


 A banner image for the MENA Climate Change Newsletter. It features a landscape with a body of water in the foreground and a city skyline in the background under a clear sky. The text "MENA Climate Change Newsletter" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

MENA Climate Change Newsletter

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COP 15 or Copenhagen Climate Change Summit

MNSSD

Introduction: We are pleased to send you the first MENA climate change newsletter: "MENA in a changing climate". This quarterly newsletter intends to provide readers with the latest on climate change in the region. We will collect and disseminate news on past and upcoming events, news articles, papers and reports, and the latest on climate change related projects and studies in our region. We need your help in order to do so. Please send comments, suggestions, news, publication, etc. related to climate change in MENA to: jholten@worldbank.org, dverner@worldbank.org.

COP 15 or the Copenhagen Climate Change summit: The COP 15 stands for the 15th Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP is the highest body of the UNFCCC and consists of environment ministers and other delegates who meet once a year to discuss developments in the convention. During Dec. 7-18 environment ministers and officials met in Copenhagen for the United Nations climate conference to draft a successor to the Kyoto protocol (the world's attempt to regulate CO₂ emissions), which runs out in 2012.

The COP 15 was a historic event because of the expectations of millions of people around the world who hoped that it would mark the turning point in the fight against climate change. The COP 15 was the culmination of two years of intensive negotiations under the UNFCCC and the Bali road map agreed at the COP 13 in December 2007. The high-level segment of COP 15 brought together around

115 Heads of State, and was widely reported as one of the largest high-level gatherings outside New York. Around 45,000 people applied for accreditation.

The COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen ended with a 12-paragraph accord - Copenhagen Accord (Accord). The dust has not yet settled from the chaos in Copenhagen, as the Accord's interpretation and implications are being worked out.

Global Targets: Optimists had hoped that Copenhagen's outcome would include a quantitative global emissions reduction of 50 percent by 2050, a clear timeframe for global emissions to peak and a midterm emission reduction goal for the developed countries. Small island countries and least developed countries wanted to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5C) above preindustrial levels, which would set the limit for atmospheric CO₂ at 350 parts per million. However, all references to 1.5C were removed.

Mitigation by 2020: It was expected before Copenhagen that developed countries would commit specific numbers for emissions reductions to 2020. The problem had been to find a formula compatible with the legislative process. The US rejected the Kyoto top-down approach of allocating emission targets. Instead they advocated a "pledge and review" process through which the target is set and updated on the basis of domestic action and legislation.

The Copenhagen Accord: The Copenhagen Accord moves toward a pledge/review approach. There is broad commitment by the developed countries to undertake economy-wide emissions targets by 2020. However, no

numbers are specified in the Accord; instead, developed countries will submit the “numbers” and “base year” to the UNFCCC Secretariat, by 31 January 2010, for compilation in an information document. Since the numbers are to be expressed in an Information document, questions would be raised as to their legal status and how they would be reflected in an international regime.

Under the Accord, developing countries will submit their nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) to the UNFCCC Secretariat, by 31 January 2010.

Finance: Perhaps the main achievement of the Copenhagen Accord is on finance. In the run-up to Copenhagen, the EU advocated prompt start financing and euro 100 billion by 2010. Important to note, the 100 billion includes public financing, carbon markets and private financing. Moreover how much money will go to adaptation and to mitigation is also not clear. Finally which countries are eligible to access the fund also have to be worked out. In Copenhagen, the EU announced euro 2.4 billion for prompt start, and the US pledged US\$ 1.5 billion annually. The final push came from Hillary Clinton in Copenhagen when the negotiation was deadlocked. She announced that the US was prepared to work with other developed countries to mobilize US\$100 billion a year for climate financing (both adaptation and mitigation) by 2020, conditional upon a deal from Copenhagen.

Institutional Arrangements for Finance: Developing countries have argued that a new fund should be established, which should operate under the guidance and authority of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. Many of the developing countries view that the Breton wood system is controlled by donors and thus any climate fund should be established under the UNFCCC to enable developing countries to exercise more control and have direct access.

Developed countries, on the other hand, prefer existing institutions. The US openly stated that the World Bank and other MDBs should be the main institution for managing funding.

The Accord leaves many operational details undefined—for example, what exactly is the relationship between the COP, the High Level Panel and the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund (CGCF), how to operationalize the CGCF, and who should manage the CGCF. It is expected that those operational aspects would be elaborated in the Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) working group that will continue its work next year. The intention seems to be that in the short term financing would be channeled through the existing institutions; beyond 2012, climate financing would then be channeled through and managed by the CGCF.

MENA in COP15: On December 11 the MENA side event was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ulla Toernaes, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation was present at part of the WB day. The event was organized as a debate about the implications of climate change in the MENA region and moderated by John Vidal, from the Guardian newspaper. The panel was composed of negotiators from Yemen and Syria (as it was at a critical point in the negotiations and although both Morocco and Egypt had accepted to participate they could not leave the negotiations). It was a very interesting and informative debate and the audience walked away with a sense of what the urgent issues are in the region and how climate change and variability is already affecting the countries and people’s lives and livelihood. The MNA region prepared flyers and posters for the event, which were very useful for promoting the Bank’s activities related to climate change in the region. Staff are welcome to use the material produced for any other event they may be organizing or attending. Thanks are extended to the Climate Change team and many others- and in particular to Angela Hawkins and Sanne Tikjoeb for assisting in preparing and making the MNA brochure so appealing¹.

For more information on the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen visit en.COP15.dk. For more on

¹ Please go to:
http://intresources.worldbank.org/INTCLIMATECHANGE/Resources/MENA_CC_Brochure.pdf

MENA's involvement in COP15 contact Dorte Verner or Johanne Holten.

Link to the Copenhagen Accord:
http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_15/application/pdf/cop15_cph_auv.pdf

Copenhagen Key to Climate Investment: *The Copenhagen Key To Climate Investment* was held on December 3-4 in Copenhagen and hosted by ATP (the Danish Labor Market Supplementary Pension Fund) and the Danish Climate Change Consortium. The event witnessed prominent speakers such as Lord Stern, LSE; the past and current Danish Ministers of Climate Change and Energy, very large pension funds and other leaders from the private sector. For a detailed program check the The Copenhagen Key To Climate Investment website: www.copenhagenkey.dk. Vital business investment in clean technology to tackle climate change is being threatened by delays and doubts over the COP15 deal on climate change. Without urgent progress which will stimulate funding for renewables, nations could be locked into high-carbon energy and transport technologies for many years. The danger of uncertainty over clean technology investments is an immediate problem both in MENA and in other developing countries. Most countries have to make decisions right now about where they are going to invest to obtain the energy needed for their economies. Now renewable energy sources have a premium to pay up front, and these decisions are being influenced by uncertainty on the price on carbon. There is a risk that countries will invest in existing high carbon technologies that will produce high carbon emissions for 20-30 years.

The markets need a strong, clear signal about CO2 reductions, said Lord Stern. "That's what we can give in Copenhagen with a strong political agreement. If we get nothing then it would be very damaging to confidence." All participants have accepted that it is impossible to seal a legally binding climate treaty in Copenhagen in the next couple of weeks. The question now is whether leaders will be able to set firm "politically binding" targets for carbon emission reductions and the funding that rich nations need to provide for poorer nations to

cope with global warming and develop green technologies.

Stern argued that Copenhagen was the moment to begin the transition to a low-carbon sustainable economy, which would be cleaner, quieter and more secure. The business-as-usual scenario creates a 50 percent chance of a 5C temperature rise by the next century.

Figures released by UNEP in June showed that in 2008, clean technologies attracted US\$140 billion of investments compared with US\$110 billion for gas and coal for electrical power generation. However, it looks now as investment has fallen significantly in 2009, with green technologies suffering disproportionately.

Please contact Dorte Verner for more information on the Copenhagen Key to Climate Investment.

What happened in the last month on climate change in MENA?

Concentrated Solar Power (CSP): The Clean technology Fund (CTF) approved financing of \$750 million on December 2, 2009, as part of an investment plan which will mobilize an additional \$4.85 billion from other sources, to accelerate global deployment of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). It will do so by investing in the CSP programs of five countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The proposed projects will mitigate about 1.7 million tons of carbon dioxide per year from the energy sectors. If the program is successful and replicated, the global benefits will be far larger. The transformational objective of this investment plan is served by accelerating cost reduction for a technology that could become least-cost globally, and then be replicated in other countries with high GHG emissions.

Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR): The Yemen PPCR team held the first joint mission in Yemen with the objective to prepare for submission of a proposal for Phase I of the program. The Mission met with the implementing agency EPA and various ministries, as well as civil society and donors.

It is envisaged that the proposal for phase 1 of the PPCR in Yemen will be submitted to the CIF-admin unit in January 2010. For more information on the PPCR in Yemen please contact Dorte Verner.

Upcoming Events:

Dissemination of the WDR in MENA: The dissemination of the WDR report in the region is already happening. Dissemination has occurred in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Kuwait in October, 2009. A second round of disseminations is planned for February. The WDR team will visit Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, and Syria. Please contact Julia Bucknall for more information.

BBL: Like a Hand in a Glove: Low Carbon growth and Renewable Energy in the Context of Climate This two-part presentation will focus on low carbon growth and clean energy and will 1) present the Bank's low-carbon assessment program, for which the Mexico low-carbon study was recently completed. 2) show how the countries in the MENA region have embraced clean energy as part of their National energy strategies. Speakers: Todd Johnson and Chandra Govindarajalu
Time and place: January 25, 10:00 - 11:30 in room H8-290

BBL: Water in Mena: the New Oil?

A discussion of the role of water in Mena by author of the well renowned book "Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization" Steven Solomon and Julia Bucknall, Sector Manager ETTWA.
Speakers: Steven Solomon and Julia Bucknall
Time and place: late February, date to be confirmed.

News on Funds and Grants:

The MENA Global Fund for Youth Investment Competition: The Youth Driven Development Competition seeks to identify and support small-scale youth projects developed and implemented by young people, addressing the thematic areas of youth development supported under the GPYI: entrepreneurship and civic engagement. Relevant to climate

change, one of the selection criteria for the initiative is: "Promote Environmental Quality: The extent to which the proposal promotes the preservation or restoration of environmental quality within the framework of the main competition themes". Grants will be awarded to 10 initiatives for up to \$33,000 per activity. Eligible countries include: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza. Deadline for submission of proposals are January 15, 2010. More information available at www.worldbank.org/gfyi. Thanks Gloria and Bruce for sending this information. For more information contact Gloria La Cava.

MDTF. Raffaello has kindly informed us that the proposals have been assessed by an evaluation committee, and 6 proposals have been selected for Donor Review:

Adaptation:

- Support of Downscaling Climate Change in MENA Region w/ Case Studies
- Improving Food Import Supply Chains in Arab Countries
- Vulnerability to Climate Change in Agricultural Systems in MENA

Mitigation:

- Economic Analysis to Assess the Potential for CSP in MENA and Evaluate the Derived Benefits of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Development
- Cairo Congestion Study
- Marseille Center Program on Cities and Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation)

New publications and findings on climate change

The Copenhagen Diagnosis: Climate Science Report for Policy Makers. Since the latest IPCC report, many hundreds of papers have been published on topics related to human-induced climate change. The Copenhagen Diagnosis synthesizes the most policy relevant of all this

climate science into one report. The executive summary is available in 11 languages².

2009 Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development - Arab Environment Climate Change - Impact of Climate Change on Arab Countries: Bruce Macphail has kindly sent us the link to this interesting report that was published last month. The report describes the mitigation efforts in the Arab countries as well as the impacts of climate change on a number of sectors including health, food production, land use and urban planning, water, sea level rise, tourism, and biodiversity. The authors conclude that, alarmingly, virtually no work is being carried out to prepare Arab countries for the climate change challenges. At the same time they found that 98% of the Arab population believes that the climate is changing, and 89% believe this change is due to human activities³.

Contact MNSSD:

Laszlo Lovei, Director, MNA Sustainable Development Department
Luis Constantino, Manager, MNSSD

MNA Climate Change Team:
Dorte Verner and Johanne Holten
Tel #: (202) 458 2813

The MNA Climate Change Briefs are intended to summarize lessons learned from MNA and other Bank Knowledge and Learning activities on Climate Change issues. The Briefs do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Bank, its board or its member countries.

² Find the full report and summaries here:
www.copenhagendiagnosis.org

³ The report can be found at:
<http://www.afedonline.org/afedreport09/default.asp>