



Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Conference Summary

1. The Conference was co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, in partnership with the United Nations University (UNU) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The Conference was attended by around 2000 participants, including more than 130 speakers from over 100 countries around the world.
2. The High-level Segment of the Conference was joined by 30 Ministers, heads of UN organizations and agencies, and other high level representatives including from business, youth, and academia. In their statements, all representatives emphasized the need for greater SDG and climate ambition, and the need to urgently ramp up joint implementation. Addressing existing gaps such as in financing, data, and capacity building was also highlighted.
3. The Conference Programme included six parallel sessions under the following themes: (1.1) Implementing a nexus approach across key sectors and policy areas; (1.2) Ensuring just transitions, enabling empowerment and enhancing knowledge and skills; (1.3) Forging partnerships for synergistic action; (2.1) Overcoming barriers: financing, technology and innovation; (2.2) Harnessing climate-SDG synergies and co-benefits whilst closing the ambition gap; (2.3) Measurement, reporting and verification. The Conference Programme also included a number of associated in-person and virtual side events.
4. An informative Conference Background Note on advancing climate-SDG synergies was prepared and discussed at the Conference. The Conference Note was complemented by a series of technical briefs prepared by members of the Technical Advisory Group. The present summary and a full report of the Conference will be published on the Conference website in due course.

Key messages

5. **Ramping up action on synergistic opportunities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement is needed now more than ever.** Evidence clearly suggests that we are not on track to achieving these two critical agendas. There is also an increasing

pool of evidence that suggests delivering win–win outcomes for climate action and the SDGs is entirely possible, but the full potential of such synergistic outcomes can only be realised if deliberate action is taken. For example, the latest IPCC report shows that if we take decisive climate action now, there is potential to not only advance the SDGs immediately but also gain tremendous development co-benefits in the long-term such as \$43 trillion in economic output by 2070.

6. **Realizing the SDGs while accelerating progress towards a climate resilient, net-zero future requires getting the whole of government and whole of society on board.** Active engagement of line ministries as well as sub-national and local authorities in integrated planning and implementation is critical. Meaningful engagement of youth, civil society, academia, the private sector, and indigenous peoples is also vital.
7. **Just transition and leaving no one behind should be at the centre of integrated policy and programme planning and implementation.** Climate action should prioritize the needs of marginalised, poor and vulnerable communities, as well as those who will be impacted the most by transformational pathways. At the same time, we should strengthen national and local development and climate strategies including NDCs, building on existing integrated approaches, such as Circulating and Ecological spheres and Decarbonization Leading Areas, aimed at advancing SDGs and climate action.
8. **Enhancing capabilities of various stakeholders to pursue synergistic implementation of climate and SDGs agendas is crucial.** This includes enhancing capacities to identify synergistic opportunities and to overcoming technical, financial, planning, organizational, and behavioural barriers.

Way forward

Participants highlighted that synergistic implementation of climate action and the SDGs should be based on:

9. **Strengthening the evidence base for synergistic action.** The preparations for the Conference have greatly benefited from the guidance that was provided by the Technical Advisory Group. Building on the work of this network and in collaboration with other stakeholders, a comprehensive global analytical synthesis report on climate action and SDGs synergies may be considered to fill existing knowledge gaps and provide scientific underpinnings for accelerated synergistic action towards 2030 and beyond.
10. **Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues at all levels.** Facilitating global, regional and thematic exchanges of practice on advancing climate and SDG synergies, for example, in the context of future UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks or other relevant events, can strengthen knowledge sharing and communities of practices tailored to local conditions and needs. Convening the next conference at UN Headquarters in New York would help contribute to fostering alignment with the High-level Political Forum and the SDG Summit.

11. **Enhancing integrated planning.** Existing instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) offer opportunities for integrated planning and synergistic implementation on climate action and the SDGs.
12. **Partnerships for transformation.** We need all actors – national and local governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, communities and individuals – to work together to deliver on the full potential of synergistic action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In particular, youth must play a game-changing role in a multi-decade journey of transformation across the world. Building on the successful “Youth Day” at this Conference, providing further meaningful engagement opportunities for youth is necessary.
13. **Informing key intergovernmental processes on climate and the SDGs.** Relevant global milestones such as the SDG Summit (in 2023 and 2027), the High-level Political Forum, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties, the Convention of Biological Diversity Conference of Parties, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the on-going global stocktaking efforts under the Paris Agreement must be leveraged to mainstream and strengthen synergistic action at all levels. The output document should be fed into these processes.