Report of Roundtable on SDG13 on Climate Action

REPORTING TEMPLATE

1. Responsible Officers: Curt Garrigan

2. Facilitators for breakout groups:
   a. Increasing Ambition Levels: Sudhir Sharma; Aneta Nikolova
   b. Financing and Recovery: Hannah Ryder; Jens Radschinski
   c. Disaster Risk and Vulnerabilities: Iria Touzon Calle and Sanna Salmela
   d. Inclusion-Education/Human Rights/Gender: Inkar Kadyrzhanova and Mark Manns

3. Rapporteur: Mr. Irfan Tariq, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan

1. Feedback received on the content of the goal profile during the Q&A sessions

A. List comments received on facts and figures of the goal profiles
   1. IFRC offered correction on citations:
      for ARMOR:

Suggested citation for FbF chapter in ARMOR:

Link to the IbF guide

Suggested citation:

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. (2020). The future of forecasts: Impact-based forecasting for early action. Retrieved from:

B. List comments received with regards to best practices for advancing progress on SDG 13 in Asia and the Pacific

- Representative of Pakistan highlighted nature-based solutions to address climate change, ecosystem restoration initiatives, protected areas, and wildlife. The government has developed national climate change policy and mechanisms to address trans-sectoral issues, so SDG13 includes other government departments, engaged to come up with the first SDGs implementation plan, including benchmarks.

- Civil society representative suggested that working with people on the ground is the best way to understand the complexity of the climate change issues and how solutions and polices work in reality. Consideration of all factors, disaggregated data, and engagement with different groups can properly assess solutions such as renewable energy projects to identify adverse impacts on water, forests, and wildlife.

- Business sector representative noted the data gap and several global initiatives that encourage companies to report on their carbon emissions in business activities. Many companies have embarked on better reporting system and investors are now demanding information of the climate related risks and both financial institutions and companies are required to report on their climate related risks, which generally encourage the transition.

- Finance representative stated that climate change is macro-critical – having an impact on the macro economic stability and performance. It was noted that fuel subsidies may have been adopted with good intentions, such as helping the poor, however, they usually benefit the upper strata of the society and countries should consider more targeted policy efforts.
2. Policy recommendations on priority for action to make further progress on SDG 13 in Asia and the Pacific

1. The round table on **Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action)** made several recommendations on the Goal for Asia and the Pacific.

2. It recommended to **Redesign the finance and investment systems to become climate action compatible**: The amount of climate financing utilized in Asia-Pacific is increasing year on year; countries in East Asia and the Pacific are the largest receivers of climate finance flows, 41 per cent or USD 238 billion in 2017-2018. To elevate the levels of climate finance a favourable environment and systemic approaches to climate finance must be fostered to incentivize such investment, while ensuring gender responsiveness and human rights. This includes engagement of private sector and increasing accessibility of climate finance for many sectors, including local communities and marginalsied groups, to generate demand. Several important measures need to be undertaken, including:
   - A thorough subsidy reform to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies coupled with SDG 7 roadmaps
   - Incorporate climate action conditionality in post-COVID19 recovery packages to avoid investments in carbon-intensive activities
   - Robust enforcement of the polluters’ pay principle, including through the establishment of carbon taxes/carbon pricing instruments and fostering of sub-regional and regional carbon markets
   - Working with private finance sector to integrate climate action and risks into their operations
   - New, additional, non-debt creating climate finance, observing principles of inclusion and human rights, including a focus on adaptation and considering loss and damage.
   - Incentivize the leapfrogging to avoid carbon intensive activities in transition to zero carbon society.

3. It recommended to **Seize COVID-19 recovery opportunities to accelerate climate and disaster risk reduction action**: The national COVID-19 recovery initiatives, including promotion of digitalisation, provide a window of opportunity for green, healthy, safe and more resilient recovery with the ambition towards zero emissions. There is potential for leveraging climate actions from mitigation, adaptation and resilience-focused efforts in line with the Paris Agreement with co-benefits for realization of multiple SDGs, across all levels (local, sub-national, national, sub-regional, regional) over the short, medium and long-terms. Climate actions can leverage co-benefits in areas of, inter alia, air pollution (including transport, energy) – and contribute to multiple Sustainable Development Goals. To leverage recovery opportunities a review of climate and disaster risk governance mechanism (laws, policies and strategies) at central and subnational levels is recommended to ensure better coherence across the various frameworks and the adoption of a multi hazard approach.

4. It recommended to **Increase ambition levels in Nationally Determined Contributions**: The path to achieving safe climate is the one where countries undertake ambitious climate action to achieve Paris Agreement compatible 1.5°C emissions pathways, which are also aligned with the SDGs. This will entail
that emissions peak in 2020-2021, and then with sufficient measures for mitigation, the emissions decline by 45 per cent by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Most recent NDC updates from the region show ambitions towards achieving the latter target and it is imperative for the other regional countries to follow suit with ambitious pledges and NDC reviews in 2021. Those can well be aligned with green and inclusive, pro-poor, post-COVID-19 recovery strategies for achieving both human and planetary health. Since emissions from fossil fuels constitute the sizeable amount of the overall regional emissions, it is important for the countries in the Asia-Pacific region to embark on a path of decarbonization of power generation by 2050. One key factor to achieving this scenario is increasing the share of renewables. The co-benefits of such a pathway are numerous, ranging from creation of new jobs, fostering new revenue streams and opportunities for economic growth and business development, to drastic reduction of air pollution with direct and indirect impact on health. Member States are urged to submit enhanced NDCs, including mitigating of short-lived climate pollutants, especially black carbon, to achieve co-benefits and to strive at pledging to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Development of roadmaps to affordable and clean energy would allow countries in Asia-Pacific to design best scenarios for the energy production, energy supply, and energy use in industry, transport and housing to achieve net zero emissions, develop renewable energy business options, ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all, and create new job opportunities.

5. **It is recommended to Enhance institutional frameworks, adopting a whole-of-society approach.** Integrating the NDC commitments in sectoral and subnational budgets, with the endorsement of financial ministers, will ensure gains in implementation and further raising the ambition of the second editions of the NDCs. Engagement of public sector in developing climate finance strategies would ensure mobilization of domestic financial resources needed for implementation and upscaling of NDCs, as for example is achieved in the Philippines with the strategy for a just transition to a zero emissions society and promoting green jobs. Policy actions should include empowerment of youth, women, vulnerable and marginalized communities.

6. **It is recommended to Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction into public financial management and private investment.** Urgent action is needed to use scientific forecast to understand risk, prevent new risks, reduce existing risk, adapt to a changing climate and enhance anticipatory humanitarian action approaches by strengthening coherent climate and disaster risk governance systems and develop evidence-based and inclusive policies that are linked to financial resources and locally led participatory action. Measures noted below, can also be used to strengthen the climate dimension of National Integrated Financing Frameworks:

   - Adoption of tools to support such action, including policy instruments, such as Climate change financing Frameworks; Climate and Disaster risk management Public Expenditure and Institutional reviews; and Climate Budget Tagging
   - Action that encourages and incentivizes private investors and banks to strategically align their investments with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs and scale up their contribution to the achievement of both. Innovative schemes can include launching carbon pricing instruments, such as emissions trading systems or a carbon tax to incentivize industries to reduce emissions as well as to develop risk-informed resilient infrastructure. Tools such as green
and catastrophic bonds and integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction into business operations should be promoted to support decision making regarding potential impactful weather or climate events on the business and communities in which they operate.

- Increase institutional capacity of governments, civil society, local and indigenous communities, public and private stakeholders to develop ‘bankable’ proposals that enable harnessing co-benefits for human rights and gender equality and allow investors to make gender-responsive climate-related investments (for instance, through creating climate finance training in universities, taking down barriers hindering women’s access to climate finance) and ensuring continued work across humanitarian and development communities, e.g. on anticipatory actions. Support to youth-focused and youth-led organizations can be prioritized, given their active role in implementing climate solutions on the ground and the intergenerational inequity caused by the climate crisis. Developing countries, especially small island developing States, least developed countries and climate vulnerable areas, will require ‘readiness’ support to accredit direct access entities and help them develop successful GCF proposals. Finance reporting needs to be improved and climate finance flows need to become more transparent to address the gap between pledged and received resources. This can be supported by engaging civil society in the review of proposals.

7. It is recommended to Strengthen climate information services for vulnerable sectors and communities, integrate human rights-based approaches, and develop gender-responsive monitoring systems, data collection and application. Investment in climate and disaster risk assessments and disaster loss accounting systems, with strong emphasis on vulnerability analysis and sex-, age-, and disability disaggregated data (SADD) collection can be strengthened to ensure that vulnerable populations (children, gender minorities, indigenous people, migrants, displaced etc.) and social sectors crucial to them (e.g. health, education etc.), are reflected in climate and disaster risk management and policies and investments. Shortfalls of sex-disaggregated data and lack of gender analysis undermines relevant policymakers and agencies to address the disproportionate climate-related impacts on women and that inevitably leads to gender-blind policies, planning, and strategies. National environmental and disaster statistics and disaster forensic capabilities can be improved to identify gender and socio-economic impacts of past extensive and intensive disasters, assess costs and benefits of disaster risk reduction investments and improve the accuracy of future disaster risk impact modelling that takes into account diversities across population groups. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) should also be used to assess and present progress on achieving climate and disaster resilience goals. Ministries responsible for managing monitoring systems and data collection should leverage existing platforms and mechanisms to strengthen coordination and data sharing across sectors, civil society, and other stakeholders, including through targeted capacity building for government officials.

A human rights-based approach should be integrated in any climate change adaptation or mitigation measures, such as the promotion of alternative energy sources, forest conservation or tree-planting projects, resettlement schemes, protected areas and others. Affected individuals, different groups, including LGBT and communities must participate without discrimination, in the design and
implementation of these projects. They must have access to due process and to remedy if their rights are violated.

8. It is recommended that **Investments in environmentally and climate friendly technologies should benefit women by providing equal green job opportunities.** To address the widening gaps of gender equality and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, women’s economic empowerment through green jobs should be a priority for COVID-19 recovery. One promising area for this is improving women’s access to renewable energy solutions and sustainable and climate-friendly technologies. Decentralized renewables for energy access (DREA) provide opportunities to open new economic potential for the poor as well as unlock resilient livelihoods for communities, including women, through access to electricity for irrigation, processing equipment or early warning systems. Investment in environmentally friendly technologies, eco-based climate change adaptation, climate-smart agriculture and climate-resilient food system is also crucial to help vulnerable people and to build climate-resilient societies.

9. It is recommended to **Enhance the capacities of local governments to accelerate climate actions:** Multilevel climate action is essential to leverage local climate action and contribute to NDC implementation. Effective decentralization through vertical and horizontal integration should be supported by clear governance frameworks and can be a key enabling instrument to enhance collaborative climate action among national and subnational authorities and develop shared responsibilities that may reduce the burden on central governments. It is important to support the vulnerability assessments and mapping at district level done with the engagement of local or district disaster management committees. Support for financing of subnational actions and access of local governments to climate financing are essential to capitalize on local mitigation and adaptation opportunities, including through renewable energy, energy efficiency, public transport and resilient urban infrastructure. Regional cooperation creates opportunities for sharing appropriate innovative solutions across cities and the domino effect from learning and raising ambition levels at subnational levels.

10. It is recommended to **Mainstream Climate Change in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD):** Climate education, including from a human rights-based approach perspective, needs to be mainstreamed across all aspects and levels of education systems, as well as in non-formal, informal education and lifelong learning to ensure strengthened understanding of the risks and remedial measures that can be taken at the national and local levels, leveraging the co-benefits with SDG 4. Higher education institutes can be supported to teach and study climate change mitigation and adaptation options, and communities can be encouraged and enabled to apply best practices. The five priority action areas for mainstreaming climate action into ESD include: 1) advancing policy - both at the national and at the school/community/local levels to integrate and implement climate action and ESD, 2) transforming learning environments - ensuring a whole-school approach that engages ALL stakeholders and actors into climate action, 3) building capacities of educators - ensuring that teachers and learners are resilient in the face of crises and change, 4) empowering and mobilizing youth - ensuring engagement and inclusion of all and driving future change and solutions, and 5) accelerating local level actions - strengthening the holistic approach to climate action and ESD.