



United Nations
Climate Change



RCC MENA and South Asia
Collaboration for Climate Action



NET ZERO
PARTNERSHIP



Global
Matchmaking
Platform



Fast-tracking decarbonisation in heavy industry through NDC enhancement: MENA

30 April 2025 | 13:00 CEST/15:00 GST

Background

Limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C – as called for in the Paris Agreement – requires global emissions to reach net-zero by 2050. This will require all sectors of the economy to decarbonise. Heavy industry and transport sectors (*i.e.* aluminium, cement, chemicals, steel, aviation and shipping) account for nearly 30% of global energy and process emissions. Beyond that, these emissions are expected to grow, as demand for these services and products increases.

Investment decisions on a fleet of deep decarbonisation projects will need to be taken within the next two years in order to stay on track for a 1.5°C net zero aligned scenario. Because the investments necessary are capital intensive and require long payback times, developing long-term policy frameworks is key to providing investment certainty.

By incorporating specific targets for industrial decarbonisation within their NDCs and LT-LEDs, governments provide clear policy signals that drive innovation and investment in clean technologies in these sectors. This not only accelerates the transition towards a low-carbon economy but can also foster the development of green industries, creating new jobs and economic opportunities.

Ambitious industrial decarbonisation targets within NDCs are essential for aligning short-term climate action with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, ensuring that national efforts contribute effectively to the global pursuit of net-zero emissions. Yet, less than 40% of Parties have incorporated industry-specific references and targets in their NDCs, with the majority of these references focusing on energy efficiency improvements which are not enough to achieve net-zero.

The MENA region's abundant renewable resources, such as solar and wind, and its strong industry provide a competitive advantage for further green industrial development. Industrial decarbonisation not only mitigates climate risks but also unlocks substantial economic opportunities, including job creation, technological innovation, and increased competitiveness in emerging green markets. By embracing industrial decarbonisation, countries in the MENA region can position themselves as leaders in sustainable development, driving further economic growth while protecting its environment and communities.

Objectives

This event intends 1) to raise awareness on the importance of industrial decarbonisation for achieving the Paris agreement's goals and its overall feasibility, and 2) to demonstrate the value of integrating industrial decarbonisation into NDCs and LT-LEDs, and 3) to facilitate collaboration between governments and relevant regional stakeholders to expedite the inclusion of industrial decarbonisation in NDCs and LT-LEDs.

Target audience

National NDC experts and other relevant government officials from Ministries of environment, climate change, energy and industry.

Agenda

Time	Agenda	Speaker
3'	Introduction and housekeeping	Carlos Ruiz Sánchez Programme Officer - UNFCCC
5'	Opening Remarks	Ana Vukoje Regional Lead, RCC MENA and South Asia
10'	Challenges and opportunities of decarbonising heavy industry - an overview of net zero pathways and the pipeline of deep decarbonisation projects	Nabil Ayoun Program Lead, Industrial Transition Accelerator
10'	Integrating industrial targets in NDCs	Dietram Oppelt Chair, UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee
20'	Government perspectives: approaches and benefits from reflecting heavy industry in NDCs	Alanoud Al Ali (TBC) Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Green Development and Climate Change, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE Ayman Refaie (TBC) Designated National Authority for Article 6 Head of Mitigation & CDM General Management, Ministry of Environment, Egypt
10'	Corporate perspective • EMSTEEL, UAE	Dimitrios Dimitriou (TBC) Vice President of ESG & Sustainability, EMSTEEL
10'	Financier perspective • International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Muhammad Azhar Rauf (TBC) Sr. Operations Officer, IFC
20'	Support for countries NDC Guidelines / Global Matchmaking Platform Climate Promise	Evita Moawad International Expert - Industrial Decarbonisation, UNIDO Benjamin Basmaci Regional Climate Change Specialist, UNDP
5'	Q&A / Interventions / Discussion	

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