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NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Middle East and North Africa Pathways to Progress: Crafting Ambitious and Implementable NDCs

Date/Location:

- To take place from 23 to 25 September
- In Tunis, Tunisia

Hosted by: Government of Tunisia

Organizers: UNEP, UNDP, NDC Partnership, UN ESCWA in cooperation with UNFCCC Secretariat

Co-Organizers: UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition

Background:

The Emissions Gap Report 2023 highlights record-breaking temperatures and warns that current pledges under the Paris Agreement could lead to a 2.5-2.9°C temperature rise above pre-industrial levels this century, emphasizing the urgent need for increased climate action. As per the 2023 NDC Synthesis Report, although emissions stabilize post-2030, they fail to decline rapidly enough to meet scientific targets outlined by the IPCC in its sixth Assessment Report. The IPCC emphasizes that global greenhouse gas emissions must decrease by 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 relative to 2019 levels to align with pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The rapid and targeted reduction of methane and other short-lived non-CO2 pollutant emissions plays a critical role, complementing deep decarbonisation efforts. Only a dual track will enable us to curb the global warming curve fast enough. Cuts in short-lived non-CO2 pollutants, due their high global warming potential and shorter lifetime in the atmosphere, can reduce 0.5 degrees of warming by 2050.



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The inaugural Global Stocktake (GST), agreed as part of the UAE consensus, confirms that the Paris Agreement has galvanized near-universal climate action by establishing goals and signaling the urgency of addressing the climate crisis. The GST assesses collective ambition and progress, identifies critical opportunities to accelerate climate action, and informs the revision of NDCs. Despite progress in mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support, Parties are collectively off-track in achieving the Paris Agreement's purpose and long-term goals.

Parties must enhance ambition and inform their next cycle of NDCs (aka NDCs 3.0), due by 2025, to align with the Paris Agreement's objectives. The upcoming NDCs 3.0, represent a pivotal moment for global efforts, serving as blueprints for a sustainable future. They must be implementable, transparent and unlock finance.

Furthermore, informed by the first GST, new NDCs must drive transformational implementation, unlock finance, enhance resilience, and integrate with national planning and development strategies. They should be backed by concrete policy roadmaps, financing plans, and demonstrate how countries will address climate change while seizing opportunities for growth and change across various sectors. Alignment with longer-term objectives, needed sectoral transformations, just transition principles, and substantial acceleration of cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, including in methane and other non-CO2 pollutant emissions by 2030, will be essential. The GST also stressed the importance of addressing the climate and biodiversity crises jointly, as conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems are key towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal.

As countries in the Middle East and North Africa prepare for the next round of NDCs, there's a unique opportunity to elevate climate strategies toward higher ambition, leveraging lessons from previous implementation efforts. The rapid development of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure provides MENA countries with new tools to meet their climate goals more effectively and affordably. Additionally, many MENA countries, traditionally dependent on oil and gas revenues, are increasingly recognizing the economic benefits of diversifying their economies. Investing in green technologies and sustainable industries can create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Thus, the new cycle of NDCs with the whole of society approach and economy wide targets will be a window of opportunity. This Forum will explore how COP28 outcomes, particularly the GST decision, can guide national processes to strengthen ambition in future NDC and contribute to sustainable development by addressing climate mitigation and adaptation



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jointly. Through peer-learning and exchange, countries in the region will discuss best practices, challenges, and opportunities, accelerating the adoption of solutions and innovative financing models. Tools and guidance will be made available to support the inclusion of specific measures and targets into NDC reviews.

Technical government officials, UN agencies, and partner organizations will collaborate in this Forum to harness collective technical and financial capabilities, supporting countries in crafting their new NDCs effectively. Additionally, the workshop will spotlight regional and international collaboration opportunities, enabling coordinated efforts while considering national circumstances in NDC preparation.

Objectives:

- Discuss how the outcomes of the GST adopted during COP28 can increase ambition in the NDCs 3.0 and LT-LEDS.
- Identify and discuss potential challenges and opportunities and good practices in integrating the outcomes of the GST, The Paris Agreement Ambition Cycle and the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), as well as economy-wide or sector-focused emission reductions, including methane and other short lived non-CO2 pollutants, in the preparation of the NDCs 3.0.
- Discuss support available and needed for NDCs 3.0 preparation.
- Identify and discuss the opportunities for NDCs 3.0 to drive integration with other policies and instruments.
- Show opportunities to use the NDC update to strengthen delivery of the other Rio Conventions, including Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification.
- Identify synergies and entry-points for climate finance to support the acceleration of implementation of the NDCs.
- Explore how to ensure NDCs 3.0 unlock finance



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Forum Structure

Day 1: Stocktaking and Lessons Learned

Day 2: Navigating Opportunities and Challenges for NDCs 3.0 - Sectoral Approaches

Day 3: Accelerating Implementation and Tracking Progress on NDCs 3.0

Day 1 – Stock Tacking and Building on Lessons Learned

| Date | Time |
|---------------|---|
| 8h30- 9h00 | Welcome & Registration of Participants |
| 9h00 – 9h30 | Opening Remarks |
| 9h30– 10h00 | Setting the Scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes of the GST and impacts for the next rounds of NDCs• Reflecting on lessons learned internationally from previous round of NDCs |
| 10h00 - 10h15 | Coffee Break |
| 10h15 – 12h15 | Panel Discussion: Evaluating Current NDCs – Looking Back to Move Forward (max 4 speakers): <p>A critical starting point for the development of new NDCs is to reflect on the previous cycle, progress made, and the wider policy and action landscape. In this panel discussion, countries will reflect on the previous round of their NDCs, and will share their experience of developing NDCs, their implementation, and the potential enablers for increasing ambition in the next round of NDCs. Countries will elaborate on what has worked well, while also identifying gaps, challenges, and opportunities.</p> |

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| | <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What are the key lessons learned, main challenges and gaps identified from the last round of NDCs that can inform the next round of NDCs. Some areas of discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Institutional arrangements to drive whole of government approaches</i> ○ <i>Unlocking finance, technology and capacity-building and developing Implementation roadmaps</i> ○ <i>Monitoring and tracking progress</i> ○ <i>Aligning NDCs with broader development frameworks and policy planning</i> |
| <p>12h15 – 13h15</p> | <p>Lunch Break</p> |
| <p>13h15 - 14h45</p> <p><i>This session will have 4 breakout tables. Each table will be organized around up to 3 guiding questions. Each round of discussion will be kicked off by a short ice-breaker/case study from a country, to be identified by the focal point organization of the table.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will accommodate 1 expert speaker, 1 facilitator (representative from the focal point organization), 1 rapporteur (the country</i></p> | <p>Breakout Group Discussion on lessons learned from current NDCs:</p> <p>Objectives of the session:</p> <p><i>The breakout group discussion sessions will provide an opportunity to participants to reflect and exchange on lessons learned from the previous round of NDC preparation and implementation and share what has worked well and what needs to be improved in the upcoming round of NDCs with reference to the specific thematic areas.</i></p> <p><i>By the end of the session, participants will have a good understanding of key challenges from the previous round of NDCs and areas of opportunity for the development of the next round.</i></p> <p>Thematic Table 1: Aligning NDCs with Relevant National Policy Frameworks and Relevant Global Agendas</p> <p>Thematic Table 2: Lessons Learned on Mobilizing and Leveraging Means of Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Finance - Technology |

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| <p><i>delivering the ice-breaker), and 1 note taker.</i></p> <p><i>Each round of discussion will run for 40 mins, with a short break in the middle for participants to move to the next table.</i></p> <p><i>Over the breakout group discussion, each country will have a chance to attend three tables over the course of the Day. Participants from the same country will be encouraged to choose different tables to bring diverse perspectives from their context and experience to each discussion round.</i></p> | <p>Thematic Table 3: Setting Ambition and Monitoring and Tracking Progress of NDC Action</p> <p>Thematic Table 4: Whole-of-society coordination and Political Buy-In for Ambitious NDCs: Lessons Learned</p> |
| <p>14h45 – 15h00</p> | <p>Coffee break</p> |
| <p>15h00– 16h30</p> | <p>Group Sessions (continued)</p> |
| <p>16h30 – 17h00</p> | <p>Reporting Back: each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings</p> |



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| 17h00 - 17h30 | Summary of Discussions and Preview of Day 2 |
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Day 2 - Navigating Opportunities and Challenges for NDCs 3.0 Preparation - Sectoral Approaches

| Date | Time |
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| 9h00 - 9h05 | Welcome and Introduction to Day 2 Agenda |
| 9h05 - 9h15 | Setting the Scene: Sectorial Solutions for Transformative and Implementable NDCs |
| 9h15 - 10h15 | <p>Panel Discussion: Best Practices in Sectoral Opportunities</p> <p><i>In this panel discussion, country representatives will share from their experience good practices, challenges and opportunities on integrating various sectoral opportunities and policies that can be applied to the development of NDCs 3.0. Countries will share various considerations and approaches when integrating new sectors into NDCs and for enhancing the ambition in existing sectors in NDCs.</i></p> <p>Question and answer</p> |
| 10h15 - 10h30 | Coffee break |
| 10h30 - 11h40 | Setting the Scene: Presentation on NDC 3.0 Navigator |

11h40 – 13h30

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to join up to 3 breakout groups of their choice. Participants from the same country will be encouraged to join separate breakout groups to allow all countries to benefit from the discussions at each table.

Each round of discussion will run for approx. 40 mins. Each table will accommodate 1 expert speaker, 1 facilitator (representative from the focal point organization), 1 rapporteur (by the representative delivering the ice-breaker), and 1 note taker.

Each discussion will kick-off with a short introduction to the table and an ice-breaker intervention/case study by the focal point organization of the table. Each table will be facilitated by a resource person from an organization relevant to the topic of the table.

Breakout Group Deep-dive Discussions on sectoral opportunities for NDCs:

Objectives of the session: *In this deep-dive session, participants will engage with each other and the resource persons/experts at each table to explore approaches for integrating various sectoral opportunities in their new NDCs in a nationally determined manner. At the end of the session, participants will have an understanding of the key challenges and opportunities on advancing ambition and enhancing implementation in the proposed thematic areas. These thematic areas have been identified as priorities in the region in consultation with regional organizations.*

Guiding questions: *The guiding questions or areas of discussion in this session for each thematic table should include:*

- *What are some concrete measures that can be incorporated into new NDCs in this thematic area in a nationally determined manner*
- *What are the means of implementation (capacity-building, technology, and finance) gaps and challenges you anticipate in this particular sector when considering ambition and implementation of the next round of NDCs?*
- *How can the tracking of progress and achievement be undertaken for this particular thematic area?*
- *What role can international cooperation play in supporting these efforts?*
- *What are the opportunities to leverage circular economy approaches in this area?*

Thematic Table 1: Health, Biodiversity and Restoration

Thematic Table 2: Methane and other Short-Lived Non-CO2 Pollutants

Thematic Table 3: Water and Resilience

Thematic Table 4: Agriculture and Food Systems

| Thematic Table 5: Sustainable Energy | |
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| 13h30 - 14h30 | Lunch Break |
| 14h30 - 15h00 | Reporting Back: each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings |
| <p>15h00 – 16h00</p> <p><i>There will be three rounds of discussion. Each round of discussion will run for approximately 45 mins with a short break in between to move to the next table.</i></p> <p><i>Each participant will be able to join up to three Clinic tables over the course of the session. Given multiple participants from the same country, individual participants from the same country will be encouraged to join different tables and each country under this modality of discussion should be able to join all tables.</i></p> | <p>NDCs 3.0 Enablers Clinic:</p> <p>Objectives of the session: <i>The clinic will offer an opportunity to countries to dive-deep on the enablers for implementable NDCs 3.0 with development organizations.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will be facilitated by two organizations who will start with a brief scene-setting intervention on a priority regional challenge relevant to the thematic area of the table in the context of NDCs 3.0. Participants will brainstorm potential policy, technological, capacity-building and financial solutions to the challenge.</i></p> <p><i>By the end of this session, participants will have identified concrete approaches to utilize these enablers for ambitious and implementable NDCs in their national context in the next round of their NDCs.</i></p> <p><i>The structure of the discussion can be built around the steps countries may need to take to resolve particular challenges in their national context.</i></p> <p>Potential focus areas for the Clinic tables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusivity: Towards Inclusive NDCs 2. Regulatory Frameworks, Policy and Financial Instruments 3. Investability: Towards Investable NDCs 4. Technology Transfer and Capacity-Building |



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| <p><i>Each table will accommodate 1 expert speaker, 1 facilitator (representative from the focal point organization), 1 rapporteur (to be identified by a regional partner), and 1 note taker.</i></p> | |
| 16h00 – 16h15 | Coffee break |
| 16h15 - 17h15 | NDCs 3.0 Enablers Clinic (continued) |
| 17h15 - 17h45 | Reporting Back: each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings |
| 17h45 - 18h00 | Closing Discussion and Preview of Day 3 |
| 18h00 - 20h00 | Meet & Greet - Cocktail Reception In this meet and greet reception, participants will have the opportunity to engage in an informal setting with various development organizations working the region on supporting countries' efforts to prepare and implement NDCs. A group of youth will be invited to engage with country representatives. |



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Day 3 - Accelerating Implementation and Tracking Progress on NDCs 3.0

| Date | Time |
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| 9h00 - 9h05 | Welcome and Introduction to Day 3 Agenda |
| 09h05 - 09h15 | Setting the Scene: UN System-wide Support: Climate Promise 2025 |
| 9h15 - 10h00 | Panel Discussion: Support Opportunities for NDCs 3.0 Development (3 speakers max): In this panel discussion a suite of development and implementation organizations working in the region will share information on the support being offered and how countries can access this support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the resources available to support countries with developing their new round of NDCs?• How can countries access these resources? |
| 10h00 – 10h15 | Presentation: From NDC implementation to Biannual Transparency Reports – Measuring progress |
| 10h15 - 10h30 | Coffee Break |

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| <p>10h30 – 11h15</p> | <p>Panel Discussion: Tracking NDC Progress and Achievement (3 speakers max):</p> <p>In this panel discussion, countries will share their experience and good practice on reporting on NDCs and experiences from putting in place arrangements to undertake tracking of progress and achievement and the challenges and opportunities encountered. Development and implementation partners on the panel or from the floor will have the opportunity to share various tools available to support countries in these efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators and the MRV system in tracking progress of NDCs • Experiences with NDC reporting • National GHG inventories informing NDCs <p>Question and answer session</p> |
| <p>11h15 - 12h30</p> <p><i>In this session, each round of discussion will run for approx. 40 mins with a short break in the middle of each round for participants to move to the next table.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will have the chance to attend up to three tables over the course of the session.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will accommodate 1 expert speaker, 1 facilitator (representative from the focal point organization), 1 rapporteur (to be identified by a</i></p> | <p>Group Discussions:</p> <p>Table 1: Strengthening NDC Investment Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons Learnt on Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework • Way Forward based on Experiences Presented <p>Table 2: The Role of Economic and Financial Instruments (carbon markets, including Article 6, debt swaps, and carbon taxes) for Implementing NDCs and Driving Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic instruments • Financial instruments • Public and private needs of new resources <p>Table 3: The Role of MDBs, Development Agencies and Donors in Implementing Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of local and regional development banks and other public financial institutions • International cooperation for development and opportunities to scale-up bilateral cooperation <p>Table 4: The Role of the Productive Sector for Bankable Projects</p> |

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| <p><i>regional partner), and 1 note taker.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will be built around 3 guiding questions to be agreed with the partners.</i></p> | |
| <p>12h30 - 13h00</p> | <p>Reporting Back: each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings</p> |
| <p>13h00 - 13h30</p> | <p>Reporting Back on the 3-day Fora and Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Output:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Based on the discussion of the last two and a half days, what are the key levers for NDCs 3.0 in the region to be more ambitious and accelerate implementation?</i> - <i>What steps are needed to elevate the NDCs 3.0 to be able to reach the 1.5° C degree target?</i> - <i>How can we get there?</i> |