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Regular report

Nairobi Framework Partnership Annual Report 2021

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEKS	3
2.1. Partner engagement	3
2.2. Regional Climate Weeks 2021	4
2.2.1. High-level Regional Roundtables	5
2.2.2. Thematic Sessions of the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2021	6
2.2.3. Thematic Sessions of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021	6
2.2.4. Thematic Sessions of the Africa Climate Week 2021	7
2.2.5. High-level Global Event at the margin of COP26	7
2.2.6. Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022	7
3. CONCLUSIONS	8

1. Introduction

1. The Nairobi Framework Partnership (NFP)¹ was initiated in 2006 by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, at the second Conference of the Parties (COP) serving as the meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Its original goal was to support developing countries in improving their level of participation in the clean development mechanism (CDM) through inter-agency cooperation and collaboration.
2. Members of the NFP have since evolved to embrace a much more ambitious role in the climate change arena. Today the NFP, through its global partners and regional partners, has positioned itself as a recognized global platform with an extended and solid inter-agency collaboration track record for ongoing climate change action.
3. The purpose of this report is to document the activities completed by partners of the NFP.
4. The current reporting period covers January 2021 to December 2021.

2. Regional Climate Weeks

2.1. Partner engagement

5. In 2021, the NFP held four conference calls to plan the work of the regional climate weeks for the year. Most of the calls were attended by the core partners of the regional climate weeks, i.e. the representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat and the World Bank Group (WBG) at the director level.
6. The first conference call was convened in February to discuss the structure of the 2021 events and to endorse the overarching narrative that enables the work at the regional level to kick off. Partners agreed to launch the 2021 regional climate weeks with a high-level event (Roundtables) followed by thematic sessions to be held in each region and closing with a high-level segment to present the key takeaways from the regions that could feed into the negotiations at COP26 (UK Presidency).
7. The second call took place in March to discuss the postponement of the Africa Climate Week due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Uganda. For the government to address the pandemic on a priority basis, the Africa Climate Week 2021 was moved from July 2021 to September 2021.
8. Afterwards, a call was organized in June to discuss the format for the high-level segment, which was expected to take place as a regional in-person event in each of the Regional Climate Week host countries. Partners decided to replace these three in-person high-level events with a high-level global event to take place at the margins of COP26, where core and regional partners formally handed over a Communique with the key messages of the Regional Climate Weeks 2021 to the UK Presidency.

¹ See Nairobi Framework Partnership at <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/nairobi-framework-partnership>.

9. Finally, the last call in September took stock of the outcome of the 2021 series of events and to define the way forward for the 2022 Regional Climate Weeks.

2.2. Regional Climate Weeks 2021

10. The core partners of the regional climate weeks (i.e. UNEP, UNDP, UNFCCC and WBG) convened the Regional Climate Weeks in collaboration with a wider group of regional and international organizations as well as designated authorities from the host countries,² the UK Presidency from COP26 and the high-level Climate Champions. At the regional level, the climate weeks are co-organized by the following organizations: the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations regional commissions – the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for West Africa (UNESCA). Other international organizations, such as the Adaptation Fund and the International Renewable Energy Agency, supported the delivery of the events.
11. The objective of the regional climate weeks in 2021 was to mobilize and enhance the required partnerships and collaborative approaches, including the urgency of:
 - (a) Understanding the risks and impacts of climate change and integrate this knowledge in planning at all levels and in all sectors;
 - (b) Delivering on existing commitments;
 - (c) Giving all stakeholders clarity on the low-carbon development pathways and means of implementation for achieving carbon neutrality by mid-century or even before, and thus advancing the objectives and long-term goals of the Convention and Paris Agreement.
12. All of the 2021 events were aligned with one of the core tracks designed to achieve the objectives of the climate weeks in the narrative:

(a) Track 1: National actions and economy-wide approaches

Organized by the World Bank Group

This track assisted all stakeholders in better understanding the cycle of the Paris Agreement – ambition of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS); implementation of action, including with support; and transparent reporting, including on progress and impact.

This track enabled discussion on long-term national planning and integrated national policymaking, including whole-of-government and society approaches, enhanced engagement of all stakeholders, and the redirection of financial flows. In this context, discussion covered ambitious actions in key sectors, including nature-based solutions, and how these actions can be integrated in national planning and contribute to long-term climate ambition.

² Dominican Republic for Latin America and the Caribbean, Japan for Asia-Pacific, and Uganda for Africa.

The track also enabled an assessment of the best practice in society-wide and economy-wide approaches to cutting greenhouse gases and building resilience and how broad economic packages to enable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can support the achievement of the Paris goals. The impact of these approaches on other Sustainable Development Goals, in particular gender equality, decent work and reducing inequalities, were identified.

(b) Track 2: Integrated approaches for climate-resilient development

Organized by UN Development Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies the complexity and interconnectivity of risks. It has also exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, which underscores the need for greater attention to coherent, coordinated approaches to adapting to climate change. Emerging risks also strengthen the case for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

This track explored collaboration between all actors on the extent of climate risks faced across the region, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, key systems impacted, and structuring support systems.

(c) Track 3: Seizing transformation opportunities

Organized by UN Environment Programme

This track provided a platform to explore breakthrough solutions to deliver climate action and support at a scale that puts regions on a low-emission and resilient development pathway. Discussions focused on key sectors of the economy that need deep transformation and on promoting a speedy, healthy and sustainable recovery.

Related events under this track enabled an all-of-society approach to developing a common vision for the future in key sectors to promote job creation and enhance human welfare. Track events elaborated the policy and resource mobilization approaches needed today to achieve this future.

13. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Climate Weeks were held entirely online. The virtual platform was provided by an independent contractor and featured different virtual “rooms” where sessions were streamed live. Speakers in each session could interact with each other, while attendees watched and were able to provide feedback through a moderated chat.
14. A summary of the series of events delivered as part of the Regional Climate Weeks carried out in 2021 is presented in the subsections that follow.

2.2.1. High-level Regional Roundtables

15. From 3 to 4 March 2021, the Regional Climate Weeks core partners together with the host countries and the high-level Climate Champions³ convened the first launching event, called the virtual Roundtables.

³ Gonzalo Muñoz, high-level Climate Champion of Chile, and Nigel Topping, high-level Climate Champion of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16. The Roundtables focused on collecting messages and inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities for climate action. The discussion also served to shape next steps in the development of each of the thematic areas defined for the year, as indicated in paragraph 12 above.
17. During the event, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and suggestions for consideration during the thematic sessions later in the year.
18. The virtual Roundtables gathered over 1,500 participants from national and subnational governments, cities, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society.
19. The Roundtables were interpreted in English, Spanish and French, and the broadcasts are available for on-demand viewing.⁴

2.2.2. Thematic Sessions of the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2021

20. The Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2021 (LACCW 2021) thematic sessions were held from 11 to 14 May, and were hosted by the Government of the Dominican Republic and organized in collaboration with UNFCCC's core partners – UNDP, UNEP and WBG. Regional partners included CAF, IDB and UNECLAC.
21. Momentum was sustained from the 5,110 registered attendees joining in the conversation, including from the host government of the Dominican Republic, governments at all levels, private sector leaders, academic experts and other stakeholders.
22. In addition to the thematic discussions that took place as part of the main tracks, the virtual sessions saw 83 events and close to 100 hours of live presentations and discussions with around 300 speakers.
23. The output report, which includes the key takeaways from the thematic tracks, is available on the LACCW website.⁵

2.2.3. Thematic Sessions of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021

24. The Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 (APCW 2021) thematic sessions were held from 6 to 9 July, and were hosted by the Government of Japan and organized by core partners with the support of regional partners, which include ADB, IGES and UNESCAP.
25. The APCW 2021 was attended by 3,798 participants representing 152 countries.
26. The virtual thematic sessions comprised 87 events, including 11 affiliated events, 7 action hub videos and 69 side events, which were additional to the sessions convened as part of the main thematic tracks. The agenda was delivered by more than 500 organizations and 400 speakers and moderators coming from 20 countries.

⁴ See broadcasts at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/regional-climate-weeks-virtual-roundtables-march-2021/watch-broadcast-virtual-regional-roundtables>.

⁵ Website: <https://unfccc.int/LACCW2021>;

Output Report: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCW_LACCW21_OutputReport_15062021.pdf

27. The output report, which includes the key takeaways from the thematic tracks, is available on the APCW website.⁶

2.2.4. Thematic Sessions of the Africa Climate Week 2021

28. The Africa Climate Week 2021 (ACW 2021) thematic sessions were held from 26 to 29 September, and were hosted by the Government of Uganda and organized collaboratively by core and regional partners. Regional partners include the AfDB, African Union and UNECA.
29. Momentum was sustained by more than 3,400 registered attendees from 137 countries who came together to deliver the thematic tracks plus and additional 146 events which included, 62 side events, 13 affiliate events and 27 action hub videos.
30. The output report, which includes the key takeaways from the thematic tracks, is available on the ACW website.⁷

2.2.5. High-level Global Event at the margin of COP26

31. On 10 November, the Regional Climate Weeks 2021 organizing partners (UN Climate Change Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP and WBG) presented a Communique at a high-level event, held in-person at COP26 in Glasgow, which brought together 290 participants. The Communique underscored the partners' commitment to facilitate regional action that enables global progress.
32. The event brought together host government ministers, heads of agencies and other dignitaries on stage to discuss the value of regional collaboration. The discussion was followed by a handover moment where the Communique, a Global Overview Document and the Output Reports from each of the climate weeks were presented to the UK Presidency as a full package of resources to guide implementation following COP26. This package of resources is published on the RCW 2021 Communique page⁸ and available to all stakeholders.
33. The event put regional collaboration in focus at COP26. This was reflected in the final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact.⁹ The Glasgow Pact calls on all stakeholders to use the Regional Climate Weeks as a platform to strengthen credible and durable climate action.

2.2.6. Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022

34. The Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022 (MENACW 2022) kicked off the next round of climate weeks, with the launch of the expression of interest call on 15 November 2021. The expression of interest provides an opportunity for collaborating and event partners to actively participate in the event by sharing an engaging video in the action hub, taking the stage for an announcement, presenting a new case study or holding

⁶ Website: <https://unfccc.int/APCW2021>;
Output Report: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCW_APCW21_OutputReport_06082021.pdf.

⁷ Website: <https://unfccc.int/ACW2021>;
Output Report: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCW_ACW21_OutputReport_08102021.pdf.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/regional-climate-weeks/rcw-2021-cop26-communique>.

⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auf_2f_cover_decision.pdf.

an interview, hosting a side event, or servicing as a supporting organization for one of the thematic tracks.

35. The first-ever MENACW 2022 is expected to accelerate collaboration and integrate climate action into the global pandemic recovery effort. Building forward opens an opportunity to address social inequalities and invest in economic development that is good for humanity and nature.
36. MENACW 2022 will be one of the first regional events to be aligned with the work of the COP26 (UK Presidency) and the incoming COP27 (Egypt Presidency).
37. MENACW 2022 is hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, World Green Economy Organization and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority) and co-organized by the Regional Climate Weeks core partners (UN Climate Change Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP and WBG) and the partners based in MENA (the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the League of Arab States Secretariat).
38. Additional information on the MENACW 2022 can be found on the dedicated website.¹⁰

3. Conclusions

39. With over a decade of success, the NFP partnership has proven to be the multi-agency platform that enables organizations across regions to come together and leverage their capacity to support developing countries in their fight against climate change. Through the Regional Climate Weeks, the NFP has been able to reach out to local stakeholders and provide the capacity-building needed to ensure that no country is left behind, but also to create a space that promotes knowledge-sharing and constructive dialogue across all stakeholders on regional challenges that need to be addressed to implement the Paris Agreement. The Regional Climate Weeks are undoubtedly a unique collaboration platform.
40. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFP was able to convene a series of successful virtual events, which have seen an unexpectedly high number of participants (more than 12,000 in total for the three regional events) and an unprecedented number of organizations engaged in delivering the agenda of each event. This demonstrates that the Regional Climate Weeks continue to be the flagship climate change events offering an opportunity to advance climate action, taking regional and local priorities into consideration.
41. The Glasgow Climate Pact also recognizes the key role that the Regional Climate Weeks play in providing an opportunity to stakeholders (private sector, cities and regions, indigenous communities and civil society) outside the formal UNFCCC process but engaged in regional, national or subnational climate action to become involved with Party and non-Party stakeholders in discussions required to drive forward the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the regional level.
42. At COP26, the Regional Climate Weeks core partners reaffirmed their commitment to the Regional Climate Weeks and to continue to promote the work of the partnership, which is deemed to be the most effective path to achieve each organizations' goals and mandates.

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/MENA-CW2022>.

Further discussion is expected to take place in 2022 in order to identify and deploy a partnership structure that ensures the future sustainability of the Regional Climate Weeks.

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