



Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Maximizing Co-Benefits by Linking Implementation across SDGs and Climate Action

UN City, Copenhagen, 1-3 April 2019

Outcome Summary

1. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in 2015 established a strong foundation for coherent implementation of climate action and sustainable development objectives across all levels and sectors. Exploiting synergies and co-benefits and taking collaborative and coordinated efforts to achieve both the SDGs and implement the Paris Agreement is critical. Bringing the UN system together and taking forward the outcomes of this conference is vital to increase ambition, take urgent action and ensure inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership processes.
2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, including SDG13 on climate action, demonstrate the scale and ambition of this universal Agenda. Since the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda, there have been advances in the implementation of the SDGs. Yet, to reach the Goals and targets by 2030, progress needs to be realized more quickly and more evenly across countries and regions. The annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) reviews progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, informed by country-led and country-owned voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues and interlinkages. The first in-depth review of SDG 13 will be held at HLPF in July 2019. The special edition of the Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report this year will present current status and trends and provide analysis to inform the HLPF.
3. The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to adapt and build resilience to impacts of climate change and make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. Scaling up countries' efforts to strengthen the response to climate change, and making the most of co-benefits and synergistic action is vital, for the aim of achieving the temperature goal of the agreement, while at the same time building countries' resilience to the adverse effects of climate change.
4. Participants noted that according to the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C report, limiting warming to 1.5 °C is possible, but that urgent and unprecedented transitions across all aspects of society, to, over the next 10 to 20 years, transform our energy, agricultural, urban and industrial systems, engage non-state actors, and integrate climate action into the broader public policy framework that also addresses jobs, security and technology are necessary. The IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C points to the necessity and importance of inclusive, collaborative



and synergistic action in achieving the 1.5°C goal. With the adoption of the Katowice climate package at COP 24, the world entered a new era, focusing efforts on implementation and the need for increased ambition. Participants emphasized that the next round of new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), to be communicated by 2020, will be crucial and need to reflect increased ambition.

5. The period to 2030 is also the window within which the SDGs are to be achieved to leave no one behind. Participants stressed that accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 is critical for more effective climate action. The energy transitions envisaged in SDG 7 on sustainable energy for all in particular will contribute significantly to lowering GHG emissions relative to business-as-usual pathways, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Similarly, more sustainable industrialization under SDG 9, sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices under SDG 2, and changing patterns of consumption and production in line with SDG 12 can all contribute towards low-emission pathways, the creation of new kinds of jobs and making long-term progress towards eradicating poverty.
6. Additionally, progress made towards limiting global temperature increase would significantly ease the path towards many other SDGs, such as those related to poverty, hunger, access to water, terrestrial and ocean ecosystems, forests, health, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, among others. Many of the goals and targets can also be achieved in ways that would enable adaptive responses to climate change, for example those related to resilience and disaster risk reduction in SDGs 1, 9 and 11, respectively relating to poverty eradication, infrastructure and urban settlements. By addressing underlying drivers of risk, enhancing mitigation and adaptation to climate change can also help achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. These considerations are particularly relevant for small island developing States (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs) and others in special circumstances. The urgency of scaling up coherent adaptation and disaster risk reduction action in countries that are already feeling the impacts of climate change was underlined.
7. Participants underscored the importance of ensuring that developing countries and the most vulnerable get the support they need including finance, science, technology and innovation, and capacity building.
8. Participants noted that climate change is already increasing natural variability and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events leading to large human and socio-economic costs, and reversing development gains across various sectors. Building the resilience of people and livelihoods, communities and societies, economies, and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change is essential for achieving all post-2015 development agendas.
9. Participants highlighted opportunities, advantages and gains being made through the synergistic implementation of climate action, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction, including through NDCs, the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), voluntary national reviews (VNRs), and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies as per target (e) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Participants emphasized the importance of incorporating national planning priorities and objectives in communicating NDCs, to ensure the realization of the potential



mutual benefits during the implementation process. Participants also underlined the need for better inclusion of links between climate action, disaster risk reduction, and the SDGs in their VNRs presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

10. Participants noted that actions identified in NDCs, NAPs and disaster risk reduction strategies submitted so far reveal linkages across all SDGs and show that governments are integrating climate action into socio-economic development and sustainable development strategies, with all integral to achieving sustainable development. Progress in integrated plans and strategies, joint monitoring and reporting on common indicators, and shared data-sets has already been observed and can be further supported by strengthened governance mechanisms, regulations, capacities, and innovative financing instruments, particularly for LDCs and SIDS, to integrate climate action and disaster risk reduction into policies, programme implementation, and budgets across all sectors of sustainable development.
11. Participants underscored that the challenge of simultaneously addressing climate change and sustainable development demands a decentralized multi-level approach, recognizing the key role of subnational and local governments, as well as local communities and indigenous peoples. National governments need to work with other levels of government on comprehensive vertical integration and alignment of climate policies at the national, subnational and local level, as well as mainstreaming climate action into all public policy sectors in order to avoid silos. Integrated, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, that considers urban-rural linkages can be embedded in NDC implementation.
12. The Paris Agreement acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity. Participants discussed the importance human rights-based approaches to climate action given that impacts are already, directly and indirectly, affecting a broad range of human rights. It was acknowledged that UN member States have obligations, under international human rights law, to urgently mitigate climate change; build the capacity of all persons to adapt to climate change; and foster learning and cooperation across countries. A better understanding of how to exploit synergies and co-benefits in implementing climate action and SDGs at local, national, regional and global scales can catalyze more focused action and inclusive collaboration. A bottom-up inclusive approach, engaging the most vulnerable people and communities, can drive these policy coherence solutions. This inclusive engagement should be within both policy creation, implementation, follow-up and review at all levels. Special attention should be paid to groups who face discrimination by gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, or other forms of a social, economic and political disadvantage as well as those who live in smaller, rural and/or impoverished urban communities.
13. Participants shared many examples of how collaboration can improve design and implementation of policy, directing finance and resources towards critical nexuses, enabling private sector action, and advancing linked-up science, technology and



innovation (STI) initiatives. Stronger science-technology-policy interface for synergistic actions are needed, including through instruments such as the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Participants noted that it is critical importance to examine how best to leverage advocacy, policies, programmes, implementation mechanisms, inclusive multi-stakeholder action, resources and partnerships for both the SDGs and for climate action, so that co-benefits are maximized and trade-offs minimized at all levels.

14. Participants noted that the action needed to mitigate climate change will necessarily have a transformative impact on the world of work. Millions of new jobs can be created with the adoption of sustainable practices and clean technologies but other jobs will disappear as countries scale back their carbon- and resource-intensive industries. The scale of disruption to businesses and workers that this transformation will cause should not be underestimated. But carefully designed and coherent response strategies hold the potential to ensure net gains and a just transition for all.
15. Participants acknowledged that although there are multiple synergies, in the cases where there are direct trade-offs the management of the transition will be crucial. This may include changes to institutional arrangements, for example lines of responsibility and requirements for collaboration of between relevant government offices, ministries and agencies. To facilitate more coordinated and coherent planning and policy making linking these two agendas, identifying where the benefits from more closely aligning the two agendas are likely to be greatest will be needed to inform decision making and policy development. The mapping and analytical tools described above can assist in that identification.
16. Participants emphasized the utility of the UN System SDGs action online database as the UN system's repository of actions, initiatives and plans on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, a searchable and regularly updated database that serves as a useful reference tool for learning about the activities of UN system entities. It was stressed that only coordinated, inclusive and synergistic efforts across organizations, levels and sectors, and throughout the UN system to address both climate change and the SDGs will make a difference.
17. Participants underscored the value in integrated monitoring and reporting of progress through the Katowice climate package including the enhanced transparency framework and the global stocktake, in understanding progress on climate action as well as SDGs. This would enable accelerated implementation of not just the Paris Agreement, but also the 2030 Agenda.
18. Participants concluded that the interlinked relationship between implementation of climate action and achieving the SDGs also provides our biggest opportunity for positive, systemic change that will ensure resilient, productive, and healthy environment for present and future generations.
19. This year offers an unprecedented opportunity to address both climate change ambition and the 2030 Agenda. Welcoming the Climate Action Summit to be convened by UN Secretary-General on 23 September 2019, participants urged all member states and multi-stakeholders to raise their ambitions in policies, plans, actions and investments and to bring transformative partnerships to the Summit. Participants discussed bold ideas for



scaling up actions and partnerships, including the Clean Energy Investment Coalition and the Cooling Coalition.

20. Participants stressed the need for leveraging the in-depth review of SDG13 at HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in July and all SDGs at HLPF under the auspices of the UN General Assembly at the heads of state and government level in September, the high-level review of the SAMOA pathway, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May, and COP25 in Chile in December, and in this respect, called upon the co-organizers, namely UN DESA and UNFCCC secretariat to ensure that the outcomes of this Conference be fed into these processes as appropriate.
21. Participants expressed their gratitude to the co-organizers of the conference: UN DESA and UNFCCC and encouraged them to continue to carry this effort forward to strengthen synergies between climate action and sustainable development toward 2030 and beyond. They expressed special appreciation to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Climate, Energy, and Utilities and Finance of Denmark, UNEP-DTU, UNOPS, the European Union, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub Fund, and other partners for their support and contributions.