

Asia Pacific Climate Week Key Messages for the UN Climate Action Summit

Overarching: The Asia-Pacific region can lead the global transformation in line with a 1.5C, climate resilient world. The transformation can be driven by dynamic subnational regions and cities, an innovative private sector, political leadership and finance.

- **Enhancing ambition** in the Asia-Pacific region demands a strong foundation for solutions across all sectors. Collaboration, enabling policy environments, and peer exchange can foster greater climate action.
- **Low carbon and climate resilient development** in the Asia-Pacific region requires the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development into holistic and systemic strategies, bringing together governments at all levels, the private sector and civil society towards a transformation that is just.
- **Access to finance** needs to be facilitated to channel finance where it is needed most, including strengthening capacities and access to resources.

Energy transition: Long-term holistic planning enables countries to tap into the large renewable energy potential of the Asia-Pacific region

- Decarbonizing energy requires long-term planning aimed at creating an enabling ecosystem for technology deployment and maximizing socio-economic benefits. Subnational regions, cities and local communities will be key drivers of change.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are economically viable and readily available today; successful business and financing models exist in the region that can be replicated and upscaled through policy, legal and financial frameworks.
- Private sector tapping into the inherent potential of the region should be incentivized through innovative procurement and financing models to allow for enhanced ambition at national levels.

Resilience & Adaptation: A fundamental shift in mindset is essential to respond to the need for transformative change in our systems in order to achieve long-term resilience for all

- **Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction centre** around addressing risk, reducing vulnerability and maintaining sustainable development. Ample opportunities for synergies exist, and should be further harnessed.
- **Local communities** must be at the centre of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Readily accessible science, data, knowledge and resources are essential for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans and national disaster risk reduction plans.
- **Systemic understanding and a nexus approach** to understand and address the interconnectedness of risks are key. Similarly, multilevel and regional coordination are essential for the success of efforts to strengthen resilience.

Nature-based Solutions: Nature-based solutions need be mainstreamed to integrate policies and frameworks at all levels and corporate sustainability strategies, and attract investment

- **Research and empirical data** are lacking to substantiate the inclusion of NbS in national strategies and NDCs and NAPs, in particular with regards to the role of blue carbon ecosystems in Southeast Asia in the global solution to climate change
- **Measurement and indicators** are the main issues preventing NbS to find their effective place in NDCs and NAPs: some countries in the Asia-Pacific region have included NbS in their climate plans but those lack a measurable dimension and hence do not specify their contribution to the target. This would benefit from a review process
- **There is a clear need for global nature-based solutions standards** to inform the identification of solutions, their planning, design and implementation as well as the assessment of their efficiency, effectiveness, affordability and sustainability

Transport: Climate action in urban environments can be driven by holistic mobility solutions for moving both people and goods.

- **Sustainable mobility and low emissions transport** have the potential to address climate change while realizing co-benefits that have a direct impact on the quality of life of millions of people in the region, including through enhancing air quality and reducing congestion.

- **Smart mobility solutions** require customized approaches matching local and regional needs and considered in the context of holistic local/regional development plans.
- **Scaling up and implementing these transport solutions** will require an integrated approach combining policy support, infrastructure development, investment from both the public and private sectors and capacity building, including for developing bankable projects

Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action - Buildings: National government leadership backed by a wide range of stakeholders supporting higher ambition is essential

- **Circularity** addresses challenges of cooling, waste management and local procurement of building and construction materials, at both buildings and cities level.
- **Vertical and horizontal integration of policies and capacity building** across governments at all levels, the private sector, the science community and civil society directly enhances the resilience and energy efficiency of city infrastructure.
- **Financial incentives** accelerate scaling; including eligibility for accessing green finance, loans at a favourable interest rate and reduced tax rates for sustainable behaviour.

Industry transition: Industrial sectors are on the path towards decarbonization. However, political will is still needed to accelerate the scale and pace of change, leading to multi-faceted and aligned policies that regulate and incentivize climate-friendly operations and products.

- **Innovation, data and R&D** supporting the development of new technologies and business models are needed for both large companies and SMEs to enable Asia-Pacific countries to leapfrog and continue to grow their economies in a sustainable manner
- **Industrial transformation** requires a just transition that promotes decent work, builds capacities, provides technical assistance, enables peer learning and knowledge exchange and ensures no one is left behind
- **A shift from a linear to a circular economy** is critical and needs to be coupled with societal changes towards sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns
