



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

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Fourteenth Regional Training Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries, MENA Climate Week, Dubai, 29 – 30 March 2022

Information note

I. BACKGROUND

The Arab region is facing major challenges that are hindering its ability to achieve sustainable socio-economic development. Climate change and climate variability are among these challenges that are imposing additional stresses on the region. In the past years, it has been evident that the region is subject to extreme climate events such as droughts, floods, sand and dust storms and intense heat waves and Arab countries were facing difficulties in adapting to these impacts.

Arab governments have been actively engaged in international negotiations pursued under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and have participated in the preparatory processes and negotiation sessions convened by the Conference of the Parties (COP). They were also actively engaged in negotiations leading to the Paris Agreement, which was adopted at COP-21 in Paris in 2015. This Agreement represents a turning point in climate negotiations as it establishes a common framework that commits all countries, including developing countries for the first time, to commit their best efforts to reaching the long-term temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C. The provisions of the Agreement include requirements on developed and developing countries to submit successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to report on their actions toward implementation of the agreement.

COP 26 was convened in Glasgow, United Kingdom from 31 October to 13 November 2021 where parties adopted the ‘Glasgow Climate Pact’ and completed the Paris Agreement’s rulebook. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items including keeping 1.5 degrees alive through pursuing net zero targets by mid-century as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases, fulfilling the pledge of providing USD 100 billion annually from developed to developing countries, balancing finance between mitigation and adaptation, and launching the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation. Parties also resolved issues related to market mechanisms and non-market approaches, Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), and common timeframes for NDCs. During the World Leaders Summit at COP 26, 120 world leaders announced commitments for net-zero targets as well as pledges on coal, methane, fossil fuels and deforestation. Around 151 countries submitted new or updated NDCs prior to and throughout COP 26 including 16 Arab countries.

Upon the request of the League of Arab States (LAS), ESCWA has provided technical support to Arab negotiators on climate change since October 2013. ESCWA jointly organized with the LAS the first four regional workshops. UNEP has joined as a partner since the fifth workshops and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cairo Office joined the partnership starting with the seventh workshops. Several Arab States have also hosted these workshops, as can be seen in the list of workshops below that built the capacity of Arab negotiators:

- The first workshop (Amman, 22-24 October 2013) addressed climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and strengthened the capacity of Arab representatives for negotiations;
- The second workshop (Amman, 26-28 May 2014) improved skills for negotiating new international agreements based on ESCWA's "Guide on climate change negotiations for representatives and negotiators from Arab countries";
- The third workshop (Kuwait, 11-13 November 2014) prepared Arab officials for the global negotiations that took place at COP-20 in Lima, Peru;
- The fourth workshop (Doha, 19-21 May 2015) assisted Arab officials with preparatory negotiations led to COP-21, including the issues and ambitions proposed for negotiation;
- The fifth workshop (Cairo, 17-19 November 2015) fostered mutual understanding for a unified Arab position, taking into consideration the challenges and limits of such common positions, in preparation for COP-21 in Paris;
- The sixth workshop (Cairo, 3-6 April 2016) discussed the legal aspects of the Paris Agreement and its implications, access to finance through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and technology assistance available through the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN);
- The seventh workshop (Rabat, 25-27 September 2016) prepared Arab States for COP-22, discussed the legal effect of different provisions of the Paris Agreement, including its entry into force, as well as means of implementation, including access to finance through the GCF and its accredited agencies;
- The eighth workshop (Beirut, 10-13 April 2017) discussed the outcomes of COP-22, the means of implementation outlined in the Paris Agreement, the transparency framework and the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, and the engagement of Arab States with the GCF;
- The ninth workshop (Cairo, 9-12 October 2017) discussed the means of implementation of the Paris Agreement with a focus on finance and technology, the implications on emissions of the expected withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, and associated legal and financial challenges;
- The tenth workshop (Kuwait, 3-5 April 2018) addressed the latest developments on the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue and issues related to agriculture as a new item under the SBSTA and SBI, the implications on trade, response measures, in addition to mapping trade-related response measures in NDCs, including measures related to the energy sector, green industrial policies, green government procurement, financial and direct trade measures, and international cooperation;
- The eleventh workshop (Cairo, 13-15 November 2018) discussed the latest negotiation issues related to the Paris Agreement Work Program (PAWP) on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology, carbon markets, trade, etc. and the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue (Talanoa Dialogue) outcomes in preparation for COP-24 and discussion of a Paris Agreement "rulebook";
- The twelfth workshop (Beirut, 7-8 April 2019) addressed Adaptation as an element of the NDCs and defining an adaptation global goal and implementation of Article 4.7, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on market and non-market approaches and possible outcomes and tradeoffs, response measures and the operationalization of related policy measures to respond to expected impacts and technology framework implementation and opportunities for support; and

- The thirteenth workshop (Cairo, 3-5 November 2019) discussed the pending issues on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on market and non-market approaches and possible outcomes and trade-offs as well as the latest related to the Katowice Climate Package including adaptation as an element of the NDCs and implementation of Article 4.7.

During the past two years, technical support on specific agenda items was provided as requested by the Arab Group of Negotiators, mainly on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). In this context, ESCWA, UNEP and the UNFCCC secretariat jointly convened a regional technical capacity building workshop from 4 to 6 October 2021 to enhance capacities of national experts and negotiators from the Arab region in transitioning from the existing Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) arrangements to the ETF under the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, LAS, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ESCWA organized a Virtual Workshop on Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) on 27 July 2020 which focused on ways to include agriculture in negotiations on climate change and providing an introduction to KJWA, which includes 6 key topics related to the agricultural sector. In addition, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and ESCWA organized a joint workshop on 11-12 December 2021 for Arab agricultural experts from the relevant ministries and national agricultural research centres to develop priority climate actions in agriculture and to discuss the outcomes of the COP-26 update on KJWA under Paris agreement.

The year 2022 is a strategic year for addressing climate change challenges in the global and regional arena as COP 27 will take place on 7-18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Moreover, this year is particularly important as it precedes the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement in 2023 along with COP 28 which will take place in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023.

In this context, the Fourteenth Regional Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries will be held from 29 to 30 March 2022, in Dubai, in cooperation with the LAS, UNEP/ROWA, and UNESCO/Cairo Office. This workshop is particularly important as it will take place during the first Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week which is taking place from 28 to 31 March in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this workshop to support Arab States in implementing the recent outcome decisions of COP 26 and discuss critical issues for the upcoming COP 27 such as:

- Latest outcomes of negotiations at COP 26 related to the Glasgow Climate Pact;
- Latest outcomes and decisions on main negotiation issues related to adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology, and other agenda items;
- Guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the ETF including reporting tables and formats and outline for the biennial transparency reports (BTRs);
- Article 6 in Carbon Markets and implications of Articles 6.2 (internationally traded mitigation outcomes - ITMOs), 6.4 (market approaches), and 6.8 (non-market approaches) on Arab countries;
- Guidelines for integrating response measures and co-benefits actions in addition to updates on Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture; and

- Regional positions and priorities for action and preparation for the June Session and COP-27.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Participants shall be senior negotiators from Arab States with hands-on experience serving on national negotiation teams. Arab Governments are invited to nominate and include junior negotiators in their delegations to the workshop who are qualified to become members of future national negotiation teams.

IV. LANGUAGE

Language of the virtual meeting will be Arabic and English, which will be used interchangeably. English and Arabic interpretation will be available.

V. VENUE AND DATE

The workshop will be convened in Dubai from 29 March (2:00 – 7:00 pm) to 30 March 2022 (9:00 – 2:00 pm) during the MENA Climate Week at Atlantis, the Palm.

The information note for the MENA Climate Week is available through this link:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MENACW2022_Information_Note.pdf

VI. CONTACTS

For inquiries or further information, kindly contact the following meeting focal points:

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