Critical imperative of moving beyond business as usual: 
Ambition in the context of 2019 Climate Weeks

A New Era of Ambition

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement the international community committed to keeping the
global temperature increase between 1.5 and 2°C above pre-industrial levels and creating climate
resilient societies, underpinned by necessary finance flows. Countries submitted Intended/Nationally
Determined Contributions (NDCs) as their individual contribution towards meeting this objective.

However, at the aggregate level, the emission reductions the NDCs entail are not enough to keep
the world on track to limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Even if the NDCs were fully implemented, the
world would still be on the path to warming between 3.5 to 4°C. Given the narrow window of
opportunity available to prevent runaway climate change, 2019 and 2020 will be critical years in
securing enhanced ambition needed to put the world firmly on the track for achieving the 1.5°C
objectives the international community has collectively agreed to.

Most of the rules for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement are now in place. Therefore, it is
time to rally behind governments and non-Party stakeholder (NPS), in an unprecedented manner, to
support them address challenges in significantly scaling up efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to
the impacts of climate change, in line with the Paris Agreement. We must make concerted efforts for
systemic changes to secure a transformation towards low emissions and climate resilient world.

Generating political momentum: the 2019 Climate Summit

With this context in mind, on 23 September 2019, United Nations Secretary-General (SG) will host the
Climate Action Summit in New York with the objective of facilitating raising of ambition and
accelerating action to implement the Paris Agreement. The SG aims to demonstrate a leap in collective
global political ambition and sweeping low-emission movements in the real economy through the
efforts of countries in raising national ambition, prompting transformative changes and generating
political momentum.

In order to ensure that the transformative actions in the real economy are as impactful as possible,
the Secretary-General has prioritized the following action portfolios, which are recognized as having
high potential to curb greenhouse gas emissions and increased global action on adaptation and
resilience.

**Finance:** mobilizing public and private sources of finance to drive decarbonization of all priority sectors
and advance resilience;

**Energy Transition:** accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy, as well
as making significant gains in energy efficiency;

**Industry Transition:** transforming industries such as oil and gas, steel, cement, chemicals and
information technology;

**Nature-Based Solutions:** reducing emissions, increasing sink capacity and enhancing resilience within
and across forestry, agriculture, oceans and food systems, including through biodiversity conservation,
leveraging supply chains and technology;
**Cities and Local Action:** advancing mitigation and resilience at urban and local levels, with a focus on new commitments on low-emission buildings, mass transport and urban infrastructure; and resilience for the urban poor;

**Resilience and Adaptation:** advancing global efforts to address and manage the impacts and risks of climate change, particularly in those communities and nations most vulnerable.

### Asia-Pacific Climate Week, 2019

The Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW), taking place from 2 to 6 September 2019, in the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand is being organized in support preparations of the UN SG’s Climate Summit and to voice recommendations and support actions from the region.

With the urgency of closing the ambition gap in mind, it is critical that the Asia-Pacific CW capitalizes on its full potential to mobilize all stakeholders in this endeavor. For this to happen effectively, it is vital that the discussion on the above areas at the Climate Week are complemented with extensive ground work by all partners pre-and post the event, to develop relevant initiatives, building on their regional portfolio, that will result in real and transformational impacts on the ground.

This will enable the Asia-Pacific region to contribute to the UN SG Climate Summit as a front runner in implementing innovative and transformational climate actions. Similarly, the APCW will contribute to building momentum towards the COP 25 to be held in Chile in December 2019 by ensuring that climate action remains central to the UN Climate Change process.

In the spirit of inclusiveness and building empathy that has characterized the Talanoa dialogue, this regional Climate Week will create a regional platform to discuss, to learn and exchange knowledge and best practices, and to form new ambitions partnerships between policy makers and regional stakeholders and key actors from across sectors in the region on the transformative actions in the focus of the SG’s Climate Summit, 2019.

At the Asia-Pacific Climate-Week, policymakers and key stakeholders will engage in targeted discussions on:

- How to generate momentum for ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement (Mitigation Strategies);
- How to advance commitments in areas that affect people’s well-being, such as reducing air pollution, generating decent jobs, and strengthening climate adaptation strategies and protect workers and vulnerable groups (Social and Political Drivers);
- How to mobilize people in the region to take action on climate change and ensure that young people are integrated and represented across all aspects of the Summit, including the six transformational areas (Youth Engagement and Public Mobilization)
## Programme of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week

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Day 3: Opening of the High Level Segment:

- **09:00 - 09:55**: P1. Opening Plenary: Towards COP25 and efforts to achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement
- **10:00 - 11:25**: P2. NDC implementation: Raising Ambition
- **11:30 - 13:25**: Lunch Break/ Side Events/ Action Hub
- **13:30 - 14:55**: P3. Social and Political Drivers
- **15:00 - 16:25**: P4. Carbon Pricing and Markets
- **16:30 - 17:30**: P5. Stakeholder Engagement towards the Climate Action Summit and COP25

Day 4: Thursday, 5 September 2019:

- **09:00 - 11:25**: TB 1.1 Energy Transition
- **11:30 - 13:25**: Lunch Break/ Side Events/ Action Hub
- **13:30 - 15:55**: TB 2.1 Nature based solutions (Ocean ecosystems and water resources)
- **16:00 - 18:30**: TB 3.1 Industry Transition

Day 5: Friday, 6 September 2019:

- **09:00 - 09:55**: WS 1. Forestry
- **10:00 - 10:55**: WS 3. Climate Finance
- **11:00 - 12:40**: WS 4. TEM-M Energy and Agriculture
- **12:45 - 14:40**: Lunch Break/ Side Events/ Action Hub
- **16:00 - 17:00**: P7. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations for the UN SG Summit
- **17:05 - 17:30**: P8. Closing Plenary
Take part in Asia-Pacific Climate Week!
We invite all organizations, businesses, civil society, and practitioners to participate in the Asia-Pacific Climate Week. For more information visit our website regionalclimateweeks.org

Action Hub
The Action Hub provides a platform for Non-Governmental Organization Intergovernmental Organizations, Youth Organizations, as well as Educational Institutions to share their work.
A stage in the center of the exhibition space will be provided to showcase innovative climate actions and ideas. Each selected organization will be given 15 to 30 minutes. Presenters are expected to engage the audience.

Side Events
Side events provide opportunities for organizations to conduct a session on topics aligned with the agenda of the 2019 Asia-Pacific Climate Week.
The session takes place for 1 hour in a dedicated room. Facilities available in the room will be communicated to the selected organizations. Organizations with shortlisted proposals will be contacted for further details.

Knowledge Corner
The Knowledge Corner provides Non-Governmental Organizations, Youth Organizations, as well as Educational Institutions with a shared booth to exhibit their work.
One of the booths in the exhibition area is dedicated to Knowledge Corner. Each selected organization will be allocated the booth for approximately 4 hours. The selection is on a first come, first served basis and exhibitors will be responsible for their own material.

Exhibition Booth
The exhibition booths provide opportunities for organizations to showcase their work throughout Asia-Pacific Climate Week.
Exhibition booths are provided on a commercial basis by the organizing partners.
Details of the exhibition booths will be conveyed to selected organizations.

For more information on how to apply for these opportunities, including details regarding deadlines, please visit our website or scan the code