

## Bridging Science, Policy, and Society: Tackling Climate and SDGs in Synergy

*Friday, 8 December 2023*

*13:00-14:15 (Dubai time)*

*SDG Pavilion, Blue Zone, B7 building 88, first floor*

### **Draft Concept Note**

#### **CONTEXT**

As we approach the 2030 Agenda's halfway mark, a stark reality confronts us: only 15% of SDG targets are on track, while the climate crisis escalates with rising emissions and escalating environmental disasters. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urges a course correction, emphasizing that "climate action is the 21st century's greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals."

The first global report on climate and SDG synergies, "[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#)," developed by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy- co-convened by UNFCCC and UN DESA, underscores the interconnectedness of these challenges, emphasizing that maximizing synergies can bridge trillions of dollars in investment gaps, highlighting the urgency for collective action on the climate emergency and sustainable development.

However, a weak science-policy-society interface hampers progress in adopting integrated planning approaches. A significant gap persists between scientific evidence and applied policy action, hindering the realization of scientifically verified policies. Addressing this is crucial to ensure robust policies grounded in scientific consensus.

In commitment to advancing synergistic practices, both UN DESA and UNFCCC are resolute. The forthcoming second global report on this topic will be developed in 2024 and will aim to furnish concrete and actionable recommendations, bridging the gap between science, policy, and society for a more effective and integrated approach to planning in synergy.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The event is designed to elevate awareness, drive policy advancements, fortify the science-policy-society interface, and nurture global collaboration. Participants will gain profound insights into the intricate connections between climate action and SDGs, actively contributing to the formulation of policies harmonizing with both objectives. Within the event, the co-convening organizations will unveil the next steps on Climate and SDG Synergy, presenting a roadmap that outlines how this process will underpin the 2024 milestones. This includes pivotal events such as the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), Summit of the Future, COP29, and the Fifth Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy, demonstrating a strategic framework for collective action and progress. Engagement opportunities will be presented to grow the network of collaborating partners on this crucial work.

#### **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. How can we strengthen the collaboration between scientific research, policymaking, and societal engagement to address climate change and achieve SDGs in synergy?
2. What concrete steps can be taken to overcome the existing barriers that hinder the adoption of a synergistic approach to climate action and sustainable development?
3. In what ways can the international community leverage synergies to attract the necessary investments for climate-resilient and sustainable development projects?
4. How can the science-policy-society interface be improved to ensure that evidence-based research informs and shapes actionable policies at both national and international levels?

## AGENDA

*Moderator Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA*

<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> 13:00-13:05</p>	<p><b>Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick</b>, Manager, Capacity-building subdivision, Means of Implementation division, United Nations Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>
<p><b>Scene-setting Presentation</b> 13:05 – 13:10</p>	<p><b>Mr. Luis Gomez-Echeverri</b>, Emeritus Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Co-chair of Climate and SDG Expert Group <i>online</i></p>
<p><b>Panel discussion</b> 13:10 – 13:50</p>	<p><b>Mr. Youba Sokona</b>, Special Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Centre, Former Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy</p> <p><b>Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas</b>, Former President of the EU Committee of the Regions and Governor of Macedonia Region</p> <p><b>Mr. Junichi Fujino</b>, Programme Director, Integrated Sustainability Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</p> <p><b>Ms. Manar Elkebir</b>, Member of the SDG 7 Youth Constituency</p>
<p><b>Q&amp;A</b> 13:50 – 14:00</p>	<p>Q&amp;A with the audience</p>
<p><b>Next Steps and Closing</b> 14:00 – 14:15</p>	<p><b>Ms. Bahareh Seyedi</b>, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA</p>