



**Climate Action and SDG Synergies:
Strengthening the evidence base for synergistic action
Terms of Reference**

BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement are intrinsically linked, and one cannot be achieved without the other. In the same spirit, the Secretary-General in a recent address on his 2023 priorities stressed that “*Climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals*”. As such, maximizing on the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement by leveraging [climate action and SDG synergies](#) has the potential of achieving both agendas faster, while ensuring a just and equitable future.

The upcoming critical milestones such as the SDG Summit in September and the Global Stocktake at COP28 later in December will assess our collective progress toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. These landmark events also serve as moments to take a deep look at synergistic action between these two critical agendas, including on national instruments such as the NDCs and the VNRs, towards just, equitable, and climate compatible pathways.

Despite the importance of climate and SDG synergies in advancing both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris goals, current analysis and data on interlinkages between the SDGs and climate action remains uneven and scattered across various sources. Furthermore, to date there is no global authoritative resource dedicated to the topic of climate and SDGs synergies. The most recent on this topic [Global Conference, the 3rd Global Conference on Climate and SDGs Synergies](#) proposed a set of [key recommendations](#), including the need to **strengthen the evidence base for synergistic action**.

OBJECTIVE

As follow up to the key recommendations from the 3rd Global Conference on Climate and SDGs Synergies and in the lead up to the 2023 milestones, including the SDG Summit, the Climate Ambition Summit, and the Global Stocktake/COP28, UNDESA and UNFCCC secretariat will develop a concise analytical report, with a focus on the following:

1. **provide a robust analytical framework and empirical evidence** on climate action and the SDGs co-benefits, including how member states are progressing in delivering jointly on these two agendas and transitioning towards just, equitable, and climate compatible pathways,
2. **help capture select examples of best experiences and lessons learned** from practical examples of on-the-ground policy instruments (e.g., VNRs, NDCs), innovations, approaches, and partnerships by all multi-stakeholders (government, private and civil society actors), aimed at accelerating progress via a joined-up approach towards the Paris goals and the SDGs, while maximizing co-benefits,

3. **identify the high-level parameters that could inform the future development of potential indicators and targets**, aimed at facilitating the reporting and monitoring of interlinkages, as well as guaranteeing a just transition,
4. **compile a concise set of forward-looking recommendations** in strengthening accelerated action on climate and SDGs synergies by 2030, including the recommended focus of a more comprehensive analytical undertaking on climate-SDG synergies to be developed.

This analytical exercise is also intended to form the basis for the more comprehensive global analysis to be conceptualised and developed in time for launch in 2024.

PROCESS

UN DESA and UNFCCC secretariat will jointly convene a group of experts titled “The Climate and SDG Synergies Expert Group (EG)”. To serve as substantive contributors for the report.

The EG will be composed of 10-15 experts from a variety of institutions and thematic backgrounds acting as main authors, with two co-leads to help coordinate the work and oversee the process. The membership is drawn from academia, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and other multi-stakeholders, with balanced regional and gender representation. Limited resources are available to assist with experts’ participation in meetings and other related tasks.

The EG will meet as often as needed (virtually, in-person) to ensure delivery of the EG’s objectives based on the below proposed timeline.

TIMELINE

Production timeline for the report is from April – September 2023. The report will focus on a subset of issues and a snapshot of key findings/recommendations.

- April – EG members identified
- May - Drafting process initiated
- June – Peer-review webinar/workshop with 15-20 additional experts to review advanced draft
- July - Draft ready for publication
- September – Launch in the margins of the SDG Summit and the 4th Global Conference on Climate and SDGs Synergies

SECRETARIAT

The Division for the Sustainable Development Goals in UNDESA and the Division for Means of Implementation in UNFCCC Secretariat will act as joint secretariat for this work and will jointly co-convene the Expert Group. The Secretariat will also provide logistical support for the organization of meetings and for the final launch and dissemination of the report.



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