

BRIDGING THE AMBITION GAP FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT THROUGH CLIMATE AND SDGS SYNERGY

Tuesday, 16 July 2024
10:30 – 13:00 EDT
UN Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 5



CONCEPT NOTE *(Draft as of July 12)*

Background

Despite the ambitious goals set in 2015 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, our current trajectory suggests we are falling short. Urgent action is needed to address the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality. Reclaiming the vision of 2015 requires innovative solutions and a reassessment of our current challenges and opportunities towards 2030 and beyond.

Since 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been leading efforts to promote climate and SDG synergy as the linchpin for addressing our current challenges and realizing an equitable future. The first global report developed by the [Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy](#) and called upon by the co-convening organizations, titled “[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#),” underscored the importance of pursuing synergies to enhance collective resilience against global crises, promote institutional capacity building, ensure policy coherence, and address investment gaps. The report revealed that maximizing synergies could bridge investment gaps worth trillions of dollars, optimizing resource allocation to address immense financial challenges for climate and development objectives. By harnessing the potential of climate and SDG synergy, we can chart a course towards the 2030 we want.

There is a growing demand for actionable, synergistic, and transformative approaches to address interconnected global crises together. This concept is emphasized in the first [GST outcome at COP28](#) in Dubai, where member states agreed upon the need to address climate action in the broader context of sustainable development. Similarly, the [UNEA 6/7 resolution](#) calls for strengthened global cooperation to maximize co-benefits between environmental action and the achievement of the SDGs. The recent [G7 communique on climate, energy and environment](#) commits to pursue synergies approach towards the SDGs when addressing the triple global crisis. Many governments are adopting a proactive approach to integrated planning at both national and international levels. For instance, Japan, Norway, Denmark, and other likeminded countries have been pioneers in promoting synergistic climate and SDG actions. The government of Japan was able to leverage processes such as UNEA6, G7, G20, COP, and have hosted the 3rd Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy as well as the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 13, leading up to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, thus contributing to advance the concept of synergies on a broader political scale.

The upcoming critical milestones include the UN Secretary-General [Summit of the Future](#) in September 2024, which calls upon all policymakers and stakeholders to present course-changing solutions for mobilizing political and financial actions to combat the climate crisis and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The road to COP29 and then COP30 will entail a series of crucial decisions including by setting a new goal on climate finance and the submission of updated and more ambitious

NDCs. The integration of SDGs, together with key principles of just transition and leaving no one behind, will be critical to achieve successful outcomes. To this end, building evidence and providing a roadmap for synergistic solutions is needed now more than ever to support the success of these processes. The 5th Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy in September 2024, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil in the margins of G20 meetings, will bridge the political discussion with practical solutions presented as the main findings of the new, 2024 report by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy.

Launch of the 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy

Building on the outcomes of the first Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, the second report, prepared by the Expert Group with input from over 100 world experts, is a practical response to uncovering challenges and opportunities for revitalizing action towards just and equitable societies on a healthy planet. The report suggests an adaptable and transformative course of action, tailored to current and future global challenges—a pathway characterized by synergistic action. This important analytical piece, with its key 4 thematic areas on policy instruments, knowledge and data, financial mechanisms and cities platforms, will provide a roadmap for policymakers with concrete policy recommendations on how to realize synergistic climate and SDG actions on the ground.

The special event will launch the 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, presenting actionable solutions for key upcoming discussions. It will highlight key messages and recommendations from the report, showcasing practical examples of these recommendations in action by Member States, civil society, and the private sector. The event will serve as a platform to initiate new potential collaborations for synergistic action and reflect on how this work can support policymakers and practitioners.

Expected Outcomes

The event will catalyze the development of concrete action plans and initiatives that leverage synergies between climate action and the SDGs. By presenting the outcomes of the 2024 report on Climate and SDG Synergy, the event will aim to:

1. Increase awareness and commitment among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of synergistic approaches to address climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality. It will encourage a renewed commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by showcasing the benefits of integrated action.
2. Provide policymakers with concrete policy recommendations to enhance synergistic climate and SDG actions. This will lead to the development and implementation of more effective and integrated policies at the national and international levels.
3. Facilitate networking and collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. This will create opportunities for new partnerships and initiatives that promote synergistic action on climate change and sustainable development.
4. Exchange knowledge and best practices between participants on synergistic approaches, leading to enhanced capacity building and learning across sectors and regions.

Guiding Questions

1. How can we ensure that synergistic approaches to climate action and the SDGs are integrated into national and international policy frameworks?
2. What innovative financing mechanisms can be developed to support synergistic climate and SDG actions?

3. How can cities be transformed into platforms for action that promote synergies between climate action and sustainable development?
4. How can we improve the collection, sharing, and utilization of knowledge and data to enhance synergistic approaches to climate action and the SDGs?
5. How can we ensure that no one is left behind in our efforts to achieve synergistic climate and SDG actions?

Draft Programme Overview

10:30 – 11:00 *High Level Opening Segment and Report Launch*

Moderator: **Ms. Bahareh Seyedi** (Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA)

- Welcoming remarks by Co-conveners
 - **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary- General for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Opening remarks by High-level representatives of Host Countries of Climate and SDG Synergy
 - **H.E. Mr. TAKISAWA Motome**, State Minister of the Environment of Japan
 - **H.E. Ambassador Mr. Erik Laursen**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
 - **Mr. Túlio Andrade**, Head for Climate Negotiations, Climate Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- High level remarks by ministers
 - **H.E. Mr. Ossian Smyth**, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Report and at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland
 - **Hon. Aisha Sekindi**, Minister of State for Water from the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda
 - **H. E Minister Orlando Habet**, Minister, Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize
- Special address: The road towards COP29/COP30
 - **Mr. Daniele Violetti**, Senior Director of Programmes Coordination for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

11:00 – 11:10 *Launch of 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy: Key Findings and Recommendations*

- **Mr. Luis Gomez Echeverri**, Emeritus Research Scholar International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and co-lead of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy
- **Ms. Heide Hackmann**, Director, Future Africa, University of Pretoria, and co-lead of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy (*online intervention*)

11:10 – 13:00 *Interactive dialogues: Key Entry Points for Synergistic Action*

11:10 – 11:55 *Roundtable 1 - Seeking Synergy Solutions – Effective Policies and Financing instruments for enabling synergistic Climate and SDG Action*

Moderator:

- **Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour**, Vice President for International Strategies, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

Kickstarter Presentation:

(5-7 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA
(1-2 rounds of interventions, 3-4 min / panelist)	<p>Roundtable panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dane McQueen, COP 28 United Arab Emirates, Director of Programmes and Partnerships • Ms. Rebecca Fleischman, Deputy Director for Program Operations, Global Climate Programs, Bloomberg Philanthropies • Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Chief of New York Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) • Mr. Richard Freund, Associate Director, Capital Markets, CDP North America • Ms. Elisabeth Gilmore, Carleton University, Canada, and Peace Research Institute Oslo, Norway
11:55– 12:40	<p><i>Roundtable 2 – Seeking Synergy Solutions – Role of Knowledge and Data and Cities to Accelerate Climate and SDGs in Synergy</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Meagan Fallone, Founder, Step Up AdvisErs, Ltd. & Executive Adviser Climate Justice, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, CARE <p>Kickstarter Presentation:</p>
(5-7 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Director, Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy (3CSEP), and Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
(1-2 rounds of interventions, 3-4 min / panelist)	<p>Roundtable panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) • Ms. Laura Paterson, Representative and Coordinator to the United Nations, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) • Ms. Yume Yamaguchi, Director of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) • Mr. Samuel García, Governor of Nuevo León, Mexico • Mr. Paul Presendieu, Global Goals Ambassador for SDG 13 and representing the United Nations Association of the USA
12:40 – 13:00	Q&A with audience / Interventions from the floor
13:00 – 13:10	Closing: Summary of the discussion and the way forward
	UNDESA/UNFCCC
13:15 – 14:45	High-Level Luncheon hosted by the Government of Japan – by invitation only, United Nations Delegates Dining Room