



**THE FIFTH GLOBAL CONFERENCE
STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE PARIS AGREEMENT
AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet

Conference Summary

(06 September 2024, 4pm BRT)

1. The *Fifth Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet* was co-convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC and hosted by the Government of Brazil. The Conference was held at the Museum of Tomorrow, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 5-6 September 2024.
2. The Conference was attended by close to 300 in-person participants, including 80 speakers from 30 countries. The proceedings of the Conference were livestreamed, with 3000 virtual participants, including views of Conference online content and web-stream.
3. The Conference featured a high-level segment with statements from host country, co-conveners, Member States, and UN senior representatives and youth actively engaged in addressing climate and development challenges together. The high-level segment also featured statements from past, current and future UNFCCC COP Presidencies – COP28, COP29, COP30 – as well as past, current, and future host countries of Climate and SDG Synergy Conferences – Brazil, Denmark, and Japan – as well as other high-level representatives from Norway, Germany, and Ecuador.
4. High-level representatives highlighted the urgent need for stepped up climate and SDG action. They also underscored that development and climate action go hand in hand and advancing synergies is the only way economic opportunities that spring from the transition to a low-carbon economy can reach every community in a just, and equitable manner. All representatives reaffirmed their commitment to seeking synergy solutions.
5. In the scope of its Presidency of the G20 process in 2024 and the upcoming COP30 Presidency in 2025, the Government of Brazil placed great emphasis on advancing synergistic approaches to bridge divides and ensure just transition pathways aligned with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.
6. The Conference also include two roundtables and four thematic sessions and two special events, including a Troika Roadmap to Mission 1.5, with expert contributions from Member States, UN agencies, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), youth, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, on key topics such as how synergistic solutions can help bridge the financial divide, ensure equitable transitions, regenerating nature and bioeconomy, poverty and hunger, adaptation and resilience, sustainable consumption and production, and cities as drivers for synergistic solutions.

Key messages

- 7. Urgent action is needed in critical years ahead to address the interconnected challenges of development and climate, and to unleash real progress for achieving the SDGs and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees °C.** Participants stressed that only 17 percent of the SDGs are on track; with nearly half showing minimal or moderate progress, and over one-third stalling or regressing. We are already at 1.1 degrees of warming with current projections demonstrating increased global warming of 3.2 degrees by 2100, which will result in devastating impacts on planet and human suffering. These crises are interconnected and must be addressed together taking a systems approach.
- 8. Political commitment is key to seeking win-win synergies as the only way to course-correct the path we are on.** There is a growing recognition of importance of synergies in tackling the interconnected challenges that the world is facing in intergovernmental fora related to climate and the SDGs. Participants referenced the outcomes of the COP28 Global Stocktake with reference to many SDGs, UNEA resolution 6/7 on implementing environmental commitments in synergy with the SDGs, and the recently adopted 2024 HLPF Political Declaration, which states “we commit to enhance synergies towards effective national climate and development policies and actions, contributing to the achievement of global climate goals and delivering on the 2030 Agenda”.
- 9. Evidence indicates co-benefits of synergistic action far outweigh tradeoffs.** Growing body of evidence, including reports by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy, demonstrate that pursuing the SDGs and the Paris goals in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas. While trade-offs exist, in most cases co-benefits far outweigh trade-offs. Signs of progress to leverage synergies is also on the rise, with growing number of examples and initiatives across sectors, including in nature-based solutions, sustainable finance, bioeconomy and sustainable production and consumption, adaptation and resilience, food and agriculture, peace and security, health and energy, oceans, gender equality, income inequalities, as well as in the context of cities and local action. Participants highlighted that by maximizing synergies and addressing fragmentation, we can also bridge the financing divide that is required to advance climate and development goals together.
- 10. Unlocking barriers to synergistic solutions and addressing fragmentation is essential to breaking down silos and furthering a holistic approach.** While the global landscape is changing and it has become clear that climate change and development are intrinsically linked, progress on integrated solutions remains slow due to underlying barriers, preventing the widespread development and implementation of integrated policies and actions. Addressing fragmentation in policy frameworks, financing instruments, knowledge and data, as well as localization and contextualization of action must be key considerations in removing barriers to synergistic solutions.
- 11. Adaptation and mitigation action and SDG implementation measures should be driven by inclusive processes that take into account the voices of the most vulnerable and those impacted the most.** There is an urgent need for more inclusive policy-making processes, where the voices of all stakeholders and those most affected by climate change, including indigenous peoples, women, and youth, are heard and acted upon. Integrated climate and SDG actions should include just transition frameworks that ensure workers and communities dependent on high-carbon industries are not left behind in the shift to a low-

carbon economy. This includes retraining programs, social protection measures, and creating new opportunities in green sectors.

- 12. Coordinated action and multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to advancing synergies.** A multitude of actors spanning national, regional and local governments, civil society, youth, business, academia, international organisations, and financing institutions all play key roles and bring unique expertise to the table. Collaboration amongst these diverse stakeholders is crucial to bridge the science-policy-society interface, unlock finance and drive innovation towards integrated policies and action.

Way forward

- 13. The SDGs and the 1.5-degree limit are still within reach but must be addressed together, and we must act now.** The next two years will be crucial for defining bold reforms and holistic policies, and for significantly stepping up united action that address climate and development synergistically rather than separately. Synergies must be at the heart of upcoming policy and planning instruments. Participants emphasized the importance of taking into account the findings of the 2024 report on Climate and SDG Synergies into the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due in early 2025 and ahead of COP30. Other instruments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies all offer opportunities for integrated planning and synergistic implementation.
- 14. Equity, inclusiveness, and fairness must be at the heart of 1.5 degree-transition pathways.** To keep the worst of the climate impacts at bay and address poverty, inequality, hunger, food security, deforestation, energy access, sustainable consumption and production and all other SDGs, we must supercharge 1.5 degree-aligned transitions across critical sectors. These transitions must be just and equitable for people and planet. Different contexts and countries' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) have to be taken into account, as well as navigating the negative impacts across population groups with a focus on the most vulnerable. Advanced G20 economies should go furthest, fastest.
- 15. Serious efforts must be made in bridging the financing divide and in delivering the trillions needed to secure a just world and a sustainable planet.** Addressing fragmentation in financial instruments, enhanced access to investment and financing for the most vulnerable, and reform of the financial architecture – both international and domestic – are critical to ensure emerging and developing countries can equitably access the finance and technology needed to support their climate and development efforts. The upcoming milestones including the Summit of the Future, COP29, and the Conference on Financing for Development, and COP30 are critical moments to secure climate and development financing outcomes that can help catalyse the trillions needed and boost momentum for reform of the financial architecture.

- 16. Adaptation and building resilience must be prioritized across all sectors and in every country in order to safeguard the SDGs and enable risk-informed sustainable development.** Adaptation to climate change safeguards people from higher temperatures, rising seas, fiercer storms, unpredictable rainfall, and other climate impacts. When planned and implemented right, with risk-informed approaches and backed up by adequate funding, adaptation saves lives and livelihoods. Building resilience across sectors is critically urgent to protect societies and economies, and to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on people's health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work, among others.
- 17. Continue deepening the evidence-base and strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships.** As the world moves towards devising strategies to course-correct in order to reach the SDGs by 2030 and limit global warming by 1.5 degrees pre-industrial levels, participants stressed importance deepening the evidence-base, dedicated platforms for all stakeholders to come together and share experiences and perspectives. Participants urged for deepening the evidence-based, including continuation of the work of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy. Participants also highlighted contributions of Synergy Conferences in offering a dedicated platform to further enhance commitments, knowledge sharing and partnerships and welcomed Denmark's announcement of hosting the next Global Synergy Conference in 2025.
- 18. Inform key intergovernmental processes to elevate political commitment.** Participants stressed the importance of leveraging relevant intergovernmental milestones, including the UN General Assembly, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COPs), the Convention of Biological Diversity Conference of Parties (CBD COPs), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of Parties (UNCCD COPs), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).