

Turning Climate Promise into Inclusive Action

23rd - 25th March 2021

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing social, economic and governance inequalities in countries around the globe. Governments were faced with huge challenges of addressing the immediate impact of COVID-19 such as the overburden of its health care systems as well as designing a sustainable recovery pathway. At the same time, the climate crisis continued to drastically impact the lives and livelihood of citizens, leading governments to deal with a twin crisis strongly interlinked with one another.

To strengthen resilience towards future shocks/pandemics, many governments are collaborating with non-state actors to chart a recovery pathway that promotes stronger linkages between economic recovery and climate ambition. International commitments such as the Paris Agreement can be a guiding document for countries to ensure their recovery efforts are monumental and transformative. UNDP's Climate Promise initiative, the world largest global initiative to support countries to enhance their NDCs are helping policymakers to adapt to the new normal and build forward differently. Given the COVID-19 crisis, many countries have delayed their enhanced NDC submission to 2021, providing a unique opportunity to ensure that the NDC processes and ambitions can be leveraged to help design and roll out inclusive green recovery efforts and ambitious climate action. According to data received from 115 countries supported by the Climate Promise initiative, including 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, a majority of countries still intend to increase climate ambition despite the impacts of COVID-19. Around 50 countries have reported on concrete ways that they are linking the Climate Promise support to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.¹

The impact of both COVID-19 and the climate crisis has continued to impact groups within society differently, factors such as social status, gender, poverty, and access to resources all influence the degree of vulnerability to these crises. As a result, women and girls continued to be disproportionately impacted by the twin crises, due to perception prevailing in our societies and gender roles. Additionally, gender norms and power dynamics also shape how women and men of diverse backgrounds experience or contribute to insecurity in a changing climate.

Efforts to build community resilience to future crisis and climate risks must go hand in hand with efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. NDCs offer an important space for developing gender specific climate strategies that advances and sustains peace. Additionally, women around the globe are coming up with innovative nature-based

¹ UNDP Climate Promise Progress Report, page 2

solutions and leading ambitious mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Through the Climate Promise, as of November 2020, 113 countries have stated that they are working to strengthen gender in their NDCs.²

In the current context, Climate Promise initiative provides an opportunity for leveraging the NDC process for championing gender responsive climate solutions, strengthening community resilience and charting the pathway for a greener, inclusive, and sustainable recovery

Forum Themes

These interlinked global challenges require collaborative action and coordination at all levels (international, regional, national) with the full engagement of state and non-state actors. In this regard, the Climate Promise team and the Gender team at the Bangkok Regional Hub are co-hosting a regional forum to facilitate knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt on integrating inclusivity and gender equality into climate policy and implementation in the context of the new normal. The forum will focus on the following core themes.

- **Raising climate ambition through locally led climate actions:** The sessions will focus and highlight climate adaptation approaches that are inclusive and locally led and crucial for strengthening community resilience to climate change.
- **Scaling up Nature-based Solutions as part of green recovery:** Nature-based solution needs to be an integral part of economic recovery efforts in the region. The role of nature-based solutions in creating a more resilient future will be explored through the sharing of best practices, lessons learnt and entry points for scale up of similar initiatives in the region.
- **Translating plans into action through gender integrated climate finance:** Men and women differ in their ability to build resilience against and address climate impacts because of existing gender inequalities. Considering these gender dimensions can lead to climate finance that is more effective and equitable. By Integrating gender awareness and gender criteria into climate financing mechanism and strategies, a stronger contribution can be made towards transformative change and gender responsive climate action.
- **Addressing climate risks and sustaining peace through gender responsive climate solutions:** Understanding the gender dimensions of climate related security risks is key to identifying and unpacking new entry points for advancing gender equality, improving climate resilience, and sustaining peace. The forum will lead a dialogue around how gender dynamics shape the experience and contribution of men and women to climate risk and the peacebuilding impact of engaging women in natural resource governance and climate resilient livelihoods.

² 20 Insights in NDCs in 2020, page 10

Objective

The forum sessions will provide the space for knowledge exchanges and sharing of lesson learnt that provides national government and key stakeholders with practical examples of good practices on how to integrate inclusivity and gender equality into climate policy and implementation in the context of the new normal. The forum aims to

- Provide a space for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking on gender equality and climate change nexus amongst key stakeholders including government ministries, NGOs, research institutions.
- Share lessons learnt, discuss new entry points and innovative approaches for bringing in a whole of society approach that translate into bolder climate ambition and implementation and inclusive green recovery.
- Explore potential partnerships and synergies for leveraging NDC processes for a more inclusive climate ambition.

The forum recommendation will inform policy makers, civil society organizations and development organizations on advancing the three inter-related goals: climate action, gender equality and COVID-19 recovery. Online sessions will be designed post forum in collaborations with Country Offices to take these conversations forward ahead of COP 26.

Participants

The forum will bring together key stakeholders from the Asia Pacific region and will include government counterparts, NGOs, academic intuitions, think tanks, regional bodies, and thematic experts. The forum will also specifically include young female champions and women's organizations advocating for bolder climate ambition through gender responsive climate action

Turning Climate Promise into Action
23rd -25th March 2021
Forum Agenda
Forum session times are in ICT Time (GMT+7)

Day One : 23 rd March 2021, Tuesday	
0930-1100 Hrs.	<p>Opening Session: Building Forward Differently – Making Climate Ambition a Reality for All.</p> <p><i>Opening Remark by Kanni Wignaraja, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP</i></p> <hr/> <p>A panel discussion on building a climate resilient future featuring speakers from government and climate champions.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christophe Bahuet, Deputy Regional Director for Asia Pacific, UNDP</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hon. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, Member of Parliament, Indonesia Parliament</i> • <i>Hon. Loren B Legarda, Senator, Senate of the Philippines</i> • <i>Hon. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva and President of UN Human Rights Council</i>
1115-1215 Hrs.	<p>Fireside Chat: Climate Change and Inequality</p> <p><i>A dialogue on the interlinkages between climate change and social/gender inequality and how to chart a way forward towards a just economic recovery through inclusive climate solutions.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Balazs Horvath, RBAP Senior Economic Advisor, Strategic Advisor for BRI, UNDP</i>
1230-1345Hrs	<p>Panel Discussion: Swimming Against the Tide- Nature Based Recovery</p> <p><i>The panel discussion will share good practices including smart policies and key enablers that are driving the movement for Nature-based Solution. The session will also discuss the impact of these solutions for creating a just and inclusive society and a sustainable economic recovery.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Verena Linneweber, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Samoa</i>

	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Saleemul Huq, Executive Director, ICCCAD</i> • <i>Beau Damen, Natural Resource Officer, Climate Change and Bioenergy, FAO</i> • <i>Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together, Myanmar</i>
Day Two: 24th March 2021, Wednesday	
0930-1030 Hrs.	<p>Fireside Chat: Gender Responsive Climate Solutions for Climate Related Security Risks and Sustaining Peace</p> <p><i>A conversation around how gender dynamics shape climate related risks and the impact of engaging women in natural resource governance and climate resilient livelihood for sustaining peace.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Catherine Wong, Policy Specialist, Climate and Security Risk, UNDP</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Froilyn Tenorio Mendoza, Founding Member and Executive Director, Teduray Lambangian Women’s Organization Inc, Philippines</i> • <i>Coral Pasisi, Director, Sustainable Pacific Consultancy, Pacific Islands</i>
1045-1200 Hrs.	<p>In Conversation: An Equitable Climate Finance Framework</p> <p><i>This session will bring together key actors in the climate finance framework to discuss the current level of gender integration in climate finance, funding policies that facilitate the implementation of gender responsive climate action and the current gender gap in accessing climate finance.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Asad Maken, Governance Specialist, UNDP</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dian Lestari, Director of Center for Climate Finance and Multilateral Policy, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia</i> • <i>Ms. Saila Farzana, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division, Bangladesh</i>
1230-1400 Hrs.	<p>Panel Discussion: Climate Change Adaptation through a Local Lens</p> <p><i>This session will bring together key actors from the region that are leading local approaches to climate change adaptation through an inclusivity lens and discuss key insights and opportunities for scale up in the region.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yusuke Taishi, Regional Team Leader, Global Environmental Finance, UNDP</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bunroeub Khiev, Gender Specialist, NCCDS, Cambodia</i> • <i>Daovinh Souphonphacdy, Deputy Director of Climate Change Management Promotion Division, Department of Climate Change, Laos</i> • <i>Galumalemana Anne Rasmussen, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa</i>

Day Three: 25th March 2021, Thursday	
09:30-10:45 Hrs.	<p>In Conversation: Climate Solutions and Leaving No One Behind</p> <p><i>A dialogue on the power of diverse view and perspectives for shaping climate solutions and building resilient and just societies.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kavita Naidu, Member, Women & Gender Constituency, UNFCCC</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jan Kairael Guillermo, Chairman & Founder, LEYTEAM Inc., Philippines</i> • <i>Joseph Sapati Moeono-Kolio, Head of Pacific, Greenpeace, Samoa</i> • <i>Ms. Kalyani Raj, Member in Charge, All India Womens Conference, India</i>
1100-1230 Hrs.	<p>Deep Dive Clinic: Looking Ahead- Inclusive Climate Action through NDCs</p> <p><i>This session will bring together insights from stakeholders to address the different bottlenecks including structural, institutional, and societal barriers and bring a whole of society approach to the implementation of NDCs in the context of the new normal.</i></p> <p><i>In breakout groups, speakers and participants will discuss around two main questions focusing on good practices, enablers within the ecosystem and building strategic partnerships. The participants will come back to plenary to present their key action points.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Krib Sitathani, Country Coordinator, Climate Promise UNDP</i> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emma Rachmawaty, Director of Climate Change Mitigation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia</i> • <i>Syeda Hadika Jamshaid, Climate Change Specialist, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan</i> • <i>Fan Xing, Assistant Researcher of Department of International Policy Research, China National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, China</i> • <i>Ugyen Tshomo, Chief program Officer of the National Commission of Women and Children, Bhutan</i>
13:00-1345 Hrs.	<p>Way Forward & Forum Closing</p> <p><i>A brief discussion on key takeaways of the forum, followed by the closing remark by UNDP</i></p> <p><i>Closing Remark by Jaco Cilliers, Manager, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP</i></p>

Event Modality

The forum will be organized on Zoom platform. The forum will be open to public and interested participants will be requested to register prior to the forum. The forum sessions will be organized in an interactive manner to facilitate knowledge exchange including good practices and lesson learnt. Each session will include an interactive Q&A session amongst participants and speakers to facilitate sharing of ideas and experiences.