AFSD in the Global Context
Where do We Stand on Climate Action?

2019 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

11 April 2019
**Global Context & Changing Paradigm**

1. **Addis Finance For Development Summit**
   - Scale Up Development Financing
   - Billions to Trillions
   - Mobilize & Leverage Private Sector Investment
   - New Global Framework for Financing Sustainable Development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

2. **All Countries (North & South)**
   - Global Coverage & Universally Applicable
   - 17 Goals (2015 – 2030)
   - Integrated & Interconnected

3. **197 Negotiating Parties/Countries**
   - Transparency & 5-Year Review
   - Universal and Legally Binding
   - Fair and Differentiated – NDCs.
   - Sustainable and Dynamic - Well below 2°C to 1.5 °C

**2015**

**Paris Climate Agreement**

**Billions to Trillions**

**Finance for Development**

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
Almost all Arab Countries Submitted NDCs
The size of the coloured segments indicates how many NDC climate activities correspond to each SDG.

Click a segment for more details related to this specific SDG.
GOAL SPECIFIC NDC ALIGNMENT

01 SDG 1 No Poverty
• Many countries’ NDCs stress the potential co-benefits of climate actions for poverty reduction.
• Climate Actions: strengthening resilience of the poor to climate change impacts.

02 SDG 2 Zero Hunger
• Agricultural practices and food security.
• Climate-smart agriculture is at the core of countries’ climate ambitions to end hunger.
• Overall, SDG 2 has the second highest total of related climate activities across the NDCs.

03 SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing
• Great potential to contribute indirectly to achieving SDG 3.
• Activities relate to reducing climate-induced health risks and controlling the spread of waterborne diseases during climate-related disasters.

04 SDG 4 Quality Education
• Focusing on awareness raising, curriculums and systemic changes in education programmes, as well as on strengthening climate change research.
• Education for climate change features in SDG target 13.3.

05 SDG 5 Gender Equality
• Climate change is not gender neutral.
• Being frequently responsible for securing water, food and energy for cooking and heating, women suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.
• However, only few NDC climate actions explicitly refer to gender issues.

06 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
• Intersect closely with many SDG 6 themes: water supply and sanitation, water security and water-use efficiency, recycling and safe wastewater management.
GOAL SPECIFIC NDC ALIGNMENT

07 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
• Dependence on fossil fuels is a key driver of climate change and one of its biggest challenges.
• All countries flag renewable energy as a climate concern in their NDCs.
• strongest point of connection with national climate plans.

08 SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
• Only a few NDC activities relate specifically to SDG 8.
• Promoting low-carbon economy, sustainable tourism and unemployment reduction.

09 SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infr.
• Intersection of infrastructure, energy, and housing.
• 83% of all NDCs include references to SDG 9-related issues.
• Focus is on building new and resilient infrastructure and upgrading existing infrastructure.

10 SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
• SDG 10-related issues are mentioned in relatively few NDCs.
• NDC activities that do mention inclusive policies and generally refer to improving the situation for the vulnerable.

11 SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Comm.
• Cities generate more than 70% of all GHG emissions and are often highly vulnerable to natural disasters.
• 82% of all NDCs include urbanisation-related climate activities.

12 SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production
• Current production and consumption patterns are responsible for resource depletion and environmental degradation as well as GHG emissions.
• 62% of the NDCs include SDG 12-related activities. Focus on recycling and waste reduction.
GOAL SPECIFIC NDC ALIGNMENT

13 SDG 13 Climate Action
• Combating climate change is naturally present in all NDCs.
• Many not only declare mitigation targets but also cite the importance of adaptation.
• Climate activities in NDCs go well beyond the targets under SDG 13.

14 SDG 14 Life below Water
• Climate change threatens coastal communities and livelihoods dependent on marine resources.
• 60% of all NDCs include activities related to SDG 14, with actions in coastal management and protection, as well as fisheries, the most common.

15 SDG 15 Life on Land
• Forests and soils are major carbon sinks.
• NDC climate actions have a strong focus on SDG 15 issues, with forest management, afforestation, ecosystem conservation and biodiversity central to countries’ commitments.

16 SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
• Political stability and peace are prerequisites for sustained climate action.
• Inclusivity, accountable and responsive institutions, and access to justice can help ensure national responses being equitable, fair and effective.
• However, SDG 16-related issues barely feature in the NDCs.

17 SDG 17 Partnerships for Goals
• More than 86% of the NDCs include activities corresponding to SDG 17.
• Financial resource mobilisation, capacity building, research and technology cooperation are the most common themes in the NDC actions.
How have we seen progress in the Arab Region?

- Perspective from a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB).
- Working on Preparing & Implementing Projects on the Ground
- Engagement with Governments
- Early for results – Using Input as a proxy at this stage
MDB Climate Finance (2017)

Total US$ 35,219 million

- 20% Latin America and the Caribbean US$ 7,174 million
- 16% Sub-Saharan Africa US$ 5,712 million
- 14% East Asia and the Pacific US$ 5,101 million
- 14% South Asia US$ 4,848 million
- 13% Non-EU Europe and Central Asia US$ 4,748 million
- 10% EU-12 US$ 3,615 million
- 10% Middle East and North Africa US$ 3,521 million
- 1.4% Multi-regional US$ 500 million
MDB Climate Finance (2018)

TOTAL 43,101

- East Asia and the Pacific: 8,957
- EU 12: 5,062
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 3,362
- Middle East and North Africa: 8,770
- Non-EU Europe and Central Asia: 6,958
- South Asia: 5,128
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 4,310
- Multi-Regional: 553
The **energy sector** accounted for the largest portion of climate financing, amounting to US$1.7 billion (36%), followed by **water, sanitation and urban services** (US$1.3 billion, 28%), **transportation** (US$908.8 million, 19%) and **agriculture** (US$810.3 million, 17%).
Why do we not see better progress on SDGs & Climate Action in the Arab Region?
It is possible to have better growth and a better climate at the same time – Development Plans and Projects need to developed as such.
We are on the cusp of a new economic growth approach. We can build a better, more people-centred, more resilient growth model.

We are already seeing remarkable momentum towards a low-carbon and resilient economy in sectors and countries around the world. Cities, states, business, investors and civil society are often leading the way.

If we accelerate this transition, we could see a direct economic gain of US$26 trillion to 2030 compared with business-as-usual. And this is a conservative estimate: we are underestimating the benefits of this shift. Also will deliver jobs, health benefits, better distributional outcomes.

Overall we are not yet making progress anywhere near fast enough: the policy handbrake is still on.

The Report outlines how to accelerate transformation in five key economic systems: energy, cities, food and land use, water, and industry. The Global Commission calls for decisive action in 4 areas:

- Pricing carbon and moving toward mandatory disclosure of climate-related financial risks
- Accelerating investment in sustainable infrastructure, supported by clear national and sub-national strategies and programmes
- Harnessing the power of the private sector, including to unleash innovation and advance supply chain transparency
- Ensuring a people-centred approach, such that the gains are shared equitably and the transition is just.
CAPACITY

- Capacity Building And Knowledge Generation.
- Customized policy recommendations linked to key sectors
- Projects Development and Linking to Financing
- Involvement of Private Sector and Creating Supportive Ecosystems
How are NDCs and Climate Action Plans Formulated? – VNRS - National/Sector Development Plans

- Built on Existing National Policies/Strategies
- Bottom-Up Approach
- Limited Consultation
- Public Sectors/Institutions Focused
- Moderately Ambitious

PRE COP 21 PROCESS

Due for Revision/Improvement in 2020

National Designated Authority (NDA) mostly Ministries of Environment, Energy, Climate Change etc.
KEY MESSAGES

• There is a need for political will and effective leadership to achieve the SDGs and have a comprehensive integrated approach for alignment with the Paris Agreement.

• Strong coordination amongst all stakeholders are required to effectively mainstream climate change into development efforts in the region.

• Increase investments in capacity building and sensitization activities in the Arab Region to accelerate climate action for development and resilience in both public and private institutions.

• Utilizing the allocated dedicated financing to promote and leverage climate resilience and low carbon development investments is an opportunity to leap frog.
Way Forward for Arab Countries in Achieving the SDGs

• The role of SDGs and Paris Agenda in influencing our development work and national plans is an evolving living experience.

• In the future we can expect to see:
  1. Better SDG focused Results Matrices in National Plans
  2. Better SDG reliant National Reporting Systems
  3. SDG influenced generated Pipeline of Work Programs
Thank You!
The Challenge: Demographics show that Arab Countries need to create millions of new jobs by 2030

Jobs and Unemployment

- Majority of the labour force in IsDB Member Countries are stuck in vulnerable jobs (SESRIC, 2017)
- Ensuring decent work for all leads to more social security and more stable income flows (SDG 8).
- Manufacturing sector is recognized as the strongest driver for employment especially in developing countries (ILO, 2014).

Productivity

- The manufacturing industry is not competitive and fails to increase productivity
- Declining share of agriculture and rising share of manufacturing in total output and employment is essential in reducing poverty and increasing welfare (ODI, 2017)

Import over-dependence

- Huge over dependence on manufactured imports posing risks to economic growth and stability
- Rising and alarming trade deficit that may impose sustainability risks to many countries