



UN ESCAP Embassy of Sweden

Second Regional Workshop
Empowering People for a Sustainable Future

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Session 5: Public Foyer - GF SDG 13 – Climate Action

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Overview and Trends

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Climate science provides some unequivocal messages:

- Even in the most optimistic scenario, with GHGs emissions peaking by next year, a **one degree** increase will happen by the end of the century
- If emissions peak around 2040, we face an increase of **1.8 degrees**

Energy production and mining sectors are responsible for the highest emission in the region followed by **agriculture and manufacturing**. Mitigation solutions are available:

- Massive investments to renewables
- New incentives
- Carbon Tax
- Rethinking fossil fuels subsidies

Overview and Trends

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- The current **Nationally Determined Contributions** are vastly insufficient to keep climate change below 2 degrees
- Given the current trends, climate-induced **displacements** are likely to reach a disastrous scale
- Many of the climate adaptation plans in the region are not fully funded
- The Green Climate Fund, has approved \$2 billion for 102 projects, including 40 in Asia Pacific



Challenges to participation

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- Both the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 highlight the importance of participation but the mechanisms for participation (environmental education, training, public participation) remain neglected
- Climate change and poverty have multiplier effects, thereby furthering the exclusion of the most vulnerable

Challenges to participation #Action4TheGoals



- Climate change has a disproportionate impact on marginalized groups
- Insufficient progress for gender equality in the region disproportionately exposes women and girls to multiple climate risks.

But interlinkages between inequality and climate change allow to empower those left behind to build resilience and take more equitable and effective climate action



Participatory initiatives

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The Philippines Parliamentary Climate Change Committee: dialogue between farmers and development banks to ensure stable climate adaption financing

The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA): strengthens engagement between the Government of Myanmar and civil society networks, academic institutions, media, private sector and the State and regional stakeholders.



Participatory initiatives

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*Climate action is consistent with existing
human rights agreements and obligations*

ESCAP has proposed an **empowerment-and-inclusion framework** that can be used by policy makers to improve the results of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

As stated in 2030 Agenda, “*people who are vulnerable must be empowered*” and they can become agents of change in the necessary transformations to sustainability