



Climate Priorities for the Region

CTCN Forum & Sixth Climate Change
Negotiators Workshop, 3-7 April, Cairo,
Egypt

Dr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad
Regional Climate Change Coordinator
Regional Office for West Asia
United Nations Environment Programme
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Email: majeid.haddad@unep.org



Topics

- ▶ What is at Stake with regard to Climate Change in the Region

- ▶ Climate Priorities
 - Preparedness and the Enabling Environment
 - Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation
 - Emission Accounting
 - Mitigation
 - Technology Transfer
 - Finance, Awareness, Research & Regional Cooperation

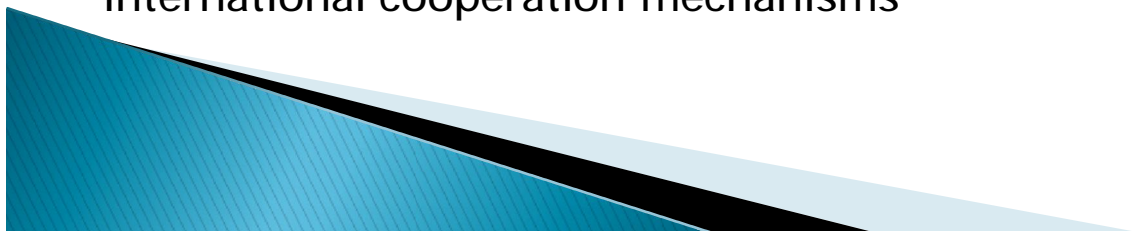
- ▶ Concluding remarks





What is at Stake with Regard to Climate Change in the Region

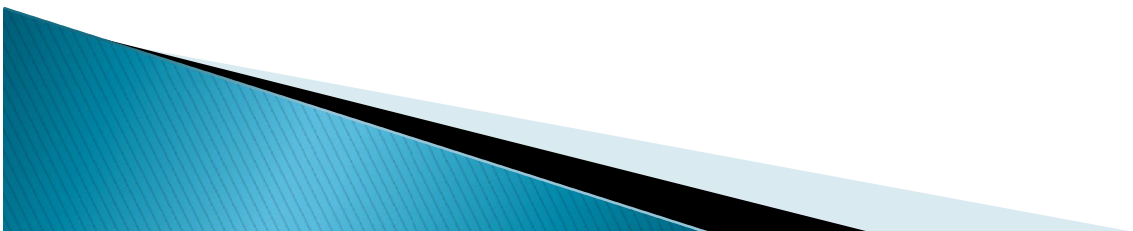
- ▶ As indicated in national communications and research papers, impacts of climate change are already observed and predicted to get worse (heat waves, water resources, sea level rise, floods, cyclones, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems)
- ▶ The Region has sensitive and vulnerable ecosystems, climate change will be an added stress
- ▶ Although small contributions to GHG emissions global wise, energy and carbon intensity are high in energy industries, GHG emissions on the increase
- ▶ A large number of population in the region still have limited access to energy
- ▶ Actions on climate change although better than before but still not enough and fragmented at its best
- ▶ The region has not yet fully benefited from the opportunities available within the international cooperation mechanisms





Climate Priorities – Preparedness & Enabling Environment

- ▶ Almost all countries have set up dedicated climate change organizations, departments, sections or units
- ▶ Such settings are critical to achieve climate objectives but considerable work needed to be effective policy advisors and implementers
- ▶ Clear national climate policy and strategy is needed to drive actions and linkages to the wider national sustainable development objectives and environmental policies/plans
- ▶ Institutional and regulatory frameworks
- ▶ Partnership and stakeholders considerations especially those affected
- ▶ Sustainability of efforts and funding





Climate Priorities – GHG Accounting

- ▶ GHG Inventories are prepared within the context of national communications and BUR
- ▶ Need to establish National Systems for GHG Inventories to be able to produce on regular and systematic ways
- ▶ Verification mechanisms re gaining importance within the Nationally Determined Contributions
- ▶ Research in the areas of emission factors, measurements of efficiencies, intensity, etc is needed to have a more accurate picture of cost and benefit of mitigation GHG emissions





Climate Priorities – Mitigation

- ▶ Clear priorities in the energy sector: oil & gas, power generation, transport, waste-energy
- ▶ Considerable investment in RE and EE already exist but there is still un tapped areas such as geothermal energy
- ▶ Cost efficiency could be better if there is a system of measuring efficiencies and sustainable system of cost-benefit analysis
- ▶ Mitigation could be a drive to economic diversification
- ▶ Demonstrating the co-benefits to health, economy and social well-being is critical to scale up actions by governments and private sectors alike





Climate Priorities – Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation

- ▶ Impacts are local, therefore priorities depend on what is at stake at the national and local level
- ▶ Impacts on health, coastal areas, water resources and ecosystems are most cited in national communications
- ▶ Assessments of impacts and vulnerabilities at the local level and ecosystem specific or target groups are in short supply
- ▶ Significant capacity gaps in climate modeling
- ▶ Adaptation actions not well perceived (how different from what is done on environment management, for example). There is need to define these options and identify linkages to disaster risk management and environment protection
- ▶ Climate observation systems may exist but not well utilized for climate research





Climate Priorities – Technology Transfer

- ▶ Parity within the region on climate technology deployment, adoption and use
- ▶ Tendency to focus on mitigation technology and the hardware rather than wider climate technology concept and the know how (continue with the CTCN sessions)
- ▶ Market penetration of climate technologies varies (in some countries with incentives and in some spontaneous driven by the needs of the people; e.g Yemen)
- ▶ Regional collaboration on technology development (duplications of same line of technology)
- ▶ Investing in technology domestication needed to ensure sustainability
- ▶ Research in technology adequateness/suitability to the harsh climate conditions





Climate Priorities – Finance, Awareness, Research & Regional Cooperation

- ▶ Climate funding from various sources (GEF, Banks, bi-lateral cooperation programmes) under utilized
- ▶ Needed enhanced capacities for project development and implementation
- ▶ Awareness of the public and decision-makers alike; appropriate tools that relates climate action to economy and human well-being still needed to attract attention and act
- ▶ Establishment of platforms for stakeholders engagements, climate committee not enough
- ▶ Allocation of adequate funding to research based on clear research priorities with complimentary across the region
- ▶ Build on existing regional mechanisms and fora to enhance collaboration among countries





Road from Paris: key milestones

Global Level

- ▶ Procedural steps for signature, ratification and entry into force
- ▶ Signature open 22 April 2016 to 21 April 2017
- ▶ Next meeting in Marrakesh will work on procedures for reporting, review and stocktaking setting up subsidiary bodies through the Ad hoc Working Group on Paris Agreement and Meeting of Parties to the Agreement (MPA)

National Level

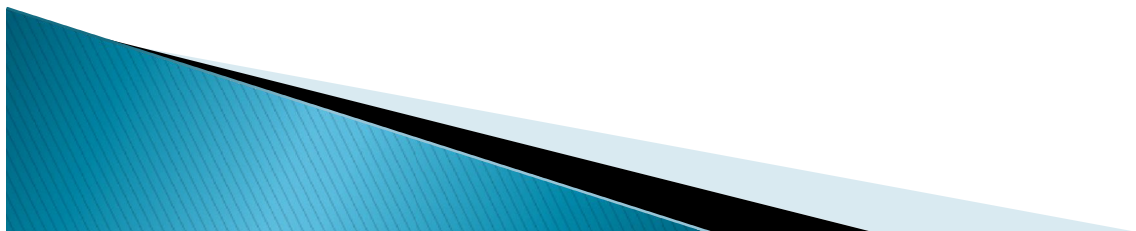
- ▶ communicating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- ▶ Setting up a system of sustained NDCs
- ▶ Initiating the ratification process
- ▶ Developing and implementing preparedness programmes and plans (finance, projects, accounting, etc)
- ▶ Enhancing awareness across sectors of the implications and opportunities
- ▶ Initiating domestic legislations, if necessary





Concluding Remarks

- ▶ The Region is impacted by climate change, therefore acting on it is a priority, the sooner the better
- ▶ Long list of priorities for the region, hence the need to strategize and plan for the short, medium and long terms
- ▶ The Arab Action Plan on Climate Change offers good ground to Start cooperative actions
- ▶ For a such as the series of climate negotiators workshops are valuable to progress on climate actions
- ▶ Paris Agreement offers yet another opportunity to act (with global support)
- ▶ UNEP along with ESCWA and LAS are ready to support





Thank you

