On 6 December, UN DESA and UNFCCC secretariat co-hosted the official UN system Side Event during the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28), brought together a diverse group of stakeholders. Participants included members of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy, alongside representatives from Japan, Denmark and Brazil, and non-state actors actively engaged in advancing the intersection of climate action and SDGs.

Distinguished speakers underscored compelling evidence demonstrating the substantial benefits of concurrently implementing climate policies and SDGs, emphasizing synergies over trade-offs. The discussion built on the key findings of the recently launched first global report on climate and SDG synergy “Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together”. Recognizing this integrated approach as pivotal for recalibrating our collective trajectory in meeting the objectives of both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, the discussions highlighted the necessity of aligning efforts.

Experts contributed by sharing valuable perspectives, drawing from their experiences, and proposing actionable steps to expedite progress in operationalizing synergies. Throughout the discourse, a commitment to upholding principles of equity and ensuring just transitions was paramount, reinforcing the importance of a balanced and inclusive approach to addressing the complex interplay between climate action and sustainable development goals.

[Watch the recording here.]