



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/CL1.CCS/2024/WG.5/INF.1
9 April 2024
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Seventeenth Regional Training Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for Arab Countries, City of Kuwait, Kuwait, 13–15 May 2024

Information Note

1. 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 and now to below 1.5°C as a key outcome of the COP 26 at Glasgow. 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.

The Arab region hosted the last two COP's which provided opportunities to reflect the regional interests and priorities to the global community during the two global events. The COP 27 was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 6 to 18 November and was a milestone for the Arab region and in climate negotiations, specifically for the agenda item on loss and damage. World leaders gathered and reiterated their commitments towards mitigation and adaptation and voiced their views on progress in the climate agenda as well as their concerns about climate change impacts on socio-economic sectors as well as extreme weather events. While the USD 100 billion goal annually has not been achieved yet, Parties agreed on a new funding for loss and damage associated with adverse impacts of climate change. The conference concluded with the 'Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan', a cover decision similar to the 'Glasgow Climate Pact', with focus on, inter alia, science, energy, mitigation, adaptation, early warning, loss and damage, finance, technology transfer, biodiversity and ecosystems as well engagement of non-Party stakeholders in climate action.

COP 28 was held in Dubai, UAE from 30 November to 12 December 2024 where the outcomes of the first global stocktake were delivered. The outcome document recognized the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 °C pathways in the mitigation actions. This is done through tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. Also, by accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and through net zero emission energy systems that utilize zero- and low carbon fuels targeting around

mid-century. More ambitious adaptation actions were called for through implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as land use management, sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches. Also, this COP was unique in the amount of pledges made for climate finance by countries including for the operationalization of the loss and damage fund that was established at COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Upon the request of the 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 workshop and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cairo Office joined the partnership starting with the seventh workshop. Several Arab States have also hosted these capacity building workshops, as outlined in the list below:

- 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.
- The fourteenth workshop (Dubai, 28-31 March 2022) discussed the latest outcomes of COP 26 related to the Glasgow Climate Pact and decisions on issues related to Article 6, Article 13 (Transparency), adaptation, mitigation, finance, and KJWA. Also, discussions covered national capacity building needs for implementing the outcome decisions of COP 26 and preparations for COP 27.
- The fifteenth workshop (Muscat, 4-6 October 2022) continued discussions on outcomes of COP 26 related to response measures, adaptation, finance and included a training on transparency reporting under the ETF (Article 13) in addition to discussions on net-zero scenarios. The workshop concluded with a closed meeting for the Arab group to discuss main issues for COP 27.
- The sixteenth workshop (Kuwait City, 16-18 July 2023) supported the Arab countries in implementing the outcome decisions of COP 27 and Bonn Climate Change Conference, as well as discussed critical issues for the COP 28. It also addressed regional and national priorities and concerns in relation to the implementation of response measures, Article 6, and loss and damage.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 17TH WORKSHOP

The 17th Regional Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries will be held from 13-15 May 2024 in Kuwait City, Kuwait in cooperation with the LAS, UNEP/ROWA, and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). The meeting will be hosted by OAPEC.

The 17th workshop was requested by the Arab Group during their coordination meeting held from 12-13 February 2024 at the League of Arab States in Cairo. The request seeks capacity development on specific agenda items that are of most relevance and concern to the Arab region based on the outcomes of COP 28, which was convened in the UAE in December 2023. Specifically, this workshop responds to the needs of the Arab Group in relation to the following main negotiation issues: the operationalization of the loss and damage fund, climate finance, and other key issues related to carbon markets and adaptation in key sectors.

The regional workshop aims to address and discuss the following topics where presentations will be provided by experts as relevant:

- Discuss outputs of COP 28 on the outcomes of the first global stocktake, including mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation (e.g. finance, technology, capacity building) as well as the status of other key negotiation issues.
- Review latest updates on operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and progress under the Warsaw International Mechanism and the Santiago Network;
- Examine developments under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, carbon markets and their implication on the Arab countries;
- Discuss progress on the new/updated NDCs, net-zero commitments, and national adaptation plans;
- Inform regional positions and priorities for action in preparation for the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2024 and the way forward to COP 29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024.

2. Participants

Participants would be junior and 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. A special additional group of participants in this regional workshop will be junior diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, who will be engaged in additional training the day before and the day following the regional workshop.

3. Language

Language of the workshop will be Arabic and English, which will be used interchangeably. No simultaneous translation will be provided.

4. Venue and Date

The workshop will be convened at OAPEC headquarters in Kuwait City, Kuwait from 13 to 15 May 2024.

5. Contacts

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

Mr. Tarek Sadek Water Resources and Climate Change Officer Climate Change & Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster ESCWA Beirut, Lebanon Tel.: +961 1 981 520 Mob.: +961 70 824 432 E-mail: sadekt@un.org	Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah Director Department of Environmental & Meteorological Affairs Economic Sector, League of Arab States Cairo, Egypt Tel.: +20 225750511, ext. 3604 Mob.: +20 1006820651 E-mail: mahmoud.fathallah@las.int
Mr. Tarek Alkhoury Regional Coordinator Climate Change UN Environment Programme (UNEP)/West Asia Office Beirut, Lebanon Tel.: + 961 (0) 1 978 607 Mob.: +961 81 726 295 E-mail: tarek.alkhoury@un.org	Mr. Abdulkarim Ayed Director of financial and administrative affairs, and Coordinator of climate change affairs Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) City of Kuwait, Kuwait Mob.: +965 9979 7322 E-mail: aayed60@yahoo.com