

Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East

2nd International Conference

Pre-conference workshop:

Climate change and finance: a regional view

Tuesday, 12th October, 11:00-13:00 EEST

Register here: <https://cyi.webex.com/cyi/j.php?RGID=r29c8a5c0ab065e44b45f06d1e4a79f3f>

OVERVIEW

The relationship between the finance sector and the climate crisis is an area with significant knowledge gaps yet huge potential to shape both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Financial institutions and regulatory bodies are accelerating processes to integrate knowledge on climate risks and financial tools into ongoing operations and future forecasts. Many professionals and researchers involved have identified the need for more research and knowledge exchange in order to create timely and appropriate tools. From a regional perspective, as the field becomes more established but while regulation is in its infancy, there is currently an opportunity to collaborate to develop risk scenarios, identify regional priorities and share knowledge on mechanisms and policy.

The aim of this workshop will be to exchange regional insights and knowledge to investigate the significance of the finance sector in tackling climate change around some central questions:

1. What are the different roles of the finance sector in the overall challenge of mitigating and adapting to climate change?
2. What are the current main issues for the sector and main tools that can be used to address these challenges?
3. How can we raise awareness and increase information flow amongst financial institutions and those that invest or use their services?

The broader goal of the workshop is to establish a network relating to climate change and finance in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. We hope to establish a coalition of experts who will pursue joint research, knowledge exchange and training for partners in the region. The target audience is researchers as well as professionals working in private and public sector institutions dealing with these topics.

Relevant topics include:

- Actual and expected financial regulation related to climate risks
- Financial tools for emissions management including carbon pricing, carbon tax, emissions trading
- A regional perspective on climate risks management, regional scenarios and assessment of financial risks
- Insurance markets in the region in light of climate change
- Impact investing in relation to climate and environment
- Collaborative processes for climate finance

PANELISTS

Moderator: Dr. Nicolas Jarraud, Assistant Vice-President for Institute Affairs, the Cyprus Institute

Introductory remarks: Ms. Galit Kenigsberg, Finance Arena, Tel Aviv University Climate Initiative

PANELISTS			
Name	Location	Affiliation	Theme
Prof. Stavros Zenios	Cyprus	Former rector of University of Cyprus	Climate risk for sovereign debt
Ms. Sina Hbous	Egypt	Executive Director of the Regional Center for Sustainable Finance (RCSF) and ESG & Sustainable Finance expert, Advisor to the Arab League on Sustainable Finance	Sustainable Finance
Dr. Kishan Khoday	UNDP Regional Hub in Jordan	Regional Team Leader Nature, Climate and Energy United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Hub for Arab States	Developing country level capacities and partnerships for climate finance goals in MENA
Ms. Lucia Alessi	European Commission – Joint Research Centre	Responsible for Sustainable Finance	The EU sustainable finance framework and its international pillar
Mr. Guillaume Sainteny	UNEP/Plan Bleu (France)	President of Plan Bleu	Environmental taxation
Idit Reiter	Israel	Head Environmental Law and Sustainability Department	Local, regional and international regulation that will impact the response of the finance sector

Summary and closing remarks: Prof. Colin Price, Tel Aviv University