit on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Tunisia.</i></li><li>• <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies (ACCCP), Cluster Lead, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</i></li><li>• <i>Mr. Tarek Alkhoury, Regional Coordinator, Climate Action, UNEP/Regional Office for West Asia (virtual)</i></li><li>• <i>Mr. Abdulaziz Albutti, Arab Group on Climate Change, International Climate Policy Specialist, Ministry of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i></li><li>• <i>Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Director, Department of Environmental and Meteorological Affairs, League of Arab States</i></li></ul>
	<b>Group Photo</b> <b>Introduction of Participants and Overview of Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Mr. Tarek Sadek, ACCCP, ESCWA</i></li></ul>
Session I	<b>Current Status of Climate Negotiations</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS</i>
14:45 – 15:15	<b>Setting the Stage: Key Decisions and Outcomes of SB60</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Mr. Abdulaziz Albutti, Arab Group Coordinator, Ministry of Energy, KSA</i></li></ul>
15:15 – 15:30	Discussion

<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Coffee Break
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<p><b>Assessing the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance: Current Status and Implications for the Arab Region.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Mohamed Ayoub, Senior Specialist and Negotiator, Ministry of Energy, KSA (virtual)</i></li> </ul>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	Discussion
<b>Wrap Up and End of Day 1</b>	
<b>Day 2 – Thursday, 26 September 2024</b>	
<b>Session II</b>	<p><b>Updates on Regional Climate Finance</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Samir Amous, Expert on Climate Change, Tunisia</i></p>
<b>9:00 – 9:20</b>	<p><b>Building on the Arab Strategy for Climate Finance Access and Mobilization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS</i></li> </ul>
<b>9:20 – 9:40</b>	<p><b>Enabling a Just and Inclusive energy Transition: Implications for climate mitigation and finance for the Arab Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section, ESCWA</i></li> </ul>
<b>9:40 – 10:00</b>	<p><b>Developments of the Paris Agreement and its Implications on the Petroleum Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Abdulkarim Ayed, Coordinator of Climate Change Affairs, OAPEC, Kuwait</i></li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	Discussion
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>Session III</b>	<p><b>Understanding International Public Finance Mechanisms</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Hanadi Awadalla, Senior Governmental Forests Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Sudan</i></p>
<b>11:00 – 11:45</b>	<p><b>Strengthening Access to International Climate Funds: Eligibility, Priorities, and Application Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Amgad Elmahdi, Regional Manager Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Green Climate Fund</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. Dorji Tshewang, Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility. (virtual)</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Julie Greenwalt, Senior Consultant, Go Green for Climate. (virtual)</i></li> </ul>
<b>11:45 – 12:30</b>	<p>Guided Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can applicants effectively navigate the specific rules and modalities set by the GCF, GEF, and AF to increase their chances of successful project approval?</li> <li>- What are the key characteristics of the funding criteria and processes of these three organizations?</li> <li>- How can Arab countries strengthen their national capacities, particularly of national designated entities and project developers, to effectively prepare and implement climate projects?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can partnerships be fostered and strengthened to enhance project development and implementation?</li> <li>- What recommendations can be proposed to enhance support for Arab countries in accessing and utilizing these funds?</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>Lessons Learned: Successes and Challenges in Accessing International Climate Funds.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Mohammed Ayoub, KSA (virtual)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. Tarek Alkhoury, UNEP ROWA (virtual)</i></li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	Discussion and interventions by Arab countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the specific challenges faced by Arab countries in accessing these funds (e.g., complex application processes, limited technical capacity, insufficient information)?</li> </ul>
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Session IV</b>	<b>Leveraging Climate Finance for the Arab Region</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Maitha Mohammed Alkaabi, Team Lead, Finance and Negotiations for COP28, United Arab Emirates.</i>
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Developing a Shared Framework for Standards, Taxonomies, and Reporting Mechanisms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Tarek Sadek, ACCCP, ESCWA.</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. Zaour Israfilof, Climate Finance Expert (virtual)</i></li> </ul>
<b>15:00 – 15:20</b>	<b>Leveraging Regional Initiatives: The Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ACCCP, ESCWA</i></li> </ul>
<b>15:20 – 16:00</b>	<b>Sharing Experiences: Enhancing National Efforts and Resource Mobilization.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Tarek Shalaby, Senior Negotiator, Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation, Ministry of Environment, Egypt</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Hanadi Awadalla, Senior Governmental Forests Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Sudan</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Rayda El Elj, Director, Objective-Based Management Unit on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Tunisia</i></li> </ul>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	Discussion
<b>Wrap Up and End of Day 2</b>	
<b>Day 3 – Friday, 27 September 2024</b>	
<b>Session V</b>	<b>Partnering with the Global Financial Sector</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, LAS</i>
<b>9:00 – 9:20</b>	<b>Mobilising Private Finance for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region: The Role of Banks</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Suzan Hamdy, Chief Sustainability and Sustainable Finance Officer, Banque Misr Egypt (virtual)</li> </ul>
<b>9:20 – 9:40</b>	<b>Financing a Just Transition in the Arab Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Cassandra Devine, Social and Human Rights Specialist, UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) (virtual)</li> </ul>
<b>9:40 – 10:00</b>	<b>Optimizing Climate Finance for the Arab Region: Balancing Adaptation and Mitigation Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Consultant, Climate Change, UNEP FI (virtual)</li> <li>- <b>Country Representative TBD by UNEP FI</b></li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the role of partnerships in developing project pipelines and addressing national and regional climate change priorities?</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>Session VI</b>	<b>Preparing for COP 29: Developing Unified Positions and Priorities</b> Moderator: Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Panel on Positions and Priorities for COP 29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arab Group</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 12:45</b>	Discussion
<b>12:45 – 13:00</b>	Closing of Workshop
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>Closed Meeting for the Arab Group of Negotiators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- League of Arab State and Arab Group</li> </ul>