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THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Education and Awareness for Climate Action in Europe and Central Asia

Date: 29-30 June, 2021

Languages: English and Russian interpretation

Zoom online platform.

To join the Meeting:

Session I: Regional Dialogue “Climate Education for Climate Action and Sustainable Development”

Registration: <https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqc-CgqTltGdyGMiX3GAvg7SHVbZl13gDB>

Session II: Teachers Dialogue and Workshops

Registration: <https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpf-CvrDMqG9F43yoxWSB2PtLP8jv2Y2md>

Session III: Youth Forum for Climate Action

Registration: <https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArdO-gqz8pGdZXiphYjilWpEXZGYa80Dd6>

Context:

Climate change is one of the defining global challenges faced by the humanity and the Planet. The current climate emergency calls for an urgent bold action involving governments, private sector and societies at large.

Engaging young people are key to solve climate crisis. There are 1.8 billion young people in the world, expected to reach 2 billion by 2050, representing the largest generation in history. Youth are also particularly vulnerable, given that 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict situations and 1 in 5 of the world's youth are not employed or enrolled in education or training. Youth's valuable experience and innovative ideas and solutions are still a largely untapped potential for transformative climate action. However, their knowledge, energy and passion have helped create a global movement demanding bold climate action from their leaders, while also driving actions in their countries and communities.

Climate education is essential to empower youth and to scale-up youth-led initiatives for climate action. Engaging with formal education systems and mainstreaming climate in school curricula is a way to outreach children and youth at large. Education sector needs to be included as a partner in the implementation of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions — the pledges countries have made as part of the Paris Agreement. Investments in the new education standards, training for teachers, better climate curricula, extracurricular engagement, as well as in resilient and zero-carbon schools are important elements of climate action.



UNDP has been implementing the climate education and awareness project *Climate Box* in ECA since 2015. Over the years, the Climate Box has evolved from an innovative toolkit into a comprehensive climate education programme that engages with education ministries, schools, informal and non-formal education activities. By 2021, Climate Box has been implemented in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Climate Box outreached over 85,000 school students and 4,000 teachers across the region. The project is implemented by UNDP with the financial support from the Russian Government through the Climate Window of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development.

Objectives of the conference:

The objective of the event is to advance the climate education, awareness and engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region building upon the outcomes of UNDP's regional climate education initiative *Climate Box*. Virtual regional dialogue aims at providing background to and sharing knowledge among countries and stakeholders. Each session of the regional dialogue will focus on the following topics:

- Promoting regional knowledge sharing and highlighting good practices on climate education
- Highlighting and encouraging success stories, achievements and innovative climate projects implemented in different schools and communities across the region
- Providing recommendations and views on future work on climate education and awareness in the region.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 3rd regional climate education conference in ECA will be organized through a virtual event. The Conference is organized through three interactive sessions targeting national educational and environment protection authorities, teachers and educational experts, and students from Climate Box partner countries. The participants will interact with international UN partners.

Climate Box is UNDP's regional climate education initiative and an interactive climate learning toolkit for school children and teachers. The Climate Box toolkit includes comprehensive materials and teaching tools on climate change designed for primary and secondary school children. It is available in Arabic, English, Russian, French, Spanish, as well as in the local languages of the partner countries. To learn more about the programme and to explore the toolkit please visit <http://climate-box.com>.

UNDP's Climate Promise is the world's largest offer of support for countries to enhance their pledges (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. In collaboration with over 35 partners globally, UNDP is helping 118 countries to be bolder in reducing emissions, increasing resilience, and protecting nature. UNDP's Climate Promise is offering five service lines for NDC enhancement including: (i) building political will and societal ownership at national and sub-national levels; (ii) reviewing, aligning, and updating existing targets, policies and measures; (iii) incorporating new sectors and/or greenhouse gases; (iv) assessing costs and investment opportunities; and (v) monitoring progress and strengthening transparency. Youth engagement and empowerment is an important aspect of UNDP's Climate Promise.



Programme

Day 1, 29 June, 10:00-14:30 (CET)

Time:	Session:	Presenters:
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Session I: Regional Dialogue “Climate Education for Climate Action and Sustainable Development” (1 hr 40 min)		
10 mins	<i>Welcome and introduction to the regional conference</i>	UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub UNDP Trust Fund for Development / RF MFA
3 mins	A Word Cloud Poll: WHY CLIMATE EDUCATION?	
7 mins	<i>Climate education and empowerment to accelerate climate action under the Paris Agreement</i>	UNFCCC, Action for Climate Empowerment (TBC)
7 min	<i>Education for Sustainable Development</i>	UNESCO
7 min	<i>UN CC:Learn - E-learning platform, youth dialogues and training on climate change</i>	UNITAR
7 min	<i>Education for Climate Coalition in the EU</i>	European Commission (TBC)
5 mins	<i>Young Climate Ambassador from the ECA region</i>	TBD
7 mins	<i>Climate Education and Awareness in ECA region – Climate Box: Results, Lessons and Ambition</i>	UNDP
30 mins	<i>Brief statements by the ministry delegates from Europe and Central Asia (1-2 minutes statements based on guiding questions)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia • Belarus • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyz republic • Moldova • Russia • Serbia • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan 	
7 min	<i>Engaging youth in climate dialogues in North Macedonia</i>	UNDP North Macedonia
3 min	Group photo	

30 mins

Break

Session II: Teachers Dialogue and Workshops (1 hr 45 min)		
15 min	<i>Climate change impacts and climate action: evidence-based education and learning</i>	
5 mins	<i>Presentation of the interactive climate education web-portal “Climate Box” and teachers’ discussion space</i>	UNDP
15 mins	<i>Presentation of the Teachers’ Training Modules on climate education</i>	Elena Malts, Russia
10 min	<i>Climate Box impact evaluation programme</i>	Yuliya Dobrolyubova, Advisor

30 mins	Breakout Groups: thematic workshops	
Group 1. Mainstreaming climate in school curriculum <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Discussion questions:</i>	Group 2. Implementing teacher's training programme as part of national refresher courses <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Discussion questions:</i>	Group 3. Informal education and off-curricula activities <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Discussion questions:</i>
15 min	Presentations and reflections from breakout group work	
15 mins	ZOOM poll: Future of climate education in ECA region	Moderated by:

Day 2, 30 June 10:00 – 12:30 (CET)

Session III: Youth Forum for Climate Action (2 hrs)		
5 min	<i>Opening and introduction</i>	Moderator
10 min	Menti / ZOOM poll	Moderator
6 min	<i>UNDP's Climate Promise for Young People</i>	UNDP NY
6 min	<i>Voice from a young climate activist / climate ambassador</i>	TBD (YOUNGO TBC)
6 min	<i>Youth Dialogues</i>	UNITAR
6 min	Youth leadership in adaptation to climate change	Global Centre on Adaptation
6 min	<i>"Green universities of Russia"</i>	Russian Green Movement ECA
20 min	Presentation of climate projects from Climate Box partner schools (short videos or statements – 1 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia • Belarus • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Moldova • Russia • Serbia • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan 	School students from Climate Box partner countries
40 min	World Cafes (2 rounds, 20 min each)	
Topic 1 TBD <i>Moderators:</i> <i>Miro Board</i>		Topic 2 TBD <i>Moderators:</i> <i>Miro Board</i>
		Topic 3 TBD <i>Moderators:</i> <i>Miro Board</i>
10 min	Presentations from World Cafes	
10 min	ZOOM poll: Why shall I join climate action?	Moderator:
5 min	Conclusions and closure	UNDP