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NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Asia

Pathways to Progress: Crafting Ambitious and Implementable NDCs

Date/Location:

- To take place from 30 September to 02 October in Bangkok, Thailand

Host: Government of Thailand

Organizers: ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP, NDC Partnership, in collaboration with UNFCCC secretariat

Co-Organizers: UN-REDD and GIZ

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 decarbonization efforts. Only a dual track will enable us to curb the global warming curve fast enough. Cuts in short-lived non-CO₂ pollutants, due to their high global warming potential and shorter lifetime in the atmosphere, can reduce 0.5 degrees of warming by 2050.

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.



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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 Asia prepare for the next round of NDCs, there is a unique opportunity to elevate climate strategies toward higher ambition, leveraging lessons from previous implementation efforts. This workshop will explore how COP28 outcomes, particularly the GST decision, can guide national processes to strengthen ambition in future NDCs and contribute to sustainable development. 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 workshop 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:



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- 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, 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.
- Explore how to increase the “investability” of NDCs 3.0.

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 Taking and Building on Lessons Learned

Time	Description
7h00- 9h00	Welcome & Registration of Participants
9h00 – 9h30	Opening Remarks



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<p><i>Partner representatives</i></p>	<p>Dr Phirun Saiyasitpanish, Secretary-General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand (7 minutes) TBC</p> <p>Ms. Dechen Tsering, Director, Director a.i., Climate Change Division, and Director, Regional Office of Asia Pacific (5 minutes)</p> <p>Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP (5 minutes)</p>
<p>9h30– 9h50</p> <p><i>UNFCCC</i></p>	<p>Setting the Scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of the GST and impacts for the next rounds of NDCs • Regional Overview: Reflecting on lessons learned regionally from previous round of NDCs



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<p>9h50– 10h35</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Evaluating Current NDCs – Looking Back to Move Forward (max 4 speakers)</p> <p>A critical starting point for developing 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> <p>Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select four countries that can speak about the topic of the breakouts from their own experience
<p>10h35-11h05</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11h05-11h20</p>	<p>Scene Setting: Presentation on NDC 3.0 Navigator</p>



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11h20 - 12h20 (60 mins for the first breakout group)

This session will have 3 breakout tables, each table will last 60 minutes.

There will be a total of three rotations.

*Each table will be organized around up to 3 guiding questions. Each round of discussion will be kicked off by the facilitator/ **no icebreaker***

The facilitator of each table will be an expert in the thematic area and will be accompanied by up to 2 additional experts, 1 rapporteur and a minimum of 1 note taker.

Breakout Group Discussion on lessons learned from current NDCs:

Objectives of the session:

The breakout group discussion sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on and exchange 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.

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.

Thematic Table 1: Aligning NDCs with Relevant National Policy Frameworks

Thematic Table 2: Mobilizing and Leveraging Means of Implementation

- **Capacity building**
- **Finance**
- **Technology**

Thematic Table 3: Monitoring and Tracking Progress of NDC Ambition and Implementation

12h20 – 13h30

Lunch Break



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13h30– 15h30 (120 mins)	Breakout Group Discussion on lessons learned from current NDCs (continued)
15h30 – 15h45	Coffee Break
15h45 – 16h05	Reporting Back: each Rapporteur will report back on their table’s findings
16h05– 16h30	Summary of Discussions and Preview of Day 2
17h00-19h00	Cocktail Reception

Day 2 - Navigating Opportunities and Challenges for NDCs 3.0 – Regional Priorities

Time	Description
9h00 - 9h05	Welcome and Introduction to Day 2 Agenda
9h05 - 9h20	Setting the Scene: Sectoral Solutions for Transformative and Implementable NDCs



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UNEP	
9h20 – 10h05 (45 mins)	<p>Panel Discussion: Envisioning NDCs 3.0 Best Practices Sectoral Approaches (max 3 speakers)</p> <p><i>In this panel discussion, country representatives will share their experiences, good practices, challenges and opportunities in 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 enhancing the ambition of existing sectors in NDCs.</i></p> <p>Question and answer</p>
10h05– 10h35	Coffee break
<p>10h45 – 12h45 (120 mins)</p> <p><i>In this session, participants will have the opportunity to join up to 2 sessions of their choice.</i></p> <p><i>Each round of discussion will run for approx.60 mins. Each table will accommodate up to 2 expert speakers, 1 facilitator which should be an expert,</i></p>	<p>Breakout Group on regional opportunities for NDCs:</p> <p>Thematic Table 1: Energy Transition</p> <p>Thematic Table 2: Transport</p> <p>Thematic Table 3: Adaptation & Resilience</p> <p>Thematic Table 4: Land Use Changes and Forests</p> <p>Thematic Table 5: Circularity (cross-cutting)</p>



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<p><i>1 rapporteur and 1 note taker.</i></p> <p><i>Each discussion will kick-off with a short introduction to the table by the facilitator of the table, then followed by pre-defined questions. Each table will be facilitated with the support of up to two experts relevant to the topic of the table.</i></p> <p><i>Participants from the same country will be encouraged to join separate sessions to allow all countries to benefit from the discussions at each table.</i></p>	
<p>12h45 - 13h45</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>



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<p>13h45 – 15h45 (120 mins)</p> <p><i>There will be two rounds of discussion. Each round of discussion will run for approximately 60 mins.</i></p> <p><i>Each participant will be able to join up to two Clinic tables over the course of the session. Participants will be given the possibility to sign-up to up to two sessions through sign-up sheets shared.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will accommodate up to 2 expert speakers, 1 facilitator, 1 rapporteur and 1 note taker.</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 and Policy Instruments 3. Technology Transfer and Capacity-Building
<p>15h45 - 16h00</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>16h00 - 16h15</p>	<p>Reporting Back 1 on Regional Priorities: each Rapporteur will report back on their table’s findings</p>



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16h15-16h30	Reporting Back 2 on Enablers Clinics: each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings
16h30– 16h45	Closing Discussion and Preview of Day 3

Day 3 - Accelerating Implementation and Tracking Progress on NDCs 3.0

Time	Description
9h00 - 9h05	Welcome and Introduction to Day 3 Agenda
09h05 - 09h20	Support Opportunities for NDCs 3.0 Development: Scene-setting: UN System-wide Support: Climate Promise 2025
9h20- 10h05 (45 mins)	Panel Discussion: Support Opportunities for NDCs 3.0 Development (4 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?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges have you experienced in your efforts to technically and/or financially support countries in the development of their past NDCs? • What would help you to offer support for more requests during this round (related to process and already identified gaps/challenges)? Any key sectors or themes that your organization is prioritizing in terms of support?
10h05 – 10h35	Coffee break
10h35 – 10h50 (15 mins)	Presentation: From NDC implementation to Biennial Transparency Reports to NDC preparation – Tracking progress
10h50 – 11h35 (45 mins)	<p>Panel Discussion: Tracking NDC Progress and Achievement (4 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>



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<p>11h35 - 12h35 (60 mins)</p> <p><i>In this session, each round of discussion will run for approx. 60 mins. Participants will have the chance to attend up to three tables over the course of the session.</i></p>	<p>Breakout Group Discussions on Finance and NDCs</p> <p>Table 1: Towards Investable NDCs</p> <p>Table 2: The Role of Economic and Financial Instruments for Implementing NDCs and Driving Climate Action</p> <p>Table 3: The Role of the Private Sector for Bankable Projects</p>
<p>12h35-13h35</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>
<p>13h35 - 15h35 (120 mins)</p> <p><i>In this session, each round of discussion will run for approx. 60 mins. Participants will have the chance to attend up to three tables over the course of the session.</i></p>	<p>Breakout Group Discussions on Finance and NDCs</p> <p>Table 1: Towards Investable NDCs</p> <p>Table 2: The Role of Economic and Financial Instruments for Implementing NDCs and Driving Climate Action</p> <p>Table 3: The Role of the Private Sector for Bankable Projects</p>



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15h35 - 15h50	Coffee Break
15h50 - 16h05	Reporting back: Each Rapporteur will report back on their table's findings
16h05- 16h45 (40 mins)	<p>Reporting Back on the 3-day Fora & Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Output:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Based on the discussion of the last three day, 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>

[1] Five additional regional Forums are organized in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.