

Summary of Main Findings and Conclusions

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Informing Climate Policy Frameworks

- All Arab countries (except for Libya) submitted their NDCs
- Linking SDGs with NDCs is strongly recommended since many SDGs include climate aspects
- Integrated approach is required for data collection, monitoring and reporting to ensure effective mainstreaming
- Vulnerability assessment outputs created by RICAAR is a very useful tool for development planning in Arab countries. It can help identify priority adaptation actions and hence identification of financial needs
- Key entry points for climate change mainstreaming is adaptation planning on the local level in addition to stakeholder engagement on the local level coupled with education and awareness

Sector Planning and National Development Planning for Enhanced Climate Action

- National Development Strategy is a key entry point for mainstreaming climate action
- NDCs should be aligned with national development plans and strategies
- Mainstreaming of climate action into national planning allows for opportunities to access international climate finance for climate related development actions
- Formation of inter-ministerial climate change committees within Arab countries and Joint Ministerial Committees e.g. on Agriculture and Water in the Arab Region is an effective tool to influence climate change mainstreaming in development planning

Policy Frameworks for Facilitating Climate Mainstreaming

- Importance of considering behavioral aspects into development planning on both stakeholders and policy maker levels
- Integrating Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach into development planning is important as these are key sectors for climate action
- Access to finance from MDBs for development in most sectors will be strongly linked to Low Emissions Development and Climate-Resilience which highlights the importance of mainstreaming climate action into development planning (**This should elevate the importance of mainstreaming on the political agenda**)
- New financial instruments e.g. Green Sukuk from ISDB and resilience bonds from EBRD for accessing finance are important tools for accessing climate finance

- Current financial flows into the Arab region is not balanced where adaptation receives less compared to mitigation.
- Mainstreaming of adaptation action in national development planning is needed to allow for access to finance
- It is important to include the gender dimension in mainstreaming climate action due to the higher vulnerability of women to impacts of climate change
- Capacity building is needed in Arab countries to be able to access climate finance. The Palestinian experience is remarkable in accessing finance from the GCF and the development of an operational manual on how to access finance is an important lesson learned

Climate Finance, Budgeting and Expenditure Reviews

- Budgeting is the most effective means to translate policies into action
- Integrating climate finance into national budget cycle and having the Ministry of finance as the main partner is a key entry point for mainstreaming
- Identifying **climate finance needs from international sources in domestic budgets** is a means to highlight such needs to developed countries which can pressure developed countries provide predictability of finance
- The idea of climate change rating was discussed which still needs more discussion on where and how it should be applied

Means of Implementation Breakout Groups

- Level of involvement and awareness of different Ministries related to climate action mainstreaming varies across Arab countries
- Many Arab countries have existing policies which incentivize climate action (e.g. subsidy removal programs) while others are experiencing difficulties in implementing such policies
- There are institutional gaps in many Arab countries and the role of institutions related to climate action is not clear in many countries

Means of Implementation Breakout Groups

- There is a challenge in Arab countries in formulating bankable projects and capacity is needed in this regard
- Geopolitics prevents some countries in the Arab region from accessing finance
- Engagement at the small scale level is important and also at the regional level
- Creating enabling environment for private sector to engage in climate action is important
- Phasing out subsidies would also support the development of energy efficient technologies
- Developing an effective MRV for climate projects would help accurately monitor project outcomes and identify lessons learned

Mobilizing Resources for Integrated Climate Action

- Innovative approaches for mobilizing climate finance e.g. possible diaspora contribution in investing in climate action
- Reverse linkage initiative by ISDB is an interesting form for South-South cooperation in capacity building, technical assessment and technology transfer
- Benefiting from just transition initiative at EBRD for supporting vulnerable and high climate risk countries and sectors which would be impacted is important

Summary Main Findings and Conclusions

- Policy formulation that enables climate mainstreaming is important (e.g. integrating climate actions into standards - building codes as an example)
- Legal setup can lay the foundation for effective mainstreaming of climate action into national development planning
- Development of effective institutional setup ensures better governance and facilitates mainstreaming of climate action
- Using the national budget is a key entry point for climate action mainstreaming. It is the easiest way to turn policies into action and allows for identifying needs for international finance from developed countries
- Enhancing the use of indigenous technologies which exist in countries would facilitate upscaling of climate action

Summary Main Findings and Conclusions

- National Development Strategy should be considered as the umbrella under which climate action should be mainstreamed
- Update/Enhancement of NDCs should be aligned with national plans and strategies including NDS, LEDS and NAPs. This will facilitate dissemination across implementing entities and hence NDC implementation
- Mainstreaming of climate action into national planning allows for opportunities to access international finance for climate related development actions

