



Realizing Climate Action in Myanmar: Opportunities for Private Sector Engagement

Roundtable Discussion Report

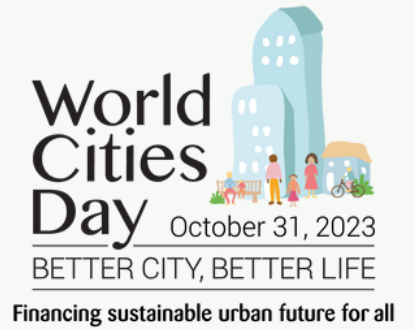


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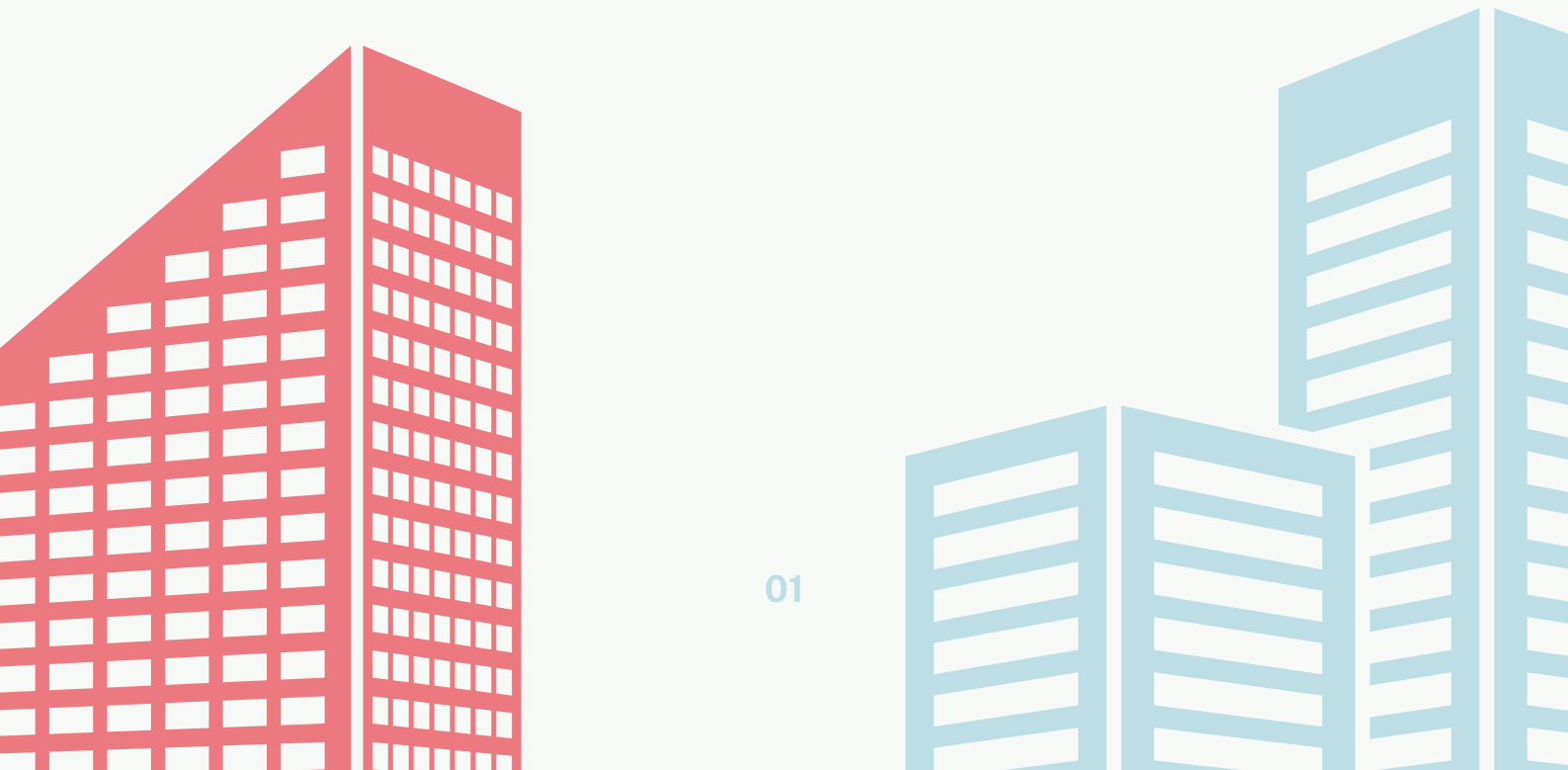
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Introduction

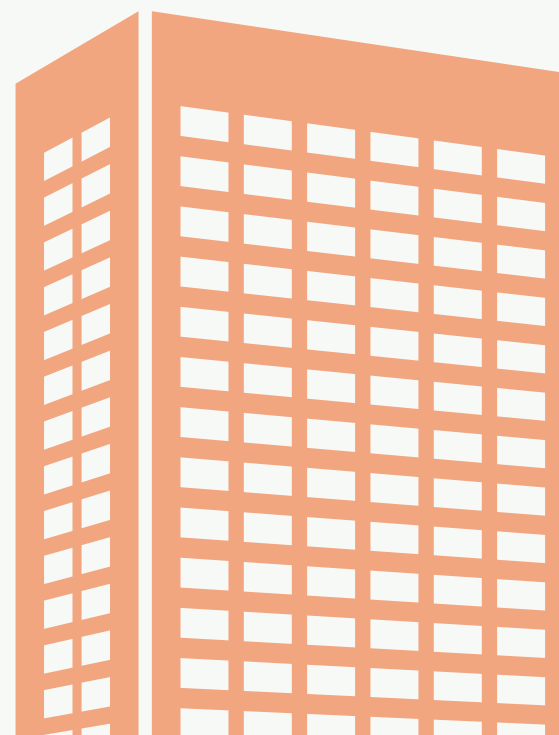
On World Cities Day, October 31, 2023, UN-Habitat Myanmar hosted a roundtable discussion on *Realizing Climate Action in Myanmar: Opportunities for Private Sector Collaboration*. The roundtable event was held as an opportunity to generate discussion around how the private sector can enhance collaboration in climate action. This roundtable hosted a panel discussion with private sector representatives on how the private sector may enhance collaboration to address the challenges of climate change and promote progress on achieving climate objectives in Myanmar. This discussion offered an important opportunity to understand the challenges and limitations, and to channel the needed support to, the private sector for promoting collaborative approaches to undertake climate action. To support the discussion, the roundtable also included a presentation of MCCA's draft "Private Sector Engagement Strategy" which is being developed to encourage and inspire increased collaboration for climate action in Myanmar. EDOTCO gave a brief presentation on how they work as an actor in the telecom industry to encourage and enact green business practices.

World Cities Day, established by the United Nations, has been celebrated globally since 2014 to mark the end of Urban October. Urban October activities take place around the world throughout the month with the goal of promoting sustainable and resilient cities and human settlements, addressing challenges faced by local communities, and raising awareness of the importance of sustainable local development processes in solving global issues. World Cities Day specifically emphasizes the need for cooperation in order to generate and implement innovative local solutions. Globally, as cities continue to grow, the call for building resilience, social inclusion, and improved infrastructure becomes increasingly significant.



Under the Global Climate Change Alliance initiative of the European Union (EU), UN-Habitat is implementing the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) programme. It aims to promote climate resilience at community level through local resilience planning. MCCA is currently implementing the 2nd phase of the program to strengthen climate resilience at local level with youth and gender responsive action as well as to improve climate dialogue across different sectors and diverse geographical regions in Myanmar. Myanmar is one of the most climate-affected countries in the world, despite minimal contribution to global CO2 emissions. In order to realize and raise climate ambition, the inclusion of all sections of society is required, including women and youth, indigenous groups, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The integration of different sectors, including the private sector, is also required.

Global climate finance outlook shows a major gap between the need and current climate finance flow. Climate investment in climate mitigation and adaptation actions needs to increase tenfold by 2030 to reach USD 5 trillion per year, especially in developing countries, LDC and SIDS (IPCC, 2018). As per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), private sector investment is needed to address climate concerns to fill the gap especially after the global pandemic which has reduced public sector financing. The private sector offers unique opportunities to influence businesses and investment in order to reduce the carbon footprint, adapt to adverse climate and promote sustainable growth. The private sector offers an important source of influence in their communities, and so may play a vital role in introducing important courses of action and innovative approaches. Civil society and private sector partners at the local level also play a relevant role in achieving ambitious emissions reduction, adaptation, and resilience targets. It is through sustained collaboration and coherence across all sectors that communities will achieve effective, context-specific climate action, tied to a unified vision.



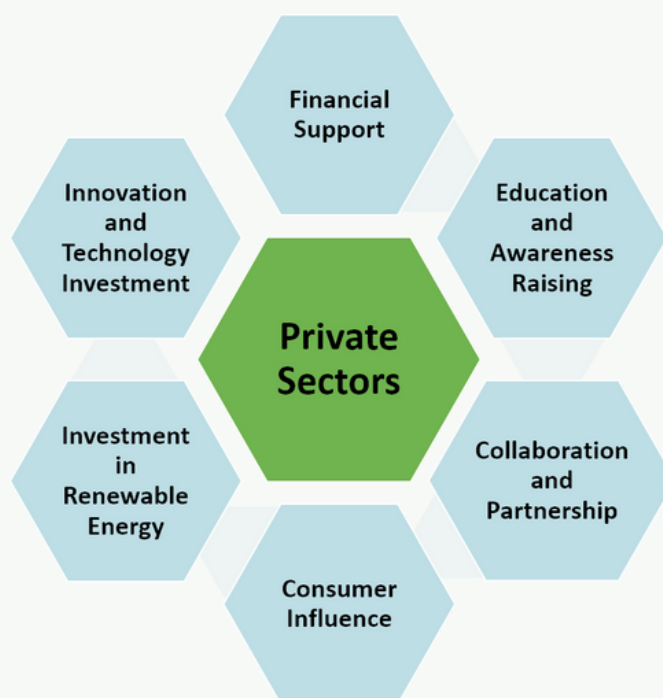
Summary of Proceedings

Opening Remarks

The session was opened by Mr. Carl Frosio from the European Union Delegation in Myanmar. He briefly highlighted the increasing finance gap in climate action and emphasised the crucial role of the private sector in fueling innovation and providing essential financial resources. He further acknowledged the pressing need to address unsustainable business practices that contribute to growing carbon emissions while highlighting the role that the European Union will play in providing support for climate action in rural areas.

Presentation on UN-Habitat's Private Sector Engagement Strategy

UN-Habitat is currently developing a Private Sector Engagement Strategy for climate action. This document will outline why the private sector is needed for climate action, how climate action benefits the private sector, and what roles the private sector can fill. The severe impacts of climate change, including flooding, cyclones, and drought, must be tackled by working with all the actors that are affected. The private sector is one such actor and can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges due to its influence on emissions, substantial investment capabilities, and capacity for research and development. The different roles that the private sector can play (outlined in the figure below) include financial support, education and awareness raising, collaboration and partnership, consumer influence, investment in renewable energy, and innovation and technology investment. This strategy aims to highlight shared objectives and foster a collaborative approach to climate action.



Presentation from EDOTCO

EDOTCO is a leading telecommunications infrastructure services company. Headquartered in Malaysia, EDOTCO focuses on providing end-to-end solutions in the tower services sector. EDOTCO opened the roundtable discussion by presenting on their companies approach to climate action. The presentation outlined their comprehensive approach centered on three key pillars: Environment, Social, and Governance. Their internal initiatives include switching to renewable energy sources, reducing environmental impact through initiatives like minimizing steel tower usage and diesel consumption, and committing to achieving net-zero emissions by 2030. The company recognizes the challenges tied to government policies, macroeconomic considerations, and the need for a balanced approach between social and environmental priorities. EDOTCO overcomes these challenges via collaboration across stakeholders including engagement with vendors, customers, staff, communities, and regulators to collectively work towards sustainable telecommunications solutions. Additionally, the presentation highlighted diversity and inclusion efforts, a dedication to reducing resource use, and specific initiatives such as incorporating refrigerated vaccines storage into towers, water treatment projects with communities, and tree planting to contribute to their overarching sustainability goals.

Roundtable Discussion

Following the presentations, the roundtable discussion began and was moderated by Mr. Shashank Mishra from UN-Habitat Myanmar. The roundtable participants discussed the impact of climate change on the private sector, how the private sector can be supported, and how it can contribute to climate action.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Catarina Teles Ferreira Camarinhas, Country Programme Manager a.i. from UN-Habitat Myanmar closed the session by thanking the participants and highlighting the themes and goals of World Cities Day and Urban October. She additionally highlighted UN-Habitat's mission and work and the goals of the Myanmar Climate Action Network (M-CAN) and particularly, among its priorities of action, how it may also support to unlock private capital by guiding local communities in the preparation of investment-ready and sustainable projects. She made reference to UN-Habitat's work with local communities to promote Local Climate Action Plans that may be used to drive local development and innovation in cities. Such investments may not only mitigate climate change impacts and promote community resilience, but that may also be financially sustainable in the long term. She addressed some of the key messages that emerged during the discussion and how those may fit into UN-Habitat's larger collaboration with the private sector. While recognizing the complexity of climate action, she made reference to new opportunities ahead, to protect and restore nature and improve resilience to climate change. Finally, she made a call for those present to join the M-CAN Climate Action Campaign during 2024.

Key Points

During the roundtable discussion six key points emerged as identified below. The following sections discuss each of these key points and highlight the relevant sub-topics that shaped the dialogue.

**Impact of Climate Change
on Operations**

**Better Communication
about Climate Change**

**Opportunities for Capital
Mobilization**

**Reducing Energy and
Waste Consumption**

**Protecting Water
Resources and Biodiversity**

**Increasing Effective
Collaboration**

Impact of Climate Change on Operations

Participants highlighted climate change critical impacts on the ability of businesses and corporations of all sizes to operate. There is an intrinsic link between environmental health and the economic viability of businesses in Myanmar and beyond. Issues such as environmental degradation and environmental hazards emerged during the roundtable as threats to continuing operation in Myanmar.

Environmental Degradation

The natural environment is a fundamental resource for many sectors. Environmental degradation poses a significant threat to businesses reliant on these resources. The hospitality sector, in particular, has noticed a pronounced impact on both the cruising sector as well as the perception of tourists who consistently complain of the hot weather.

Environmental Hazards

Several participants highlighted concerns related to environmental hazards during the discussion. Specifically, the recurring problem of flooding in Yangon emerged as a prominent issue. The escalating frequency of natural disasters is an additional threat that poses the risk of widespread property damage.

Better Communication about Climate Change

Many attendees highlighted unclear and ineffective climate communication as a challenge. While many people are aware of climate change, the British Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar specifically noted that people may not have the tools, voice, or understanding to take action. Recommendations for enhancing communication included simplifying messaging, honing in on risks relevant to the private sector, providing actionable insights on the "how" of private sector involvement, and leveraging data and science as tools for combating climate change within the private sector.

Simplified Messaging

A recurring sentiment among attendees was the lack of easy to understand messaging on climate issues. Climate communication laden with jargon adds an additional challenge for busy private sector actors interested in taking climate action. This concern underscores the need for simplified messaging that ensures information is conveyed in a manner that is accessible and comprehensible to all stakeholders within the private sector.

Climate Risks

Attendees highlighted the relatively limited understanding that the private sector has of the risks that climate change will pose to their businesses. Additionally, there is a need for more information on transition risks as businesses seek to become more climate friendly. Clear and straightforward guidance and education on climate risks is greatly needed.

Answering the "How"

While some private sector participants acknowledged a grasp of the "what" when it comes to climate change, it was noted that there is often an absence of clear guidance on the "how." There is a crucial need for actionable steps that are designed to be implemented by private sector actors to support various types of climate action.

Data and Science

The importance of integrating science into the approach toward climate action was identified among participants. There is a necessity for increased support in comprehending, calculating, and monitoring private sector emissions. Having better data and scientific information on emissions is integral in enabling the private sector to meet and adhere to international standards.

Opportunities for Capital Mobilization

The widening climate finance gap needs to be urgently closed in order to successfully mitigate and adapt to climate change. Private sector involvement is key to filling these gaps in funding and bridging the local and international financial markets. In addition to funding, the roundtable discussion also identified several market based solutions as appealing opportunities for mobilizing different sources of capital to fuel climate action.

Market Based Solutions

Attendees expressed interest in market based solutions for addressing climate change. For example, mechanisms such as carbon credits offer a pathway for businesses to offset their emissions while sustainable agriculture certifications can signal environmentally conscious agricultural practices to consumers and investors. In general, there is a need for more creative and innovative approaches that leverage the market to incentivise climate action.

Financing Solutions

The exploration of local currency financing was emphasised, recognizing the importance of tailoring financial instruments to the local economic context. Moreover, the discussions highlighted the role of private capital, including philanthropic contributions, as a vital component in mobilising resources for climate initiatives within the private sector. The EU also shared that businesses can apply for financing through the SWITCH-Asia Programme.

Bridging Gaps

Several attendees described the role of their organisation as bridging the gaps between international financial markets and investors and local climate action in Myanmar. Simultaneously, more work needs to be put into mechanisms for financing risk when, for example, businesses transition to renewable energy.

Reducing Energy and Waste Consumption

Reducing energy and consumption of waste products was a common theme addressed by many of the attendees. Reducing these forms of consumption is critical for combating climate change, especially considering the outsized ecological footprint of the private sector. Different methods of reducing consumption were discussed alongside the potential to switch to less polluting, renewable forms of energy and the necessity of effectively managing waste that is already produced.

Renewable Energy

Attendees consistently cited renewable energy as a prime example of tangible climate action. Notably, there was discernible willingness and availability of funds for financing renewable energy initiatives. Additionally, attendees were eager to transition to renewable energy sources, primarily driven by the pressing challenges posed by the unstable electric grid and the escalating costs of fuel.

Reduce Consumption

Attendees recognized the importance of reducing overall consumption. Without a reduction in consumption, climate change will only become more severe. Specifically, cutting fossil fuels was identified as a high priority as well as reducing plastic waste in different industries. City Mart shared how they reduced their usage of plastic bottles in the office and thereby saved 30,000 bottles.

Waste Management

Where reduction is not possible, managing the remaining waste is critical to preserving the natural environment and creating healthy living environments. Poorly managed waste can lead to environmental hazards such as flooding in cities.

Protecting Water Resources and Biodiversity

Natural resources such as water and biodiversity are key resources that are under threat from the effects of climate change. Protecting these resources is not only key to combating and mitigating climate change, but also for ensuring businesses in Myanmar are able to continue operating. Challenges such as water scarcity and quality and loss of biodiversity were identified along side solutions such as Nature Based Solutions and water management.

Water Scarcity and Quality

Increasing water scarcity and diminishing water quality emerged as pivotal concerns, impacting not only individuals but also posing existential threats to companies reliant on water resources. EDOTCO showcased a proactive approach by integrating water access and treatment programs into their community initiatives.

Nature Based Solutions

Nature based solutions (NbS) harness the inherent capability of ecosystems and biodiversity to address climate challenges. Notably, tree planting and mangrove restoration emerged as positive and viable examples of NbS the private sector could actively engage in. These initiatives not only contribute to carbon sequestration but also enhance biodiversity, mitigate natural hazards, and promote sustainable development.

Water Management

Water management is a key intervention for mitigating the impacts of climate hazards. Implementation of green urban developments and Nature based solutions can be used to support water management, particularly in urban areas. Flooding in Yangon in particular highlights the pressing need for improved water management solutions.

Biodiversity Loss

Biodiversity loss is recognized as one of the most significant global risks of climate change. Biodiversity loss demands urgent attention and strategic interventions aimed at regenerating the natural environment such as tree planting. Beyond ecological consequences, the loss of biodiversity holds tangible economic ramifications for the tourism sector. As such, safeguarding biodiversity is also integral to socio-economic resilience.

Increasing Effective Collaboration

Many attendees highlighted the great value that can be gained from increasing collaboration between private sector actors as well as with other organizations and groups of people. Collaboration, rather than competition, has the potential to increase the effectiveness of climate action. Collaboration on a global scale may also look like the adoption of international standards, taking a commitment to action, and supporting local communities.

Adoption of Standards

Shared standards, guidelines, and regulations related to climate issues enable businesses to engage in fair and transparent practices while fostering open communication. Collaboration among private sector actors was identified as a key mechanism for staying up to date with and in adherence to the latest standards.

Local Communities

There are many opportunities for the private sector to collaborate with local communities in support of climate action. Local communities often require access to financing for their adaptation and mitigation efforts that the private sector can help provide. While acknowledging that communities often have a lower carbon footprint than corporations, communities can be valuable partners that enhance the overall effectiveness of climate action.

Commitment to Action

Many attendees called for increased commitment to climate action and emphasised the need for individual and collaborative efforts coupled with a transformative change in behaviour. Attendees highlighted the urgency imposed by the climate crisis and stressed the imperative for heightened seriousness and immediate commitment to action.

Increasing Effectiveness

Enhancing the effectiveness of climate action through collaboration was identified as a key future step. The exchange of climate and emissions related data, practices, and financing opportunities can also contribute to a collective improvement in climate initiatives. Finally, the ability to collaboratively share risks, particularly in energy transitions, was identified as a pivotal element in increasing the viability of climate action initiatives.

Conclusion

Urgency is needed to address the climate crisis. The time to act is now! At the same time, this roundtable discussion highlighted the lack of actionable, long-term solutions within the private sector. In the absence of guiding policy, there is a need for leadership from both businesses and the UN as well as greater collaboration. The outcomes of this roundtable discussion will help shape the form and direction of this future collaboration. Key areas that need to be addressed moving forward include the need for clear communication on climate issues and what actions the private sector can take. Additionally, the critical role of the energy transition emerged as a focal area, with the necessity for increased support, investment, and de-risking strategies underscored. In addition to the issues identified in this roundtable discussion, there are visible gaps in which topics are prioritised. Specific issues such as groundwater levels continue to lack attention, despite being a critical issue within water resource security. Finally, there were multiple calls for transformative change in attitude and behaviour coupled with leading by example. The following table highlights the main challenges and opportunities as key outcomes from this roundtable discussion. The next page additionally highlights points and specific actions that should be considered when moving forward from this discussion. Specific examples from the British Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar are provided as further inspiration.

Challenges

- Climate hazards
- Understanding sector specific risks
- Increasing reliance on fossil fuels due to unstable energy supply

Opportunities

- Nature based solutions
- Increased collaboration between private sector actors
- Partnerships with local community
- Technical and financial support for the adoption of renewable energy sources

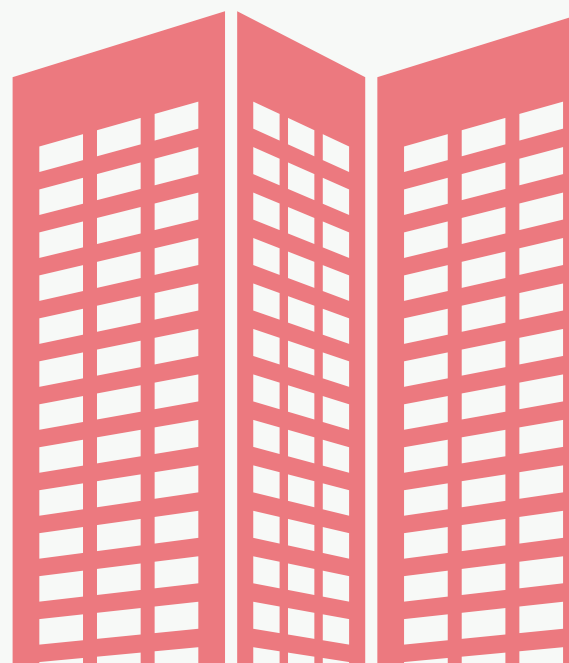
Moving Forward

- Joint climate action campaign as an opportunity to fill gaps, highlight successes, and incentivize youth and gender responsive action, utilizing working groups and other formal networks to spread climate action messages and opportunities
- Develop projects to address the need for de-risking renewable energy investment and transition
- Review institutional practices and identify positive contributions to climate change while eliminating negative contributions
- Seek out collaborations with various financial institutions to increase opportunities for funding

Attendee Highlight

British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar (BCCM)

- BCCM can leverage their connections with multiple levels of businesses to spread messages about climate action locally
- In conjunction with their partner Achelous, BCCM has launched a hydrokinetic power project to generate renewable energy in rivers with a business plan for future scaling
- BCCM also works with WWF and Recycglo to run workshops and trainings related to climate action with the goal of expanding in the future



Annex I: Speakers and Attendees

Opening Remarks

- Mr. Carl Frosio, Programme Manager, European Union Delegation in Myanmar

Moderator

- Shashank Mishra, Chair, Myanmar Climate Action Network, UN-Habitat

Presenters

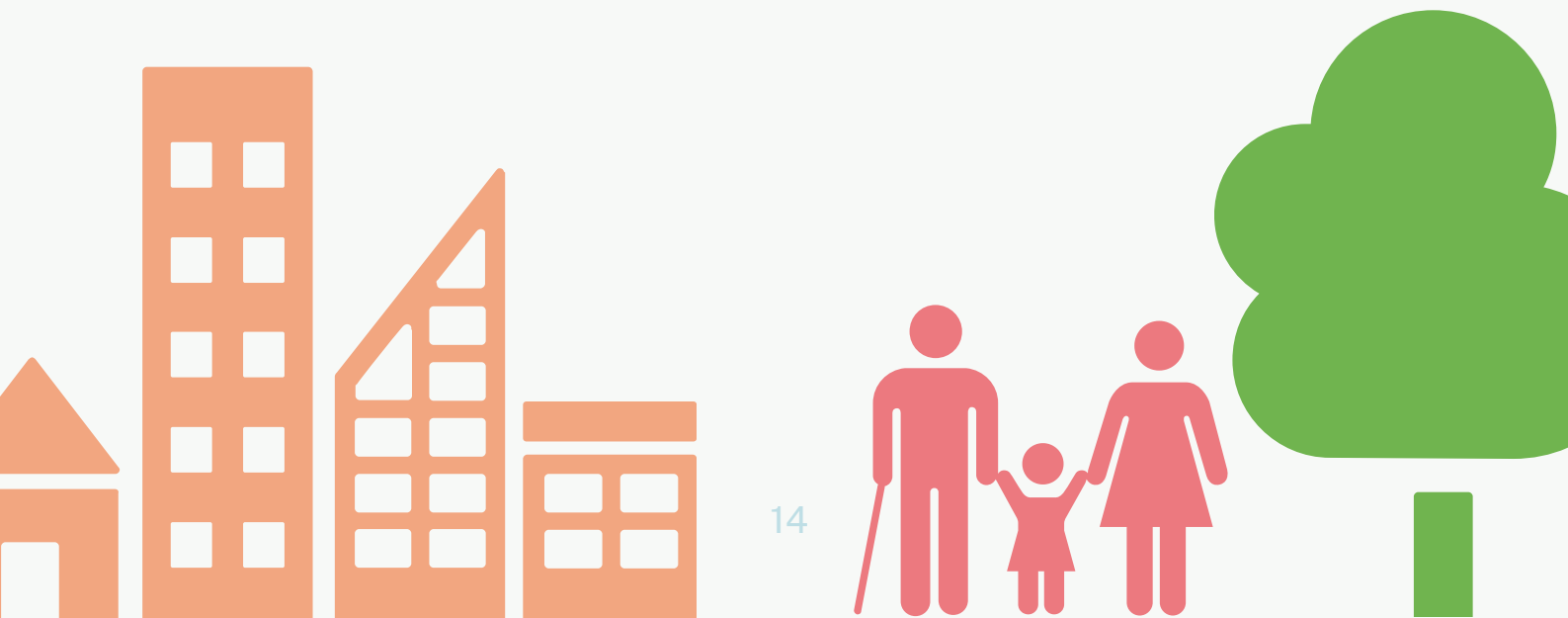
- Mr. Tomoo Aoki, Consultant, UN-Habitat Myanmar
- U Myo Than, Director, EDOTCO Group Myanmar

Key Speakers

- Daw Chan Mya Thida Kyaw, Director, Awng Dang Awng Co. Ltd.
- Daw Ei Thinzar, Head of Corporate Banking, Yoma Bank
- Mr. Kevin Murphy, Managing Director and Founder, Andaman Capital Partners Myanmar
- U Maung Maung Than, Country Director, RECOFTC-Myanmar
- Daw May Myat Mon Win, General Manager, Chatrium Hotel
- Daw May Thu Htike, Director, Golden Dowa Ecosystem Co., Ltd.
- U Min Chan Win, Managing Director, Smart Power Myanmar
- U Myo Than, Director, EDOTCO Myanmar
- Mr. Nicolas DELANGE, Founder & Managing Director, Yever
- Mr. Peter Crowhurst, Chief Executive Officer, British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar
- Mr. Ravindra Jain, President Elect and Club Secretary, Rotary Club of Yangon
- Mr. Roland Gasper, Communication and Marketing Executive, City Mart Holding Co., Ltd.
- Dr. Than Win, Chair/Managing Director, Rotary Club of Yangon/Myanmar Dive Center

Closing Remarks

- Ms. Catarina Teles Ferreira Camarinhas, Country Programme Manager a.i., UN-Habitat Myanmar



Annex I: Speakers and Attendees

Attendees

Name	Organization	In Person/Online
Ms. Akihito Watanabe	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	In Person
Mr. Anders Lønstrup Graugaard	Embassy of Denmark	In Person
Mr. Aung Naing Min	Myanmar Consumers Union	In Person
Mr. Aung Pyae Phyo	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Aye Mya Thinzar	CDE Myanmar	In Person
Mr. Carl Frosio	Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Catarina Camarinhas	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Chan Mya Thida Kyaw	Awng Dang Awng Co. Ltd.	In Person
Mr. Chan Myae Naing	The Water Agency	Online
Ms. Cho Cho Win	UN-Habitat	Online
Mr. David Lee	UNDP	Online
Ms. Soe Moe Nwe	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	In Person
Mr. Denzil Abel	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Ei Thinzar Lora	Yoma Bank	In Person
Mr. Hein Htet Aung	The Water Agency	In Person
Mr. Hein Htoo Lwin	AES Myanmar - Creative Media Institute	In Person
Ms. Hla Yin Aye	AES Myanmar - Creative Media Institute	In Person
Ms. Hlaing Yin Win	UNOPS	Online
Mr. Htet Naung Kyaw	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	Online
Mr. Htun Lynn	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Imran Ahmed Malik	UN-Habitat	In Person

Name	Organization	In Person/Online
Mr. Jun Fujihira	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Kevin Murphy	Andaman Capital Partners Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Khin Moe Kyi	RECOFTC-Myanmar	Online
Mr. Ko Jesh	Back to Nature Myanmar	In Person
Mr. Kyaw Thiha Hla Myint (Alexander)	Yoma Bank	In Person
Ms. Kyu Thin Cho	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Lin Thanda Latt	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Madison Berry	UN-Habitat	Online
Ms. Marlar Win	UN-Habitat	Online
Mr. Maung Maung	Myanmar Consumers Union	In Person
Dr. Maung Maung Than	RECOFTC-Myanmar	In Person
Ms. May Myat Mon Win	Chatrium Hotel	In Person
Ms. May Thin Maung	Global Heart	In Person
Ms. May Thu Htike	Golden Dowa Ecosystem Co., Ltd.	In Person
Mr. Min Chan Win	Smart Power Myanmar	In Person
Mr. Min Thein Htike	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Moe Moe Than Win	Embassy of Switzerland	Online
Mr. Myint Aye	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Myo Nyunt Oo	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Myo Than	EDOTCO Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Naomi Mochizuki	Embassy of Japan	Online
Ms. Naw Ehdana Zaw	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Naw Khine Thazin	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Ni Ni Win	The Water Agency	Online
Mr. Nicolas DELANGE	Yever	In Person
Mr. Peter Crowhurst	British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar	In Person

Name	Organization	In Person/Online
Mr. Prabesh Paudyal	UNDP	Online
Mr. Pyae Sone Tun	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	Online
Mr. Pyi Soe Win	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Ravindra Jain	Rotary Club of Yangon	In Person
Mr. Roland Gasper	City Mart Holding Co., Ltd.	In Person
Mr. San Tun Aung	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Sandar Kyaw	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	Online
Mr. Sann Win	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Saw Win Myo San	UNDP	Online
Mr. Shashank Mishra	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Su Hnin Wai	Andaman Capital Partners Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Su Sandar Hnin	UN-Habitat	In Person
Dr. Than Win	Rotary Club of Yangon/ Myanmar Dive Center	In Person
Ms. Thandar Aung	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Theint Htet Htet Zaw	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Thi Thi Htun	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	Online
Ms. Thin Thin Htet	British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Thinzar Mon	The Water Agency	Online
Ms. Tin Nwe Nyo	AYA Bank	In Person
Mr. Tomoo Aoki	UN-Habitat	In Person
Mr. Tun Lin Aung	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Wah Wah Han Su Yin	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	In Person
Mr. Wai Min Chit	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation (PCF)	In Person
Mr. Win Naing	UN-Habitat	Online
Ms. Wit Hmone Phwe Pwint Thu	Yangon Film Services	In Person

Name	Organization	In Person/Online
Mr. Yan Naing Htay	Capacity Building Initiative	Online
Mr. Yan Naing Soe	Mercy Corps	In Person
Ms. Yi Yi Htay	UN-Habitat	Online
Ms. Yin Min Thant	Golden DOWA Eco-system Myanmar Co.,Ltd.	In Person
Ms. Yin Mon Mya Thwin	UN-Habitat	In Person
Ms. Yoon Shwe Yee Phoo	Let's Do it World Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Yu Yu Lin	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	In Person
Ms. Yuzana Wai	Shwe Taung Cement Plant	Online
Mr. Zaw Min Oo	Helvetas Myanmar	In Person
Ms. Zin Win Mar	Myanmar Koei International Ltd.	Online
Ms. Zin Yadana	Let's Do it World Myanmar	In Person
Mr. Zung Ting	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	In Person

Realizing Climate Action in Myanmar: Opportunities for Private Sector Engagement

Roundtable Discussion

TIME

31 October 2023
10.00 - 12.30 PM

VENUE

Notovel, Yangon & Online

REGISTRATION

https://bit.ly/WCD_23

- Register by Monday, 30 October 2023
- A meeting link will be shared with all registered participants

UN-Habitat Myanmar invites you to join a roundtable discussion on Realizing Climate Action in Myanmar: Opportunities for Private Sector Collaboration, taking place on October 31 2023, World Cities Day. UN-Habitat Myanmar hopes to use this opportunity to generate discussion around how the private sector can enhance collaboration in climate action.

World Cities Day is celebrated globally since 2014 and marks the end of Urban October every year. Urban October activities take place around the world throughout the month aiming to promote sustainable and resilient cities and human settlements, address challenges faced by local communities, and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable local development processes in solving global issues.

Established by the United Nations, World Cities Day emphasizes the need for cooperation in order to generate and implement innovative local solutions. Globally, as cities continue to grow, the call for building resilience, social inclusion, and improved infrastructure becomes increasingly significant.

Under the Global Climate Change Alliance initiative of the European Union (EU), UN-Habitat is implementing the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) programme. It aims to promote climate resilience at community level through local resilience planning. MCCA is currently implementing the 2nd phase of the program to strengthen climate resilience at local level with gender and youth sensitive action as well as to improve climate dialogue across different sectors and diverse geographical regions in Myanmar. Myanmar is one of the most climate-affected countries in the world, despite minimal contribution to global CO2 emissions. In order to realize and raise climate ambition, the integration of different sectors and inclusion of all sections of society is required. This includes women and youth, indigenous groups, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the private sector.

Global climate finance outlook shows a major gap between the need and current climate finance flow. Climate investment in climate mitigation and adaptation actions needs to increase tenfold by 2030 to reach USD 5 trillion per year, especially in developing countries, LDC and SIDS (IPCC, 2018). As per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), private sector investment is needed to address climate concerns to fill the gap especially after the global pandemic which has reduced public sector financing. The private sector offers unique opportunities to influence businesses and investment in order to reduce the carbon footprint, adapt to adverse climate and promote sustainable growth. The private sector offers an important source of influence in their communities, and so may play a vital role in introducing important courses of action and innovative approaches. Civil society and private sector partners at the local level also play a relevant role in achieving ambitious emissions reduction, adaptation, and resilience targets. It is through sustained collaboration and coherence across all sectors that communities will achieve effective, context-specific climate action, tied to a unified vision.

This roundtable will host a panel discussion with private sector representatives on how the private sector may enhance collaboration to address the challenges of climate change and promote progress on achieving climate objectives in Myanmar. This will also offer an opportunity to understand the challenges and limitations, and to channel the needed support to the private sector for promoting collaborative approaches to undertake climate action. To support the discussion, the roundtable will include a presentation of MCCA's draft "Private Sector Engagement Strategy" which is being developed to encourage and inspire increased collaboration for climate action in Myanmar.

Agenda

9.30 - 10.00 Registration and Welcome Coffee/Tea

10.00 - 10.30 Opening Remarks

- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Introductory video message)
- Mr. Carl Frosio, Programme Manager, European Union Delegation in Myanmar
- Moderator: Mr. Shashank Mishra, Chair, Myanmar Climate Action Network, UN-Habitat

10.30 - 10.45 Introduction to the Private Sector and Climate Action in Myanmar

- Mr. Tomoo Aoki, Consultant, UN-Habitat Myanmar
- U Myo Than, Director, EDOTCO Group Myanmar

10.45 - 11.50 Roundtable discussion: Realizing Climate Action in Myanmar

Moderator: Shashank Mishra, Chair, Myanmar Climate Action Network, UN-Habitat

Speakers:

- Daw Chan Mya Thida Kyaw, Director, Awng Dang Awng Co. Ltd.
- Daw Ei Thinzar, Head of Corporate Banking, Yoma Bank
- Daw Grace Swe Zin Htike, Programme Director/Educator, AES Myanmar Institute
- Mr. Kevin Murphy, Managing Director and Founder, Andaman Capital Partners Myanmar
- U Maung Maung Than, Country Director, RECOFTC-Myanmar
- Daw May Myat Mon Win, General Manager, Chatrium Hotel
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- Mr. Roland Gasper, Communication and Marketing Executive, City Mart Holding Co., Ltd.
- Dr. Than Win, Managing Director, Myanmar Dive Center
- U Thet Zaw Htwe, Head of Policy and Strategy, EuroCham Myanmar

11.50 - 12.20 Q & A Session

- Meeting Participants

12.20 - 12.30 Closing Remarks

- Ms. Catarina Teles Ferreira Camarinhas, Country Programme Manager a.i., UN-Habitat Myanmar

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch

* Myanmar Climate Action Network (M-CAN) is a network of 35+ non-state climate actors (UN, INGOs, LNGOs/CSOs, Private Sector, etc.) to build partnerships and exchange knowledge for enhancing climate action in Myanmar. It is chaired by UN-Habitat and co-chaired by WWF.



Guiding Questions

1. What are the current and expected impacts of climate change on the business activities of private sector stakeholders?
2. How does the private sector understand and prioritize climate change in their regular operation? What are the limitations for them in accessing climate information?
3. What are the limitations and challenges for the private sector to invest in undertaking climate action? What are the benefits climate action offers to their business?
4. What steps can be taken to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on their business?
5. What climate action can private sector stakeholders take to contribute to the needs of the local community outside of their regular business activities?
6. What motivations, incentives and support are needed for the private sector to implement climate action?
7. What existing financial resources can be utilized to implement climate action? What new funding mechanisms may be required?
8. In addition to individual company initiatives, what joint efforts and collaborative action can be considered?
9. What is needed to leverage M-CAN (Myanmar Climate Action Network)* as a means of facilitating climate action in the private sector?
10. Based on the discussion, what will be the immediate next actions?

Date: October 31, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: NOVOTEL Yangon Max, Pyay Room (Level - 4)

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