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Framework Convention on
Climate Change



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Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Asia and Arab States

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DIALOGUE REPORT

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Overview

The Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Asia and Arab States was co-organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Secretariat of UN Climate Change (UNFCCC), in collaboration with the NDC Partnership. The event built on past NDC Regional Dialogues hosted by UNDP and the UNFCCC Secretariat around the world and supported countries in the process of implementing their contributions submitted in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The 18th such dialogue in the series, the Bangkok event aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Exchange emerging good practice and experiences on how countries are aligning NDC and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) processes;
2. Identify approaches for raising ambition and identify NDC implementation processes that support long-term development strategies, the adaptation-mitigation nexus and climate resilience;
3. Identify priorities and action points to move NDC implementation forward;
4. Improve understanding of financial tools, private sector incentives, and investment drivers for clean energy solutions;
5. Identify solutions and practical approaches to address barriers to clean energy finance;
6. Identify appetite for ongoing regional conversation and leadership to drive forward;
7. Introduce gender equality and women's empowerment considerations and actions for NDC implementation and investments in the energy sector.

The dialogue was hosted by the Government of Thailand and funded by the European Commission and the Governments of Germany, Japan, and Norway. It convened over 110 participants, including government representatives from 23 countries of the two regions, as well as international organizations and experts involved in NDC implementation planning. Participants represented a variety of ministries, including environment, planning, finance, and sectoral line ministries, as well as other institutions – reflective of the cross-cutting nature of NDCs and the need to involve a range of stakeholders in NDC implementation planning processes.

The dialogue was launched with welcoming remarks from Mr. Phudhiphong Suraphruk, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, **Thailand**. Mr. Suraphruk highlighted the importance to move from NDC planning to action in spite of different political agendas. He underscored the urgency to act by referring to the recent devastating flooding in Indonesia.

Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Deputy Resident Representative, **UNDP Thailand**, highlighted the broader context of this NDC Dialogue as one step in a long-term collaboration among UNDP, UNFCCC and the NDC Partnership with countries in Asia and the Arab States. She welcomed the series of NDC Dialogues as a platform for countries to exchange national experiences. She also noted the importance of the Dialogues in the context of the ongoing Talanoa Dialogue as an opportunity for countries to share and frame their best practices to be picked up by other countries in the near future.

Key Messages

Among the key messages coming out of the Bangkok Dialogue were the following:

- Successful NDC implementation will require meaningful coordination both horizontally across government ministries and vertically at the national, sub-national and local levels;

- Consultations and strong institutional arrangements and mechanisms for coordination among key stakeholders will be needed to successfully implement NDCs;
 - Private sector actors will play a key role in NDC implementation – both as financiers and as implementers of initiatives with climate change-related benefits – and an enabling environment for private sector engagement and public-private collaborations must be enhanced;
 - Financial instruments as well as innovative financing mechanisms and arrangements for unlocking private sector investment must be leveraged for adequate finance to be mobilized;
 - The energy sector featured heavily in participating countries' NDCs and barriers to investments and implementation of clean technologies need to be further explored;
 - Aligning NDCs and long-term national development plans should not only be considered as an opportunity for NDC implementation but also to secure political buy-in and reassure investors;
 - Gender equality and women's empowerment is a cross-cutting issue and gender considerations must be included in NDC planning and implementation for effective climate action;
 - Enhanced data systems for tracking and transparency purposes will help countries assess and close gaps around NDC implementation;
 - An integrated approach will bring about other climate-related benefits in sectors such as health, agriculture, etc. and lead to scaled up climate action; and
- Interestingly, countries from two very diverse regions shared extensive commonalities with regards to NDC implementation which highlights the importance of continued cross-region and -country collaboration.

Key Questions of the Talanoa Dialogue

1. Where are we?

Following the key questions of the Talanoa Dialogue, participants in this panel session discussed the status of NDC implementation, trends and development challenges in the Asian and Arab regions and the diversity of contexts in both regions.

In Asia and the Arab States, 20 out of 23 countries participating in this Dialogue ratified the Paris Agreement and almost all submitted (i)NDCs, with some already beginning to revise their NDCs. The country experiences highlighted the following aspects that can facilitate NDC implementation:

Consultation and strong institutional arrangements can better facilitate NDC implementation. In **China**, the Working Group for Climate Change supports NDC implementation through its executive and advisory roles, including conducting analyses to support the design of climate change strategies and target setting. **Palestine** is establishing a Climate Change Committee, which will lead the NDC implementation process and at the same time engage with relevant sector ministries to discuss issues across sectors, including energy, water, transport, agriculture and planning ministries.

Aligning NDCs with national development plans was noted as an opportunity for NDC implementation. In **Bhutan**, one of the national development goals is to maintain GHG emissions at a carbon neutral level. The integration of both NDCs and national development plans enables the country to put greater emphasis on NDC implementation and its green and low carbon development pathway. However, as there are many national development priorities, it is crucial to *enhance understanding* that this integrated approach will lead to benefits in other sectors and help reduce poverty, urbanization issues, etc. Bhutan also explained how countries increasingly recognize that adaptation and mitigation are both part of the same continuum and not addressed as an 'either-or' solution.

The *energy sector* features in most participating countries' NDCs. It was highlighted that emissions reduction should be addressed on both the energy generation and consumption sides, for which *policy and regulatory instruments* play a critical role. **UNFCCC** highlighted that making the transition in both supply and demand is not often a low-hanging fruit but rather requires great efforts – i.e. investments, in-depth planning, upholding decision-making and implementation.

What happens between now and 2020? The intergovernmental negotiations are ongoing to develop further guidance as part of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, including features of NDCs, information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding of NDCs, accounting for NDCs, use of market mechanisms, common time frames and NDC registry. Also, relevant processes include enhanced transparency framework and global stocktake. These will provide a clear roadmap for NDCs and guide Parties for submission of Biennial Update Reports (BURs). The year 2020 will be an important year as a mandatory cycle of NDCs will be kicked off.

2. Where do we want to go?

The second session focused on articulating development and energy goals and how they contribute to NDC operationalization, with a special focus on the energy sector. As a country case, representatives from the **Philippines** presented their experiences on NDC implementation and the National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System ([NICCDIES](#)) and provided insights on how a government can coordinate on this complex issue.

The Philippines have identified five essential elements for NDC implementation, namely, five 'S's. First, *social preparation and engagement*: The process of identifying and finalizing NDC targets should ensure the involvement of government, private sector, youth and gender groups and all relevant stakeholders. Second, *sustainability*: NDC is not a stand-alone plan but should be integrated into existing national development and sectoral plans to ensure its sustainability. Third, a *strategic partnership* that takes into consideration who the key actors will be; what roles they will play; and how to engage them in the NDC formulation and implementation. Fourth are *standards and tools* that provide guidance to conduct mitigation assessment and cost-benefit analysis and finalize mitigation options. These tools help the finance ministry to come up with economic models and thereby engage other stakeholders. Last but not least, a *system* to monitor and track progress of NDC implementation needs to be put in place, given that NDC is not a one-off submission but needs to be updated and communicated on a regular basis.

In discussion with the panel, the Philippines revealed further aspects that can facilitate the operationalization of NDCs:

- *Institutional arrangements that promote stakeholder engagement*: In the Philippines, the Climate Change Commission leads the coordination and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Commission takes a bottom-up approach for target setting, which involves *thorough consultation* with sector ministries, sub-national agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations. Most government agencies are actively engaged in defining mitigation options and reflect them in existing and new programmes and projects.
- *Political buy-in*: The Commission is under the office of President and chaired by the President, which ensures the highest level of commitment. Further, *legal mandate*, i.e. Executive order from the President, has played a critical role in encouraging private sector engagement in NDC formulation and implementation. Last year, the Green Jobs Law was issued to assist the private sector in the transition to low carbon development and green jobs.
- *Private sector engagement and awareness-raising*: Acknowledging the importance of private sector engagement, the Commission in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, has held several business summits to consult on low-emission development strategies and to

ensure the private sector is continuously engaged with mitigation efforts.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system:* The country has set up a NICCDIES to monitor climate actions across the country and track the progress, by consolidating data and information from different sources including public and private sectors and other stakeholders. It enables decision makers to inform the policymaking, development planning and investment decision processes.
- *Gender perspective:* In 2009, a national law was passed and provided a mandate that all government agencies have to allocate 5% of their annual budget to address gender issues. Further, the Commission of Women provides a *gender mainstreaming evaluation tool*, which helps to assess how far the agency is mainstreaming gender issues by examining the gender-sensitiveness of 1) people; 2) policies; 3) mechanisms; and 4) programmes and projects.

The country case presentation was followed by a group discussion to identify approaches for NDC operationalization. The panel session and the following group discussion showed how many countries are revisiting their NDCs and that a number of countries are using mechanisms to track progress of NDC implementation. Going forward, it is expected that the need for online data platforms will grow. In this regard, the example from the Philippines showed the successful use of an online tool for tracking purposes and transparency. The example also showed how the Philippines used consultations and institutional arrangements to set up the NDC together with sectoral ministries to ensure better implementation in the long run.

3. How do we get there?

During this session, participants explored routes to investing in clean or efficient energy solutions as well as different energy technologies that would contribute to the energy transition. Participants chose from different breakout groups on:

- Solar energy: **Yemen** presented its experiences using solar energy in the context of a vulnerable country. In small groups, participants discussed barriers and opportunities of solar energy; how government subsidies to conventional energy sources can prevent the spread of solar PV; and the widespread lack of technical expertise to determine the right type and capacity of solar panels to be installed. Another critical point was a lack of maintenance and engineering services, which often hindered installed panels from being used long-term, as well as the absence of standards to make solar modules compatible. Another issue raised was to foster small companies producing PV panels for easy local market access and sustainable maintenance. Buffering times of low solar radiation was also discussed. In terms of on-grid, it was noted that adjustments to the energy grid are required in order to transport energy from areas where solar energy may be best produced to areas where it is most consumed.
- Wind & river hydro: **Mongolia** provided a country case example of a wind farm and hydro power plants that were implemented through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The use of these clean energy technologies has led to savings of 122,000 tons of raw coal, 1.6 tons of water and 180 ktons of CO₂ emissions. **Jordan** emphasized the key role of the private sector and the importance of long-term agreements to reassure investors and developers and to help stimulate investment. In **Pakistan**, public-private partnerships (PPPs) are in place to help transition from thermal to wind and hydro energy, with hydro energy being developed for off-grid areas in particular. **Bhutan** and **Nepal** underscored the geographical difficulties they face as the mountainous region and high altitude impede the construction of projects. **Philippines** mentioned the challenges in covering the costs of constructing off-grid transmission lines. An overview of approaches to identify suitable renewable energy zones, project assessment tools and additional support resources were outlined by the National

Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Countries confirmed the need to carry out assessments to determine the appropriate technology for investment and the importance of a long-term development plan for unlocking investment.

- Energy efficiency in buildings: **Vietnam** and **Lebanon** presented their experiences in energy efficiency in buildings and highlighted how these activities contribute to their NDC targets. Participants were interested in the Lebanese example, a national financing mechanism which provides subsidized commercial loans to private enterprises for any type of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects – including retrofitting existing buildings, new buildings, and certifying buildings. Technical and financial reviews are completed by external consultants which are then reviewed and approved by an independent council. In the case of Vietnam, the status of efforts was presented including a supportive policy environment and internationally supported projects that include policy enabling, demonstration of energy efficiency solutions, and capacity building. The cases helped show how investments can be unlocked by demonstrating low risk, reliable returns; a regulatory/compliance framework that is realistic and enforced; on-going awareness-raising both with end-users and investors; demonstrated high-level support across ministries to signal harmonization and foster trust across relevant ministries; and an enforceable regulatory environment.
- Energy efficiency in industry: **Iran** presented their country's experience on how industrial sustainability can be a criterion to select technologies for addressing energy efficiency in the NDC. Key points echoed during the discussions include: It is critical to conduct discrete *needs assessment and cost analysis*, which can inform the design of concrete projects. The *government* should play a catalytic role by establishing specific *incentive structures* that are tailored to sectors, markets, and asset clusters. Furthermore, the *standardization of equipment and technology solutions*, endorsed by the government, can enhance the accountability and thus encourage the industry sector to advance their decision-making to take technology solutions on board. Documentation of standardization and certification can also help financing institutions make decisions to invest. Finally, small and medium enterprises often face more challenges to unlock investments, as business opportunities in energy efficiency are not well understood by private banks. An *awareness campaign for financing institutions* and/or a set-up of a dedicated credit line or specific banks in the country could help address such issues.

Finance Instruments for Unlocking Investment

In this session, participants broke into six groups to gain a wider understanding of potential finance instruments, how they work in practice, why they are effective to unlock investments for climate actions and how they could work in different country contexts. Participants were able to select three out of the six financial instruments to explore in more detail. The instruments included:

New sources of finance:

- Green bonds including 'Green Sukuk': It was discussed how green bonds and Islamic finance can be part of a broader strategy for leveraging climate finance to scale. Green bonds are a rapidly growing financing instrument and asset class, with a market growing by 15% from last year and from \$0 to \$170 billion in issuance in ten years. Similarly, Islamic finance has grown by 10-12% annually over the past two decades. Despite this, these instruments are relatively unfamiliar to most NDC stakeholders as a tool to close the SDG and NDC financing gap. **Indonesia's** 'Green Sukuk' was used as an example for innovation as a marriage between green bonds and Islamic finance to scale up and refinance existing climate projects.

- Impact investing: This table discussion focused on impact investing as a tool to mobilize finance for climate action. The idea of impact investment is to generate and measure social and environmental benefits of the investment, not solely economic return. In contrast to the business concept, which is underpinned by maximizing profits, the impact investment concept is underpinned by stakeholder benefits. The impact of the investment is prioritized and has the same importance as its financial return, which means that investors do not pay for the inputs but for the outcomes of an investment. For the concept to work, it is important that the stakeholder impact is clearly defined, a value alone will not be sufficient, and the impact needs to be quantifiable and monitored.
- Micro-finance & crowd-funding: This discussion helped participants to understand the scope and potential of micro-finance. Participants showed interest in the topic as an NDC finance instrument, which has helped to make an economic impact and has already supported sustainable development in many different regions. **Mongolia** highlighted its *loan programme for GHG emissions reduction* granted by XacBank and co-funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Crowd-funding was a relatively new tool for participants and there were no existing climate related examples. It is used mainly by the private sector to raise capital to create a business. Nonetheless, options for crowd-funding were explored as a finance tool for climate action but its full potential has yet to be put into effect.

Practical applied instruments:

- Climate budget formulation & tagging: Two instruments were introduced for participants' consideration and discussion. First, climate budget tagging is a tool for monitoring and tracking of climate-related expenditures in the national budget system. It provides data on relevant climate change spending and enables governments to make informed decisions and prioritize climate investments. There are two dimensions in this exercise: 1. Establishing baselines; 2. Strengthening accountability and transparency. Second, Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Review (CPEIR) is a methodology that allows for an assessment of current policy priorities and strategies as these relate to climate change; a review of institutional arrangements for integrating climate change policy priorities into budgeting and expenditure management processes; and an analysis of public expenditure and its relevance to climate change.
- Investment assessments: The group discussed how Investment and Financial Flows (I&FF) assessments address the implementation bottleneck by identifying the investment and financial flows required to implement climate action, as well as sources and timing investments. Investment assessments help countries to: Break down national climate change targets into concrete action points; determine major sources of public and private investments; identify the investment and financial flows necessary to implement these measures, as well as the possible sources of finance, and the implementing entities and the timing of investments; and structure national budgets and investments more efficiently. **Thailand** shared its experiences in planning for its investment assessments in the transport sector.

Instruments focusing on risks:

- De-risking and insurance: The general approach and methodology of the UNDP-developed de-risking renewable energy investment (DREI) was introduced and followed by a country-perspective experience from **Lebanon**. The tool estimates the costs and impact of the necessary government-led investments and allows for the calculation of additional carbon reduction resulting from the larger cost-effective deployment of renewable technologies. Four risk categories were identified in Lebanon: 1) "power market risk"; 2) "grid and transmission risk"; 3) "counterparty risk"; and 4) "political risk". The de-risking methodology

was then designed to help remove these risks to reduce the cost of equity and debt in Lebanon to catalyze unlocking renewable energy investments and accelerate implementation of NDCs, which include major components on renewable energy including wind and solar. The session elaborated on Lebanon's experience in implementing the de-risking methodology to bring the costs of equity down from 16% to 11.4% (compared to 7% in Germany).

Enabling Environment for Unlocking Investments

Participants in this session discussed enabling factors in more detail and what needs to happen practically to incentivize investments. In breakout groups, participants shared emerging practices of what works and identified thought-provoking questions, which should be considered when aiming to strengthen the enabling environment for investments. Breakout sessions included:

- Policy and regulations: Enabling factors were explored, such as transitioning from a fixed Feed-in-Tariff to Reverse Auctions and other methods to help stimulate investments in renewable energy. Some countries, such as **Mongolia**, explicitly work on linking their NDC with the SDGs. Participants also shared experiences of unlocking investments in renewable energy through tools such as net metering and reverse auctions. There was agreement that there is a strong drive to push for investments in the energy sector in spite of regulatory and physical barriers as well as political obstacles. The group formulated questions to go forward. Pakistan decided to raise their specific questions during the Challenge Buster session.
- Access to finance: Countries shared their experiences of accessing finance with **Indonesia** highlighting its concept of 'Green Sukuk' or green Islamic bond which was used to stimulate private sector engagement. Nepal shared an example of equity financing for clean energy to help bear the brunt of overall investment costs. India and Pakistan contributed experiences from rural women networks of micro-finance, where a revolving fund was created. Another approach, which builds on the example of 15 Arab States that partnered to submit a GCF proposal for regional funding, aimed to strategically team up existing implementing entities to attract investment. A general conclusion was that the private sector should not be seen as one monolithic entity but instead specific engagement approaches are necessary to respond to concrete businesses and activities. Overall it was highlighted that including gender in NDC implementation is not only a rights issue, but also has economic benefits.
- Technology transfer: Participants considered "thought-provoking questions" to support the decision-making process and strengthen enabling factors at the country level. For example, it was mentioned that the linkage between NDC and Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) process under the Convention should be further explored. Under the TNA process, priority sectors for technology needs are identified, which should also inform decision-makers on how to close the gap to reach NDC targets. Also, national level coordination among the Ministries of Science and Technology and Ministries of Environment and Climate Change is important to foster climate resilient technologies. In many countries, the science and technology ministry leads on technology development and in certain cases, climate change still needs to be mainstreamed in the process.
- Capacity development: This group discussed challenges that are faced by many countries including access to finance; the costing of NDC components; and capacity building in broader issues such as gender, MRV, etc. It was acknowledged that there are different types of expertise (technical, project management, participatory skills) and that a common framework is needed to identify which stakeholder requires capacity building on each skill. Some countries noted their desire to reduce the dependency on international consultants

(e.g., for project development) to increase national ownership of projects and to create long-term institutional capacity. Countries discussed what the right level of international support would be that still keeps countries in the driving seat. The **NDC Partnership** noted that it organized a meeting for the Honduras' Committee on Inter-Governmental Cooperation and a delegation from the Dominican Republic and how in fact this meeting also became a useful team building exercise for both delegations.

Integrated Responses for Scaled-Up Climate Action

This panel session aimed at learning from real project examples and how using an integrated approach can lead to scaled up climate action.

In the **European Commission**, its integrated approach is focusing on a *long-term vision and roadmap* that details where we want to go and what the targets would mean for each sector. The vision obliges member states to set their own long-term vision and to operationalize it. The roadmap developed in 2014 has been used as a basis for NDCs of member states. The European Commission is preparing a long-term strategy beyond 2050 which will guide its member states to establish their own long term strategy. Recently, member states agreed an Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth which called for: 1) enhanced transparency of market participants' activities; 2) mainstreaming sustainability in risk management, i.e. taking into account environmental and climate risks in the financial sector; and 3) a clear definition of climate finance mechanisms for investments and channelling more investment into sustainable sectors.

UNFCCC noted that while gender equality is undoubtedly a rights issue, it is also about the effectiveness of solutions. Limiting warming to well below 2°C cannot be achieved if the perspectives of 51 per cent of the population are not included. Gender roles can be transformed through changes in laws, norms and customs. Financial and technical support is available through various sources for countries to integrate gender considerations in their climate policies and programmes, including the GCF and Adaptation Fund readiness or direct access programmes, and the Global Support Programme for the preparation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Communications (NCs).

In **Pakistan**, addressing municipal waste treatment and disposal as an integrated approach brought other benefits, such as *climate, environmental and health benefits*. The Government had introduced a competitive process where companies were engaged to explore sustainable solutions. This helped to identify and select an economic model, which can be replicated to other cities across the country. Consequently, the Ministry of Climate Change has put in place a plan for expanding such projects. This practice is also encouraged by the Federal Government as well as by the Five-Year-Plan, which is currently under approval.

In **Bangladesh**, saline intrusion and flooding is major issues in a number of regions. To address them sustainably in the long-term, there has been a widespread recognition in coastal communities that aspects of *mitigation, adaptation, security and development benefits have to be addressed in conjunction with one another*. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs allocates a certain amount of budget for climate action and joins forces for an adaptive mechanism for the social protection of women. It is proposed that such an integrated approach should be scaled up and sustained.

In **Lebanon**, the Ministry of State for Women Affairs was recently established and a National Strategy for Gender Equality was developed. The country is addressing gender equality by ensuring women's rights are part of the decision-making process and women have access to resources as well as improving the data system by collecting sex-disaggregated data. The country plans to work on developing a *Gender Action Plan* which will require stocktaking of planned and on-going activities of

different ministries and thereby close inter-agency coordination. Further, the country plans to raise awareness on the relationship between climate impacts and different gender roles and responsibilities through the media.

Gender equality and women's empowerment is a cross-cutting issue and requires systematic approach and mainstreaming. It is about reflecting on "who needs to be involved?". This includes private sector and civil society and making connections between all different actors. The Gender Action Plan calls for an inclusive stakeholder engagement process which should cover all aspects of the national economy. Moving forward, UNFCCC will gather information from Parties and non-Party stakeholders about climate actions for women and men, communities and indigenous people and using sex-disaggregated data through a call for submission that is currently open.

Challenge Buster: Unlocking Investments

For this innovative session, six countries (challenge-givers) provided a specific challenge their country faced around NDC implementation and unlocking investments. All other participants (peer-consultants) then chose which country challenge they could best contribute to (in terms of relevant advice, best practices or lessons learned) or could best learn from. The session followed a 45-minute format during which, time slots were allocated to the challenge-givers to describe the specific problem and the type of support the country seeks and to the peer-consultants to learn more about the specific challenge, ask questions and provide insights.

The challenges submitted by countries showed a broad spectrum of technical and political questions:

- What is a good mechanism for monitoring and tracking the progress of NDC implementation? (Indonesia)
- How can we coordinate and involve different sectors in NDC development and implementation? (Mongolia)
- How can the issue of grid gradient be addressed for a safe transfer/addition of renewable energy solar? (Pakistan)
- How can we secure the capability of the grid to absorb renewable energy production? (Palestine)
- Technical challenge of how the system can absorb more renewable energy? (Sri Lanka)
- How can we transition from the INDCs to an NDC, and how can we secure financial support, technical assistance and capacity building? (Timor Leste)
- How can we engage the private sector in the NDC process? (Vietnam)

The aim of this session was to provide challenge-givers concrete actions to take away based on the experiences of peer-consultants.

Looking ahead - The Way Forward on NDCs

This session looked at capturing insights from the dialogue and identifying possible next steps for action. In terms of learning aspects and key takeaways from the Dialogue, countries noted the emerging good practices and learned from national experiences on aligning NDC and SDG processes. Countries also mentioned they had positively identified approaches for raising ambition and identifying NDC implementation processes. Many participants also welcomed the chance to network with others, to learn about specific examples of how challenges are being tackled in other countries, and the opportunity to benchmark their own activities in this context.

Overall, the Dialogue was described as a good source of collective learning and as an interactive way for sharing knowledge. Participants also noted it was useful that 'gender voices' were integrated into

the different thematic sessions to ensure gender considerations were taken into account in NDC planning and implementation.

Participants voiced a number of ways on how they plan to use key takeaways from the Dialogue in their work such as conveying them in their contributions to the Talanoa Dialogue; high-level national outreach and strengthening national inter-agency coordination mechanisms; developing specific Terms of Reference (ToR) for climate change focal points in key line ministries; and legalizing roles and responsibilities in national climate change laws. Also the idea of a centralized online platform to coordinate NDC implementation such as in the Philippines was taken up by a number of participants. Some delegates said they would now like to comprehensively take stock of current NDC investment instruments; to explore the different financial instruments discussed in the breakout groups; and to work on establishing a financial mechanism for NDC implementation going forward.

Finally, countries raised their priorities for the near future across a number of topics, especially for their next steps on NDCs. Plans include:

- Updating their NDC, preparing an NDC Implementation Roadmap and reviewing NDC indicators;
- Developing a national climate change policy and better integrating existing climate change policies into the overall national policy framework; and
- Strengthening sector alignment and developing NDC action plans for implementation at the sectoral level.

In terms of revising their NDCs, delegates outlined a number of approaches to do this including trying to quantify and monitor their baseline information e.g., through economic modelling with emission projection tools. Regarding coordinating efforts on NDC implementation, several countries explained that they plan to strengthen their legal framework and coordination mechanism, to foster the engagement of stakeholders from various sectors and to create action across sectors. Finance of course also played a crucial role in terms of next steps. Planned activities include: Creating a public investment programme; conducting investment assessments; unlocking private sector finance through improved policy incentives; and developing a financial mechanism along with an MRV component. Finally, in terms of action in the energy sector, delegates highlighted the need for ownership by the respective sector agencies over 'their' respective aspects of the NDC as well as the special focus on seeking business investment for renewable energy sources.

Conclusions and Next Steps

In the closing session, Ms. Susanne Olbrisch, **UNDP**, acknowledged that the experiences of such a diverse group of countries and participants had greatly contributed to substantive discussions and a practical attitude of 'how to get things done' throughout the 2.5-day dialogue. Participants welcomed the opportunity to get a broad overview of climate finance approaches and mobilization, as well as the unique experience to have two regions – Asia and Arab States – to exchange their knowledge and to explore commonalities. UNDP reiterated that the dialogue should be a springboard for continued exchanges among countries, international organizations, the private sector and donors to move forward with NDC implementation and to discuss next steps on NDCs in the context of the Talanoa Dialogue, raising ambition, and long-term development strategies. The co-organizers intend to continue accompanying countries in the long-term on their NDC implementation and to extend this series of Regional Dialogues on NDCs into 2019.