



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**GLOBAL CLIMATE  
& SDG SYNERGY  
CONFERENCE** ►

**RIO DE JANEIRO  
5-6 SEP  
2024**



**United Nations**  
Climate Change

# The Fifth Global Conference

**Strengthening Synergies between the  
Paris Agreement on Climate Change and  
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development**

**Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet**

**5-6 September 2024  
Rio de Janeiro,  
Brazil**

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

# Conference Highlights



Hosted by the **government of Brazil** at the historic **Museu do Amanhã** (Museum of Tomorrow), in **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil on 5-6 September 2024



More than **80 speakers** from over **30 countries**

*Including a High-level Segment with Statements by Representatives of past, present, and future **UNFCCC COP Host Countries***



More than **300 in-person participants**, and over **3000 online participants**




Facilitated a multi-stakeholder dialogue, featuring representatives of **governments, UN entities, civil society, NGOs, academia, business** and **youth**



Held in conjunction with Brazil's presidency of the **G20 activities** and presidency of **COP30**, the discussions across the high-level segment, 2 roundtables and 4 thematic sessions will contribute to critical upcoming milestones including Summit of the Future and COP29





Conference Venue:  
**Museum of Tomorrow**  
(Museu do Amanhã)

***“I strive to build harmony between  
the built environment and nature”***  
*Santiago Calatrava, Architect, Designer of  
Museum of Tomorrow*



LEED Gold Certified

More information on Museum of the Future:  
<https://museudoamanha.org.br>

“

**More than 80% of the SDGs are directly linked to the global climate.**

**Maximizing synergies between climate action and the SDGs has never been more critical. We must get the SDGs on track and keep the goal of 1.5°C degrees alive.**

Mr. Li Junhua  
UN Under-Secretary-General for  
Economic and Social Affairs



“

**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and stabilizing our climate to build resilient societies are two sides of the same endeavour**

Mr. Simon Stiell  
Executive Secretary, United  
Nations Framework on Climate  
Change



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# Conference Summary

- 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 levelhigh-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°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 trade-offs.** 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 of 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).





# **Conference Opening and High-Level Segment:**

**BUILDING A JUST WORLD AND A  
SUSTAINABLE PLANET**

# Conference Opening and High-level Segment: Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet

The High-level Segment of the Conference was moderated by **Ms. Bahareh Seyedi**, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

## A. Opening

### Welcoming Remarks by High-level Representative of Host Country

**Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago**,  
*Secretary for Climate, Energy and the  
Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil*



Speaking on behalf of the host country, **Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago** welcomed the participants attending the Fifth Global Climate and SDG Synergies Conference. He recalled that Rio de Janeiro hosted the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, as well as the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. He noted that Rio+20 laid the foundation for the global agreement on Agenda 2030 and its 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. He underlined that the Government of Brazil, both in the past and present, places continued emphasis on integrated and synergistic decision-making to advance socio-economic development and to protect the environment and climate at the same time.

## Opening Remarks by Co-Conveners

At the Opening of the Conference, **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and **Mr. Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also addressed the participants.



**Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General, UN DESA (virtual).



**Mr. Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (virtual).

Welcoming the participants to the Fifth Climate and SDGs Synergies Conference, the co-conveners emphasized the urgency of raising ambition in climate action and the need to strengthen synergies across all SDGs. **Mr. Li Junhua** emphasized that maximizing synergies between climate action and the SDGs has never been more critical. **Mr. Simon Stiell** stressed the importance of a new global deal on climate finance. The co-conveners pointed to the upcoming global conferences and Summits that provided opportunities for global decisions to advance new initiatives on climate protection and sustainable development, and the related necessary finance. The upcoming conferences include, among others, the United Nations Secretary-General's Summit of the Future, the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC to be held in 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan (COP29), and in 2025 in Belem, Brazil (COP30), as well as the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Sevilla, Spain, 30 June-03 July 2025. *To watch the video statements, click [here](#).*



# Special Remarks by Representative from the City of Rio de Janeiro

## Mr. Lucas Wosgrau Padilha

*President of the Rio G20 Committee and  
Chief Secretary of the Mayor's Executive  
Office of the City of Rio de Janeiro*



**Mr. Lucas Wosgrau Padilha** also welcomed the participants, speaking on behalf of Mayor Mr. Eduardo Paes. He underlined the historic role of the City of Rio de Janeiro as the host of important global conferences on environment and sustainable development. He also noted that the City was ready and pleased to host the preparatory consultations and the Summit of the Group of 20 (G20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2024.

## B. High-Level Segment Statements

In her message, **H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, emphasized the importance and the urgency of climate and SDG action. Facing multiple crises, the global community needs to take bold action to overcome poverty, advance the energy transition, and agree on comprehensive reforms of the international financial architecture to more effectively address the needs of the developing countries. *To watch the video statement, click [here](#).*

### Special Message by Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations



**H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed**  
*Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, New York*

## Special Message by President of 78th Session of General Assembly



**H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis,**  
*President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*

In his message, **H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis**, President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, emphasized the multiple interlinkages between climate and the SDGs. He noted that in many countries decision making was still compartmentalized: Many NDCs under the UNFCCC did not address the SDGs, and many VNRs to the HLPF did not address climate change. He called for disruptive but coordinated global action to change course. With greater global cooperation, and with necessary financial resources being made available, the 1.5°C Paris climate goal may still be achievable. *To watch the video statement, click [here](#).*

## Statements by High-level Representatives of Denmark, Japan, and Brazil (Synergy Conference hosts)

Speaking on behalf of past, current and future host countries of global Conferences on Climate and SDG Synergies, High-level representatives of Denmark, Japan, and Brazil reconfirmed their continued commitment to further advancing research, cooperation, capacity building, and advocacy for conceptualizing and implementing better integrated climate and SDG policy-making.

### Ambassador Liliam Chagas

*Director for Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil*

Taking note of the fact that only 17 percent of the SDGs appear on track to be achieved by 2030, and also taking note of the growing risks and costs of climate change and its potential impacts, **Ambassador Liliam Chagas** called for greater climate mitigation and adaptation action, greater global cooperation in capacity building, and the allocation of the necessary means of implementation, in particular to developing countries, and to communities most affected by climate change and its impacts.



## Ambassador Eva Bisgaard Pedersen

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*

In her statement, **Ambassador Eva Bisgaard Pedersen** thanked the Government of Brazil for its pivotal role and political leadership, including its hosting of the G20 consultative process, and the Fifth Climate and SDG Synergies Conference. She emphasized the importance of people-centered approaches in climate and SDG policy-making and, the need for eradication of extreme poverty, as well as pointed to the many opportunities for course correction offered by next generation of NDC reports. Ambassador Pedersen also announced the offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Sixth Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies next year.



## Ms. Masako Ogawa

*Ms. Masako Ogawa, Deputy Director-General, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan*

**Ms. Masako Ogawa** informed participants of the recent adoption by the United National Environment Assembly (UNEA) of resolution UNEP/EA.6/L.7 entitled “Promoting synergies, cooperation, or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments”.<sup>1</sup> The resolution had been initiated by the Government of Japan, together with other countries, and was adopted at the UNEA Sixth Session (26 February–01 March 2024). The resolution references the work of the Expert Group on Climate and SDGs Synergy, co-convened by UNDESA and the UNFCCC Secretariat, and its 2023 report entitled “Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together.”<sup>2</sup> Japan continues to support collaborative climate and SDG policies and projects, both in Japan, as well as overseas.

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/k24/006/18/pdf/k2400618.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Source <https://sdgs.un.org/synergy-solutions-world-crisis-tackling-climate-and-sdg-action-together>

## C. Leaders Dialogue

### Statements by High-level Representatives of past, present, and future host countries of UNFCCC COP Conferences

The High-level Segment included a leaders' dialogue, beginning with invited statements by High-level representatives of countries hosting the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP), including COP28 in Dubai, UAE, in 2023, COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2024, and the upcoming COP30, in Belem, Brazil, in 2025.

#### H.E. Ms. Hana AlHashimi

*Chief Climate Negotiator for the United Arab Emirates for COP27 and COP28, and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change*

In her statement, **H.E. Ms. Hana AlHashimi** called for a transformational step change on global climate action and the SDGs. Having hosted COP28 in Dubai in 2023, she emphasized that there was good hope that the world community can still do what is needed: raise ambition, be fair, and show solidarity. Ms. AlHashimi pointed to the achievements of the UAE Consensus,<sup>3</sup> including the agreement on a global commitment to work together to triple the world's installed renewable energy generation capacity. She noted that the UAE Consensus includes an unprecedented reference to transitioning away from all fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, so as to enable the world to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Ms. AlHashimi emphasized the importance of global solidarity. She noted that COP28 was able to reach important agreements on "Loss and Damage", giving hope that more consensus on cooperation may well be possible, in particular with regard to adaptation and a new collective quantitative goal on climate finance, expected to be adopted at COP29 in Baku later this year.



<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.cop28.com/en/the-uae-consensus-foreword>



## H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev

Deputy Foreign Minister, COP29 Chief Negotiator of Republic of Azerbaijan, Host Country of UNFCCC COP29

In his statement, **H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev** also recognized the importance of integrated decision-making, as almost all SDGs are closely interconnected, and progress on any one goal will likely enable multiple co-benefits. Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 must be aligned in order to address the multiple global challenges more effectively. As the host of UNFCCC COP29, the Government of Azerbaijan will seek to widen and deepen international cooperation, building on earlier achievements and agreements reached in the UAE, with a continued focus on inclusiveness.



## Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago

Secretary for Climate, Energy and the Environment



Speaking on behalf of the Government of Brazil as host of UNFCCC COP30 in 2025, **Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago** pointed to the importance of forests and forest protection for regional and global climate stabilization. Brazil accords high priority and has already succeeded to reduce the rate of deforestation in the Amazon region. However, further forest protection measures are intended to be implemented to slow down and prevent further “savannization” of the Amazon region. In a global effort, Brazil will be seeking to further advance cooperation between and with forest developing countries with a view to better protect ecosystems, enhance sustainable development benefitting local communities, and contribute to climate protection.



# Museu do Amanhã

UM EQUIPAMENTO DA PREFEITURA



**PREFEITURA DO RIO**  
Secretaria Municipal  
de Cultura

## Statements by High-level Representatives of past, present, and future host countries of UNFCCC COP Conferences

### Ms. Sariha Belen Moya Angulo

*National Secretary of Planning, Ecuador*

Speaking on behalf of the National Planning Secretariat of the Government of Ecuador, **Ms. Sariha Belen Moya Angulo** reaffirmed the full commitment of Ecuador to the implementation of Agenda 2030, climate action, and the SDGs. As a country with great cultural diversity, the National Planning Secretariat places great emphasis on cross sectoral approaches and broad stakeholder participation in defining its mitigation and adaptation policies and projects. Ecuador prioritises renewable energies and has recently issued its first solar map to advance implementation of PV projects. Ecuador's efforts to advance transformation towards sustainable development include rural development efforts, infrastructure development, and nature and biodiversity conservation.



### Ms. Verónica Tomei

*Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany*



**Ms. Verónica Tomei** reassured participants of Germany's full commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, including in the areas of energy policies and forest protection. In her statement, she alluded to the recent review and update of Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy and to the development of Germany's first comprehensive National Circular Economy Strategy<sup>4</sup>. She also emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder consultations and the analysis of potential social impacts of regulatory policies and climate action on the various stakeholder groups.

<sup>4</sup>Source: <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/fundamentals-of-the-national-circular-economy-strategy-nkws>

## Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk

*Climate Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*

In his statement, **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk** reassured participants of Norway's continuing commitment to support developing countries in their sustainable development ambitions. Norway also supports the implementation of the UAE Consensus, including its call for transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just and orderly manner. Mr. Ibrekk drew the attention of the audience to the multiple interrelations between climate change and security, including energy security, food security, water scarcity, and the multiple other direct and indirect impacts that climate change may have on development. He emphasized the need for greater efforts to better manage or overcome conflicts and competition, pointing out the benefits of collaborative approaches like those agreed upon at the CBD COP in Montreal and UNFCCC COP in Dubai. Climate action and sustainable development will require significantly increased financial resources from all sources, both public and private, domestic and international. Resolving conflicts could make mobilization of the necessary financial resources for sustainable development easier. Mr. Ibrekk also highlighted Norway's efforts and its progress in achieving a low-carbon economy, including investments in carbon capture and storage technologies, green hydrogen, and electric mobility.



## Statements by Heads and Senior Representatives of UN Agencies

## Ms. Astrid Schomaker

*Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)*

**Ms. Astrid Schomaker** joined the Fifth Conference virtually whilst attending the 10th Special Session of the African Environment Ministerial Conference in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. In her statement, she stressed three key observations: (1) The world community is not on track to achieve its development goals, not on climate protection, not on other SDGs, and not on biodiversity protection. (2) Healthy biodiversity can be an important solution provider. Biodiversity can play a crucial role in mitigating and in adapting to the impacts of climate change. The UN CBD COP15 adopted the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework which provides a global masterplan for biodiversity conservation.<sup>5</sup> (3) We already know and have all essential tools, but we now need to focus on cooperation, resource allocation, and implementation to enhance sustainable action at all levels, from the global to the local.



<sup>5</sup>Source: <https://www.cbd.int/gbf>

## Ms. Celeste Saulo

Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



In her video statement, **Ms. Celeste Saulo** recalled essential conclusions from the 2024 Report of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies, identifying fragmentation in governance, in finance, and in knowledge as important causes for continued uncoordinated decision-making on climate and the SDGs. Against this background, WMO works to enhance international and interdisciplinary cooperation and capacity building in meteorological and hydrological services, to improve early warning systems and disaster risk reduction. *To watch the video statement, click [here](#).*

## Ms. Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach

Executive Director United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

**Ms. Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach** explained the main mandate and the focus of the work of UN Habitat. By 2050, some 70 per cent of the still growing global population will live in cities and urban areas. Urbanization is particularly rapid in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Cities can offer promising economic prospects, employment and income opportunities, and improved quality of life. At the same time, cities are often at the forefront of dealing with natural disasters and economic and environmental shocks, including drought and water shortages, floods and storm surges, heat waves, landslides and coastal erosion. Informal settlements and the urban poor are often particularly exposed to climate risks. UN-Habitat will continue to work to overcome the political and institutional marginalization of the urban poor. Adaptation to climate change and enhancement of urban resilience can only be effective if social dimensions and persistent inequality are also addressed. UN-Habitat will also continue to advocate integrated policies and local solutions, that can simultaneously enhance achievement of SDGs and promote implementation of the New Urban Agenda. *To watch the video statement, click [here](#).*





## Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill

*UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (live virtual)*

**Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill** underlined the importance of advanced and digital technologies for sustainable development, including for climate protection. He pointed out that technologies and technology governance will be important topics on the agenda of the UN Secretary-General's Summit of the Future. He called upon participants to give due attention to the further development of smart inclusive infrastructure that is needed for transition to a greener and more inclusive economy.

## Mr. Kamal Kishore

*Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)*

**Mr. Kamal Kishore** highlighted the main objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025-2030, which seeks to (1) advance understanding of disaster risks, (2) strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risks, and (3) advance investment in disaster risk reduction. In order to further advance integrated decision-making on climate and SDGs, there is a need for (1) better data and governance of disaster related information, (2) better coherence and integration of disaster risk reduction in overall planning, and (3) improved financing for disaster risk reduction projects. Mr. Kishore also called for further operationalization of the Santiago Network under the UNFCCC<sup>6</sup> which aims to catalyse technical assistance for the implementation of measures to avert, minimize, or address loss and damage at the local, national and regional levels, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. With better information on essential risks, including climate-related risks and early warning systems, resilience of infrastructure and other investments can be improved, and human and material losses can be avoided or reduced. *To watch the video statement, click [here](#).*



<sup>6</sup>Source: <https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/about>

## Ms. Juliette Biao

*Director, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, UNDESA*

**Ms. Juliette Biao** reminded participants of the importance of SDG 15, and the importance of forests for life on earth and for sustainable development. Forests provide crucial ecosystem services. They serve as essential carbon sinks. Forests also provide important livelihoods and income opportunities, particularly for local and indigenous communities. They cover nearly one third of the global land area, but due to deforestation and wildfires, some 10 million hectares are lost each year. Due to droughts and winds, forest fires caused particularly great losses

in 2020, 2021 and 2023. The United Nations Strategic Plan adopted in 2017 established Global Forest Goals. Recognizing the importance of forests as carbon sinks, the world community seeks to increase forested areas by 3 percent annually. At UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, the world community also agreed to reverse deforestation. With growing global political commitment, pertinent regional organizations have been established, including the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) established a Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN). However, significantly increased financial resources and more effective partnerships will be needed to advance progress towards achieving the Global Forest Goals, in particular in low-income and least developed countries.



## Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos

*Director of Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD*

**Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos** underlined the importance of small-scale farming around the world, which greatly contributes to global food security and creates ample rural income opportunities. However, in many regions, subsistence agriculture is already under threat. Predictions and current data suggest that the world is not at all prepared for climate change. Small-scale agricultural producers are

often among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which they did not cause. Based on its recent 12th Replenishment (2022), IFAD is extending technical, financial, and material assistance to governments and local farming communities most in need around the world, taking into account the specific needs of women, youth, and other local stakeholder groups.

## Ms. Laurel Patterson

Head, *SDG Integration, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

**Ms. Laurel Patterson** shared important reflections on how United Nations agencies, funds and programmes can better support countries—particularly developing countries—in reviewing and re-orienting their development strategies towards more targeted and effective interventions aimed at achieving the SDGs, including SDG 13 on climate action. In recent years, many field and country studies monitoring key SDG indicators have observed stagnation, or even reversals, rather than progress. Progress on SDG 5, focused on gender equality, has been particularly disappointing. With regard to climate action, many initiatives have been undertaken, but—as also observed by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies—fragmentation remains a significant constraint. UNDP has thus launched a global data-sharing programme titled '*SDG Push Diagnostic*', which aims to assist developing countries, communities, and development planners by providing an advanced tool to analyze SDG policies and explore possible acceleration pathways. This enables participating countries to gain deeper insights, in particular regarding SDGs related to energy, climate and environment, gender, poverty and inequality, governance, and resilience.



With countries committed to reviewing, updating and amending their respective NDC Reports in the coming months, applying the *SDG Push Diagnostic* may be useful and can be accessed [here](#).

## Ms. Camila Gramkow

Chief a.i. Brasilia Office, *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*



Analyzing challenges related to climate and the achievement of the SDGs, **Ms. Camila Gramkow** focused her remarks on regional perspectives. She emphasized that many countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region remained highly vulnerable to the various observed and potential future impacts of climate change. She agreed with previous speakers that the Paris climate goal and the SDGs may, in principle, still be achievable. However, she also pointed to the chronic shortage of public and private sector financing, which poses a considerable obstacle to any rapid transition towards a greener economy.

## Mr. Jorge Meza

*Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Brazil*

In his intervention, **Mr. Jorge Meza** recalled the theme of the Fifth Conference—“Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet”. He emphasized that justice and sustainability are inseparable. He referred to findings of recent studies which reported glaring and growing inequalities around the world, both between and within countries.<sup>7</sup> Some estimates suggest that nearly 9 percent of the world population is affected by hunger, and nearly 30 percent experience some form of food insecurity. At the same time, a small minority of the world

population controls most of the essential economic resources. Estimates on global costs to achieve SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2, towards ending world hunger, vary between countries, researchers, and methodologies, but all estimates amount to only a fraction of expenditure disbursed for military purposes each year.



## Youth Statements

### Ms. Ashawnté D. Russell

*Inti Corporation Ltd. Youth Environmental Ambassador, Caribbean Front Coordinator of World's Youth for Climate Justice and EarthDay.org Youth Ambassador.*

**Ms. Ashawnté D. Russell** drew attention to the specific climate and development challenges faced by Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) countries, including the Bahamas. Most SIDS are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts, which they did not cause. Climate action around the world needs to be stepped up dramatically and with a much greater sense of urgency. Around the world, youth and youth representatives must be empowered, and youth empowerment must go beyond participation. In many countries, youth leaders are in the forefront of climate and development action. Thus, young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but they are also already the leaders of today.



<sup>7</sup> Source: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/inequality-inc>



## Mr. Parth Bhatt

*Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Directors at ECB Sustainable Youth Foundation and representative of the Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO)*

**Mr. Parth Bhatt** addressed the audience as a youth representative, also voicing the concerns of millions of young people. He called for all policy-making to build on five key pillars: People, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. Climate change is transboundary in nature, and typically affects developing countries and poorer population groups before, and more, than others. Achieving climate protection and the SDGs is not impossible, but achievable, if action is taken without delay, with foresight, solidarity, necessary strategic interventions, and the required funding support. Intergeneration equity is of essence, and the cost of inaction on climate change is very high. Mr. Bhatt concluded that the future we want is not a distant dream—the future can be shaped here right now.





# Setting the Scene:

GLOBAL STATE OF PROGRESS ON  
CLIMATE AND SDG SYNERGIES

# Setting the Scene: Global State of Progress on Climate and SDGs Synergies



## Moderator - Ms. Bahareh Seyedi

Senior Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

In her introduction to the scene-setting conversation, Ms. Bahareh Seyedi summarized some of the key messages of Second Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, prepared by the Expert Group on Climate and SDGs Synergies, which was launched at the HLPF on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York in July 2024. *To read the full Report, [click here](#).*

## Key Messages

- 1. Only with unified action can we succeed**  
Integrating synergetic actions with enhanced cooperation among governments, policymakers, and communities globally is essential.
- 2. Fragmentation is the enemy**  
Addressing fragmentation in institutional structures and strategies is crucial for enhancing synergies between climate and SDGs.
- 3. Deep reforms needed**  
Deep reforms across all sectors, including institutional changes and behavioral shifts, are necessary to make meaningful progress.
- 4. Avoiding top-down approaches**  
Embracing bottom-up approaches involves solutions tailored to local contexts, with strong local engagement and support for community initiatives.
- 5. Cities as drivers**  
Cities play a critical role in achieving SDG targets and climate goals through innovative, integrated urban planning and infrastructure development.

- 6. Breaking down silos**  
Coordinated, integrated policy development and implementation across different government levels and sectors are essential.
- 7. Experts are everywhere**  
Inclusive engagement across all societal sectors is vital for generating transformative change, particularly incorporating perspectives from marginalized groups.
- 8. Protecting the most vulnerable**  
Strengthened infrastructure, community capacity, and government collaboration are imperative components for building resilience in communities.
- 9. We cannot 'do' if we don't 'know'**  
Effective policy-making requires accessible, relevant, and coherent knowledge and data
- 10. Change won't happen overnight**  
Sustaining transformative actions is crucial for launching efforts toward a net-zero, resilient future by 2030





### **Mr. Túlio Andrade**

*Head for Climate Negotiations at the Climate Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil*

At the outset, **Mr. Túlio Andrade** reflected on the contextualization and the localization of addressing climate change and the SDGs. In his remarks, he reflected on some of the very basic ethical principles. SDG 10 calls for reducing inequalities within and between countries. Mr. Andrade pointed out that, at the international level, there has already developed a common acceptance of the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). This concept suggests that the countries that are the most responsible for anthropogenic emissions and for causing climate change should also take the main responsibility for developing the necessary solutions, and for covering the related costs. In the domestic political sphere, this discussion has yet to take place. Recent reports on growing inequalities highlight that, even at the domestic level, a small economic elite controls a significant proportion of economic resources and is responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, the broader population contributes far less, with the poorest groups—who contribute the least to the problem—often suffering the earliest and most severe impacts of climate change. Against the backdrop of the climate debate, SDG 10 therefore needs to be further reflected and acted upon.

### **Mr. Youba Sokona**

*Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Center, formerly Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and current Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy*

**Mr. Youba Sokona** asked participants if they had read the First and/or Second Global Report on Climate and SDGs Synergies prepared by the Expert Group. He noted that more outreach and more advocacy was still needed to make the key recommendations and the work of the Expert Group on Climate and SDGs Synergies more widely known and understood. He re-emphasized the importance of the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. He also highlighted the positive perspectives and opportunities for developing countries. While they may be considered 'latecomers' in development, they have the advantage of learning from the mistakes of others and the opportunity to build their future economies and infrastructure directly along a more sustainable path, emphasizing greener, more sustainable, and low-carbon development.



## Ms. Elisabeth Gilmore

*Associate Professor, Carleton University, Canada, and Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy*

**Ms. Elisabeth Gilmore** highlighted the importance of research, data collection, and analysis. Interdisciplinary research and data are prerequisites and can form a solid basis for informed local decision-making and project implementation, including on climate and the SDGs. Researchers operating transparently can build the necessary trust among partners and communities. They can exercise and support local leadership and help local authorities along “the last mile”. With participatory and interdisciplinary decision-making at local and regional levels, the chances of ensuring that no one is left behind are significantly improved.



## Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour

*Vice President for International Strategies, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) and Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy*

**Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour** congratulated the authors of the Report on their analysis and recommendations. He suggested that the Report could be publicized more widely, especially among senior-level policy-makers in national and local governments, and among the focal points and focal groups who will be tasked to prepare the new generation of NDC reports for the UNFCCC. The Report also contains relevant recommendations that may be considered at COP29 and COP30, one of them being the suggestion to establish a global platform for knowledge and data sharing. The Report also clearly spells out the multiple benefits of a systems approach to policy- and decision-making. It calls for a new culture of decision making, which can be attained when nature-based, economic, social aspects are simultaneously taken into consideration, in addition to financing.



## Ms. Amanda McKee

*Director for Knowledge and Learning at the NDC Partnership*

**Ms. Amanda McKee** highlighted that upon request from developing countries, the NDC Partnership can provide technical and financial support for the development, review, or upgrade of Reports on “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDCs). During recent months, the Partnership has in fact received a growing number of inquiries and requests. It is also observed that SDGs are being given more consideration than in the past. Ms. McKee drew attention to the new services of the Partnership entitled *‘NDC 3.0 Navigator’* which was developed in cooperation with UNFCCC and UNDP, and is expected to help interested countries not only to develop and formulate their reports, but also to potentially access financing for selected projects or programme elements. The NDC Partnership invited all partners to pursue and implement whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in their NDC processes.





# Roundtable Discussions:

RISING TO THE CLIMATE  
CHALLENGE THROUGH THE SDGS

# Roundtable 1 – Rising to the Climate Challenge through the SDGs: Bridging the Financing Divide

## Context

According to the 2024 Financing for Sustainable Development Report, SDG financing and investment gaps are estimated at between USD 2.5 trillion and USD 4 trillion annually. There is also a growing recognition that the climate and development finance architecture must be reformed to deliver the trillions needed to secure a liveable planet for all. A key focus area of COP29 will be on finance, as a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on finance, to succeed the “\$100 billion” climate finance goal, is expected to be agreed upon by countries. In this context, Roundtable 1 provided participating experts an opportunity to share perspectives, case studies, experiences and practical examples on integrated climate and sustainable development finance towards 2030 and beyond.



### Moderator - Mr. Daniele Violetti

*Senior Director of the Programmes Coordination at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat*

**Mr. Daniele Violetti** moderated the session. In his introduction, he emphasized that addressing the substantial finance gap to meet SDGs and the Paris Agreement requires comprehensive reforms to the global financial architecture. Leveraging all stakeholders and integrating finance mechanisms is crucial for effective implementation, ensuring that climate goals are met, and sustainable development is supported globally.

## Keynote Statement

### Ambassador Liliam Chagas

*Director for Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil*

In her keynote statement, **Ambassador Liliam Chagas** underscored the need to reform the international financial system to be fit for purpose and better support developing countries to cope with climate change and its impact. A more effective transition to a low-carbon economy needs nothing less than a “new industrial revolution”. The international community will need to mobilize significantly increased financial resources. Advancing the energy transition in developing countries will need to be given priority attention. energy transition in developing countries will need to be given priority attention. Ambassador Chagas reminded participants of the historic responsibility of developed countries and their obligation to provide funding to developing countries.



## Roundtable with experts and stakeholder representatives



### Mr. Eric Usher

*Head, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)*

In his virtual contribution to the discussion, **Mr. Eric Usher** referred participants to Article 2.1. (c) of the Paris Agreement which calls for “making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate-resilient development.” UNEP FI convenes important actors of the financial sectors to accelerate the transition process. The main initiatives include the Asset Owner Alliance for Net Zero, the Net Zero Banking Alliance, the Net Zero Expert Credit Alliance, and the Forum of Insurance Transition to Net Zero. Together, the members of these alliances have more than US\$70 trillion in assets under their management, committed to aiming for Net Zero Portfolios by 2050. In addition, many financial institutions have adopted Principles for Responsible Banking and Sustainable Insurance. These initiatives may be expected to send important and encouraging signals to investors to advance more rapidly towards sustainable development.



## Mr. Juliano Assunção

*Technical Coordinator of the Expert Group of the G20 Task Force for Global Mobilization against Climate Change (TF-CLIMA)*

**Mr. Juliano Assunção** stressed that 80 percent of historic emissions come from developed countries and, thus, solutions should also come from those countries. He stated that as long as substantive fossil fuel subsidies remained in place, the ability to evoke significant changes to the economic system and development policies may be undermined.



## Mr. Jianyu Zhang

*Executive Director, Belt and Road Initiative Green Development Institute (BRIGDI)*

**Mr. Jianyu Zhang** emphasized the need to mobilize "every possible dollar" for development while managing investment risks. He highlighted BRIGDI's focus on financing sustainable projects, such as renewable energy investments in solar and wind. The initiative also supports feasibility studies and insurance schemes to mitigate risks. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, new programs and innovative financing tools have been developed to accelerate green, low-carbon investments in developing countries, benefiting all parties involved. The Green Investment Financing Partnership is one such example.



## Mr. Morten Houmann Blomqvist

*Chief Advisor, Climate and Green Energy Transition, Government of Denmark*

**Mr. Morten Houmann Blomqvist** called for avoiding single-goal projects and instead fostering integrated projects. He emphasized innovative financing as a way to mobilize private capital in developing countries, and stressed the importance of collaborative and cross-sectoral planning, noting that the challenge is to choose quality over quantity when funding projects and measures. He also pointed to taxation on international shipping as one possible option for mobilizing new funding for climate and SDGs projects in developing countries.





## Mr. Christopher Dekki

*Global Climate Cooperation, Environmental Defense Fund*

**Mr. Christopher Dekki** called for people to "think outside the box", exploring innovative tax reforms and financing mechanisms. He noted that member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are discussing options for a levy on carbon emissions from shipping. This and other options may also be discussed further as part of the Financing for Development (FFD) process.

## Mr. Alexandre Batista

*Breathe Cities Lead – Brazil, Clean Air Fund*

**Mr. Alexandre Batista** noted that most of the global population lives in cities. He emphasized that, therefore, the transition to a greener economy could also begin in cities. He advocated low-cost measures to reduce pollution from motor vehicles. Promotion of energy efficiency in industries can also help to reduce air pollution, but investment costs are significantly higher, and investors are more reluctant.



In concluding, panelists shared a sense of optimism that solutions can be found. When incentives for the private sector are set correctly, investments and financing will follow. Mobilizing resources for adaptation may be a greater challenge and thus may be considered separately. During recent months, several new proposals for generating new international funding sources for investments in climate protection and SDGs have been put forward, which are expected to be given further consideration at critical upcoming milestones, including the Summit of the Future later this year.



## Roundtable 2 – Rising to the Climate Challenge through the SDGs: Delivering Co-benefits and Leaving No One Behind

### Context

A growing body of evidence suggests that addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs are inextricably intertwined. Co-benefits far outweigh trade-offs. The recently launched report entitled *'Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want'* – developed by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy and co-convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC – assessed the enormous potential financial, economic, environmental, public health, and employment benefits achievable when acting in synergy and cooperation. The next two years provide important opportunities to advance integrated solutions towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris goals. The Summit of the Future will also re-examine our collective response in addressing the interconnected crisis of climate, conflict, food security, health, and sustainable development. In this session, speakers shared perspectives, experiences and practical examples on integrated and inclusive climate and sustainable development solutions towards 2030 and beyond.



### Moderator - Mr. Minoru Takada

*Deputy Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat at UNDESA*

In the outset, **Mr. Minoru Takada** highlighted selected key findings of the UN Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies: The goals and ways of addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs are inextricably intertwined. Co-benefits far outweigh trade-offs. By maximizing these synergies, we can also bridge investment gaps worth trillions of dollars. Mr. Takada then invited the panelists to share their experiences and reflections on how to best advance synergistic policies and decision-making on climate and the SDGs in practice.

# Keynote Statement

## Ms. Izabella Teixeira

Co-Chair of International Resource Panel & former Minister of Environment of Brazil

In her keynote statement, Ms. Izabella Teixeira, highlighted the dangers of fragmentation and lack of political will, stressing that effective governance and credible, aligned solutions are essential to address both climate and social challenges. Ms. Teixeira also stressed the challenges of managing short and long-term expectations, the need to move beyond geopolitical perspectives, and the importance of social protection in a multi-crisis scenario. She stated that “if we want change, we need to change ourselves first.”



## Roundtable with experts and stakeholder representatives



## Mr. Saulo A. Ceolin

*Co-Chair of the G20 Task Force for the Establishment of a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil*

**Mr. Saulo A. Ceolin** outlined the conceptual approach to the proposed establishment of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty within the framework of the G20 process. The members of the Alliance are expected to place greater emphasis on domestic and international policies and programmes to fight hunger and other extreme forms of poverty. The Alliance will consider and implement a basket of suitable and effective policies and measures. These may include immediate relief and social programmes to empower the poor and tackle inequalities. In rural areas, poverty reduction measures may also include assistance to small-scale farmholders, as well as measures to provide local access to sustainable energy, water, and other basic public services. Poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas can be affected by climate change.



## Mr. Sunimal Jayathunga

*Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka*

**Mr. Sunimal Jayathunga outlined** his country's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050. He highlighted recent efforts and progress in renewable energy projects. Key challenges include finance, capacity-building, access to climate-smart technology, data management and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems. Improved coordination between Ministries and Departments, and greater coherence in planning across sectors are essential for more effective climate action.

## Ms. Rosa Montanez

*Executive Director, Foundation Natura*

**Ms. Rosa Montanez** emphasized the need for effective partnerships. Many non-governmental organizations implement practical projects to improve living conditions of people in urban or rural areas. For many practitioners, including engineers implementing projects in the field, climate change and its potential risks and impacts are not sufficiently understood as of now. Development cooperation and assistance needs to ensure that all essential immediate basic needs are met in developing countries, whilst the necessary concepts and strategies to cope with climate change are developed.



## Mr. Akihiro Miyazaki

*Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Brazil Office*

**Mr. Akihiro Miyazaki** said that the Paris Agreement “reads easy, but is not easy to implement,” noting that JICA is committed to its implementation and provides technical cooperation and financial aid to this end. He explained that JICA's cooperation programmes continue to emphasize capacity-building and practical support. Addressing climate change will be given greater attention in the future in spite of budgetary constraints.





## Ms. Maria Netto

*Director, Climate and Society Institute (iCS)*

**Ms. Maria Netto** highlighted the urgent need to address the economic impacts of climate change and improve insurance coverage for disaster losses. She stressed the importance of integrating climate policies with economic development and advancing investments in renewable energy and nature-based solutions, while also overcoming challenges in coordination and mobilizing funds. She emphasized the importance of adaptation and the need to improve planning processes. For many policymakers, dealing with climate changes is somewhat overwhelming, since “everything needs to be everywhere all at once”.

## Ms. Zarifa Zulfugarova

*Head of the International Affairs Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Azerbaijan*

**Ms. Zarifa Zulfugarova** stressed that climate change solutions must be innovative, interconnected, and transboundary. Emphasizing the need for diverse voices, she underscored that youth are essential to decision-making and contribute innovative solutions. Zulfugarova also noted that in 2024, Azerbaijan held its first Youth Climate Negotiation under the Green Solidarity initiative, aimed at integrating youth perspectives into climate and development issues.





# **COP Presidencies Troika Majlis:**

ROADMAP TO MISSION 1.5°C

## Transformational Adaptation for Climate Resilience: Enhancing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Securing Finance for Global Goals



### Context

The COP Presidencies Troika aims to enhance international cooperation and create an enabling environment to stimulate ambition and action for the next round of NDCs. To advance progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Fifth Session of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5) adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (FGCR). The FGCR provides for seven thematic targets and aims at enhancing resilience through measures in various sectors essential for human wellbeing and sustainable development. These include water, food, health, ecosystems and biodiversity, infrastructure and human settlements, poverty eradication and livelihoods and cultural heritage. The FGCR also foresees four process targets on the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle covering: impact, vulnerability and risk assessment, planning, implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluation and learning. As part of the outcome of the first Global Stocktake, CMA5 called on Parties to have their policies and NAPs in place by 2025, and to have progressed in implementing them by 2030. At COP29, Parties will assess the initial progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Furthermore, COP29 will provide opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of adaptation efforts and bridging the adaptation finance gap. The latter is of utmost necessity for enhancing adaptation action overall, including attaining tangible progress toward the global goal on adaptation.

The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience plays a crucial role in complementing and enhancing NDCs. By providing structured adaptation measures, financial support, and capacity building, it helps countries achieve their climate resilience and adaptation goals and contribute to turning ambition into action. Despite these efforts, adaptation needs are growing, and the adaptation finance gap is widening. The first Global Stocktake found that adaptation efforts are not on track to achieve our long-term goals.



UNEP estimates that adaptation finance must increase 10- to 18-fold from current levels. Bridging this finance gap is crucial for the effective implementation of adaptation, which hinges on well-structured plans, strategies and technical capacity. NAPs are instrumental in this context. They allow governments to assess long-term trends, impacts, and vulnerabilities, identify critical thresholds, and develop strategies to safeguard public services, nature, and livelihoods. As of July 2024, 58 developing countries have submitted their NAPs, marking significant progress. However, despite these advancements, the implementation of adaptation plans remains slow. The first Global Stocktake recognized the significant challenges developing country Parties face in accessing finance for implementing their NAPs. Considerable progress on at least doubling adaptation finance and attaining a balance between adaptation and mitigation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources would support the exigence of speeding up adaptation efforts. Addressing the gap in ambition and action in adaptation is vital for translating the goals of the UAE Framework into tangible outcomes.

## Guiding Questions

- 1 What are the expectations from COP29 in terms of an impactful adaptation outcome that would push for a more effective adaptation action?
- 2 What are the most promising financing mechanisms and strategies that can be scaled up to address the widening adaptation finance gap and make adaptation finance accessible to individual countries and regions?
- 3 What critical bottlenecks in the formulation and implementation of NAPs must be addressed to lead to an accelerated implementation?



## Welcome and Introduction by the Troika



**H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev** Deputy Foreign Minister, COP29 Chief Negotiator of Republic of Azerbaijan, Host Country of UNFCCC COP29



**H.E. Ms. Hana AlHashimi**, Chief Climate Negotiator for the United Arab Emirates for COP27 and COP28, and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change



**Ms. Ana Toni**, National Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil

At the outset, **H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev**, Deputy Foreign Minister, COP29 Chief Negotiator of Republic of Azerbaijan, Host Country of UNFCCC COP29, welcomed members of the Troika and the participants, and highlighted the importance of stepping up action on adaptation to climate change at national and international levels. As the host of COP29 to be held later this year, the Government of Azerbaijan is fully committed to working with all delegations towards a successful conference outcome. Considering the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters associated with climate change, including hurricanes, cyclones, and other storms, flooding, droughts, heat waves, and forest fires, and their devastating impacts on human lives and properties, measures and programmes to enhance adaptation to climate change are unavoidable, imperative and urgent. In addition to NDCs, countries will need to establish NAPs. High levels of ambition and solidarity will be needed by all parties, and the Government of Azerbaijan will undertake all it can to facilitate and promote global consensus and cooperation on all aspects, including bridging the widening gaps on climate mitigation and climate adaptation finance.

**H.E. Ms. Hana AlHashimi**, Chief Climate Negotiator for the United Arab Emirates for COP27 and COP28, and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change, also welcomed participants. Recalling the Progress made at COP28 in Dubai in 2023, Ms. AlHashimi also pointed to the many challenges faced by developing countries, and to the urgency of framing appropriate solutions. Adaptation is an essential precautionary principle, and, if adaptation is delayed or inadequate, loss and damage will be unavoidable. Climate change mitigation, GHG emission reduction, adaptation, and resilience all need to be addressed together, with climate finance remaining the “elephant in the room”. Adaptation to climate change needs to become an integral element in sustainable development, with greater ambition to leave no one behind.

**Ms. Ana Toni**, National Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, equally welcomed all participants, also underlining the importance and the urgency of stepping up concerted and coordinated national and international action. Ms. Toni recognized that many international financial institutions have already initiated many projects and programmes aimed at advancing adaptation, including in infrastructure, agriculture, forest management, public health, and other areas, but more and more systemic action and support was needed. Ms. Toni also emphasized the need for all development programmes to place greater emphasis on social justice and dimensions of equity, taking into account the needs of all social groups, including women, youth, the elderly, indigenous people, and people with disabilities. Within the scope of its Presidency of the G20 in 2024, and of the UNFCCC COP 30 in 2025, the Government of Brazil will remain committed to advance more collaborative action on both climate protection and the SDGs.

## Setting the Scene

In her intervention, **Ms. Laurel Patterson**, Head, SDG Integration, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the need for technical and financial support of NAPs, which UNDP is already providing in a growing number of developing countries. Ms. Patterson also stressed the need for NAPs and NDCs to be aligned. She emphasized the importance of measurement, data collection, and analysis, as well as transparency. With regard to the need to scale up adaptation finance, Ms. Patterson pointed out that the private sector is still not sufficiently engaged in adaptation work. The private sector can be seen as having good capacities to provide relevant services also in this area. As for (lack of) progress on the SDGs, Ms. Patterson observed that both climate change and conflict are important drivers of growing disparities, social exclusion, and poverty. Greater efforts in conflict resolution may help to reverse these trends.

In his intervention, **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Climate Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, highlighted four key points: (1) We need to deliver on the work programme that we have already agreed to; (2) We need to significantly increase the financial investments in climate action, both on mitigation and on adaptation; (3) We need to improve our planning and institutional capacities at various levels; (4) With regard to regulations on climate and adaptation finance, if and when they are unnecessarily complicated, we may need to review operational procedures.

**Mr. Youba Sokona**, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Center; former Vice- Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy, echoed some of the points of the previous speakers, but pointed not only to the financial needs, but also to implementation bottlenecks that can be observed in many less and least developed countries. Whilst industrialized countries must be reminded to fulfil their existing commitments and obligations, concerted additional efforts are needed to enhance transparency, accountability, and implementation capacities. Expectations from the upcoming Summit Conferences are high, and must not be disappointed. Developing countries and local communities expect and value implementation action “on the ground” more than abstract plans, documents, and declarations.



**Ms. Laurel Patterson**, Head, SDG Integration, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



**Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Climate Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway



**Mr. Youba Sokona**, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Center; former Vice- Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy

**Ms. Karen Silverwood-Cope**, Climate Director, World Resources Institute (WRI), Brazil, participated virtually and shared important recommendations emanating from the work of the Consortium of Experts working on the *Framework of Global Climate Resilience (FGDR)*. COP29 and COP30 are expected to deliberate and adopt a *New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG)*. As part of the UAE Consensus, Parties had also adopted the *UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience*, including a range of thematic and dimensional targets for climate adaptation and resilience.<sup>8</sup> The Group of Experts working on the FGDR recommended that countries move forward and – if possible – complete their National Adaptation Plans by 2025. With regard to financing, the suggestion of the FGDR experts is to allocate in future 50 per cent of available climate finance to adaptation. Ms. Silverwood-Cope suggested that clear language, a roadmap, and an implementation plan on adaptation would be needed. Progress on implementation of National Adaptation Plans could then be reviewed by the next Global Stocktake, scheduled for 2028. *To view the presentation slides, click [here](#).*



## Salient points from the Q&A session and the expert dialogue

Participants agreed on the importance and the urgency of enhancing climate change adaptation to reduce future risks and mitigate losses and damages.

Experts underlined the moral and ethical obligation of industrialized countries that have contributed to the build-up of GHG emissions to support adaptation globally and in the developing countries, and to cover the related costs. Experts referenced the agreed principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

At the same time, and considering the urgency of climate action, experts also stressed that developing country governments that have capacities would need to mobilize their own capacities and resources, as necessary, rather than wait for external assistance.

Participants observed that, around the world, ecosystems, including oceans and seas, forests, mangroves, mountainous areas, and other regions, differ greatly. At the same time, needs and options for adaptation are always location and situation specific.

Climate change adaptation needs to be seen as an integral dimension of future development. Any roads or other infrastructure build in future will need to anticipate the potential future impacts of climate change.

With given uncertainties, it may not be possible to ensure that projects are entirely climate resilient or “climate proof”.

<sup>8</sup>Source: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/gga>

## Salient points from the Q&A session and the expert dialogue (cont'd)

It was observed that whilst many aspects of adaptation to climate change may well be understood by experts, a large part of the wider public remains largely unaware, uninformed, and uneducated. The importance of continuous public awareness creation was underscored.

Sharing the perspective of a donor country, it was observed that dealing with climate change adaptation may require new financial instruments and additional financial resources. At the same time, it needs to be anticipated that additional financial resources will also be limited. In this situation, proposals of establishing new financial mechanisms may eventually compete with other options of strengthening existing financial mechanisms.



## Closing Remarks by the Troika

In their closing statements, **H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, H.E. Ms. Hana AlHashimi, and Ms. Ana Toni**, thanked the speakers and the participants for their respective contributions. They underlined the importance and the urgency of planning and implementing climate change adaptation measures and programmes to help manage risks, save lives, and prevent or reduce future loss and damage. They agreed that international financing for adaptation will need to be increased significantly, and that mitigation and adaptation should be given equal consideration. They committed to continue to work as a Troika, and together with all other countries, to further facilitate international cooperation to address the challenges of climate change and to promote implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.



# Thematic Sessions:

1. REGENRATING NATURE
2. WHO PROSPERS? WHO GETS LEFT BEHIND?
3. WALKING THE TALK
4. CITIES AS DRIVERS

# Thematic Session 1: Regenerating Nature – Bioeconomy as a key economic paradigm for tackling climate change, promoting sustainable development, and restoring forests

## Context

Bioeconomy development offers a critical pathway to maximize synergies between SDGs and climate protection, enabling the transition to a low-carbon economy while simultaneously advancing sustainable development goals towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Bioeconomy can be a key driver in this transition, supporting multiple SDGs by promoting the efficient use of biological resources, fostering innovation, and enabling sustainable practices across various sectors. In this session, speakers shared their experiences with bioeconomy technologies and policies that contribute to effective climate change mitigation and adaptation, employment, income generation, and achievement of the SDGs.

## Guiding Questions

- What are the critical aspects of sustainable forest management, and how can we ensure that forests effectively provide essential ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and water regulation?
- What are the key differences between conventional agriculture and a bioeconomy-based approach?
- What are the critical interrelations between bioeconomy and food security, and how can they be managed?
- What is the potential of bioplastics in reducing fossil fuel consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions?
- How can bioeconomy practices contribute to decent work and economic growth? In what ways can bioeconomy facilitate the realization of circular economy models?

## Moderator



### Mr. Emilio Sempris

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, and former Minister of Environment of Panama

## Keynote Speakers



### Ms. Juliette Biao

Director, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, UNDESA



### Mr. Eduardo do Couto e Silva

Director of the Brazilian National Biorenewables Laboratory of the National Center for Research in Energy and Materials (LNBR/CNPEM)

## Panelists



### Ms. Elisabetta Recine

President, Brazil National Council on Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA)



### Ms. Paulina Zanela

Co-Founder and CEO, Thalasso



### Mr. Gustavo Alberto Fermin

Programme Head, Program for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations University (UNU-BIOLAC)



### Ms. Maria Augusta Arruda

Director of the Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory of the National Center for Research in Energy and Materials (LNBio/CNPEM)



### Mr. Paulo Artaxo

Vice President, Sociedade Brasileira para o Progresso da Ciência (SBPC), Professor, University of Sao Paulo



### Ms. Regine Schoenberg

Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Office



### Mr. Patrick Debels

Regional Coordinator, UNOPS, UNDP/GEF Procarribe+PMCU



### Mr. Nabil Moura Kadri

Deputy Director of Socio-Environmental Division, Banco Nacional Desenvolvimento Economico e Social (BNDES) (virtual)



### Mr. Blutus Mbambi

Co-Founder and Programme Director at the Center for Climate Change Action and Advocacy Zambi (virtual)





## Salient Points

Forests account for an important segment of the global bioeconomy. Forests provide for essential livelihoods and are interlinked to almost all other SDGs, notably SDGs 1 and 2 on poverty and hunger, SDG 3 on health, SDG 6 on water, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 8 on decent work, as well as SDGs 9, 12, 15, and 17. Forests provide a cornerstone for our global ecology and economy.

We must raise our ambition on forest protection, reforestation, and afforestation. Considering threats of climate change and forest fires, we need to enhance the protection of our forests around the world and also allocate the resources necessary for this purpose.

Participants shared detailed information on Brazil's programmes and experiences in large-scale restoration of pasture lands (100 million hectares) with two thirds used for restoration of forests, and one third used for biofuel production. Modern bioeconomy can support industrialization, decarbonization and sustainable development.

Participants also shared detailed information on the situation and the role of indigenous communities in Brazil and their knowledge and contribution to forest and biodiversity protection, community-scale subsistence and commercial agricultural production. Several programmes have been launched to better reward indigenous people for their services. In Pernambuco, Brazil, the specific knowledge of indigenous women was reportedly recognized and patented.

Participants also pointed to the important role of oceans in providing livelihood for coastal communities. New ocean-based processes and products, including bioplastics based on seaweeds and sargassum, also provide important new bioeconomy income opportunities for coastal communities, including in the Caribbean region.

The research work of biologists needs to be better appreciated, as their research and their findings can be very valuable to societies and the advancement sustainable development.

In all forms of agricultural planning, the knowledge of local farmers should always be given full consideration.

The Panel noted that the research of many climate scientists suggests that the 1.5°C climate goal of the Paris Agreements appears no longer achievable. With the current trajectory, the world may more likely be heading towards an average global warming of 3°C. In this scenario, the world will also need to prepare for a very significant increase in extreme weather events.

Participants warned that if no fast and drastic action is taken on forest conservation, the Amazon, as well as several other forested areas of the world, may reach a tipping point, and instead of storing carbon, they may start to lose carbon to the atmosphere.

Participants observed that the term “bioeconomy” may be rather vague and may allow for different (mis)interpretations. If social benefits of local people are intended, a more precise terminology may be useful (e.g. socio-bioeconomy).

In many of the forested and rural areas of developing countries, uncertainties concerning land rights pose a great challenge for indigenous and other local communities. Programmes that resolve these uncertainties can help advance socio-economic and sustainable development, and indirectly contribute to environmental protection.

Criminal organizations can greatly undermine socio-economic development. Strengthening of public security services can have important direct and indirect social and development benefits.

Youth are a driving force behind many bioeconomy initiatives, and their involvement is essential for ensuring long-term success. Across the globe, young people are leading efforts to restore forests, advance sustainable agriculture, and promote bio-based solutions. By empowering youth with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need, we ensure that the next generation is prepared to take these efforts forward, scaling them for even greater impact in the future.

The bioeconomy offers a transformative opportunity to address some of the world’s most urgent challenges, from climate change to ecosystem restoration and sustainable development. By investing in research, aligning policies, supporting local communities, and fostering public-private partnerships, we can unlock the full potential of the bioeconomy to create a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

*To see the keynote presentation slides, click [here](#).*



# Thematic Session 2: Who Prospers, Who Gets Left Behind? – The just and equitable pathway to ensuring a 1.5°C aligned future that leaves no one behind

## Context

There is growing recognition that addressing inequities is increasingly essential for effective climate action and sustainable development. This includes calls for just transition, more equitable policies, increased financial support for vulnerable communities and countries, and greater inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making processes. In this session, speakers were invited to present and discuss evidence, examples, and case studies to identify and point out practical solutions. Economic, social, and environmental challenges are interlinked and must be addressed through synergistic approaches that consider the concerns of all stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable.



## Guiding Questions

- What are good examples of climate mitigation and/or adaptation action that also advance poverty reduction and social inclusion?
- How can public participation in climate and SDG decision-making be further improved?
- How can the various social groups, including those on the margin, become more engaged in climate-related policy- and decision-making?
- What needs to be done to make sure that marginalized groups are not left behind?
- How may corruption affect the effectiveness of climate action?

Moderator



**Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour**

Vice President for International Strategies, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) and member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy

Keynote Presenter



**Ms. Laura Carvalho**

Global Director of Economic and Climate Prosperity at the Open Society Foundation & Professor of Economics at University of São Paulo

Panelists



**Ms. Tri Mumpuni**

Women Representative, Social Entrepreneur, and Founder and Executive Director, People Centered Business and Economic Initiative (IBEKA), Indonesia



**Ms. Giovanna Kuele**

Program Manager for International Cooperation, Igarapé Institute



**Ms. Débora Castiglione**

Project Coordinator at the Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



**Mr. José Clayton Murilo Cavalcanti Gomes**

Representative of the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent



**Ms. Daniela Sota Valdivia**

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (Anti-Corruption), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

## Salient Points

The discussion highlighted the need for a just transition pathway aligned with the 1.5°C goal. He emphasized the importance of co-benefits in addressing climate and development challenges, urging for inclusive strategies and robust responses to overcome the hurdles of achieving equitable climate action.

Participants recognized the complexities of policy interventions aimed at greening industrial processes and just and equitable transitions. Participants noted that rich industrialized countries typically have more resources which gives them an advantage when dealing with climate change and its impacts.

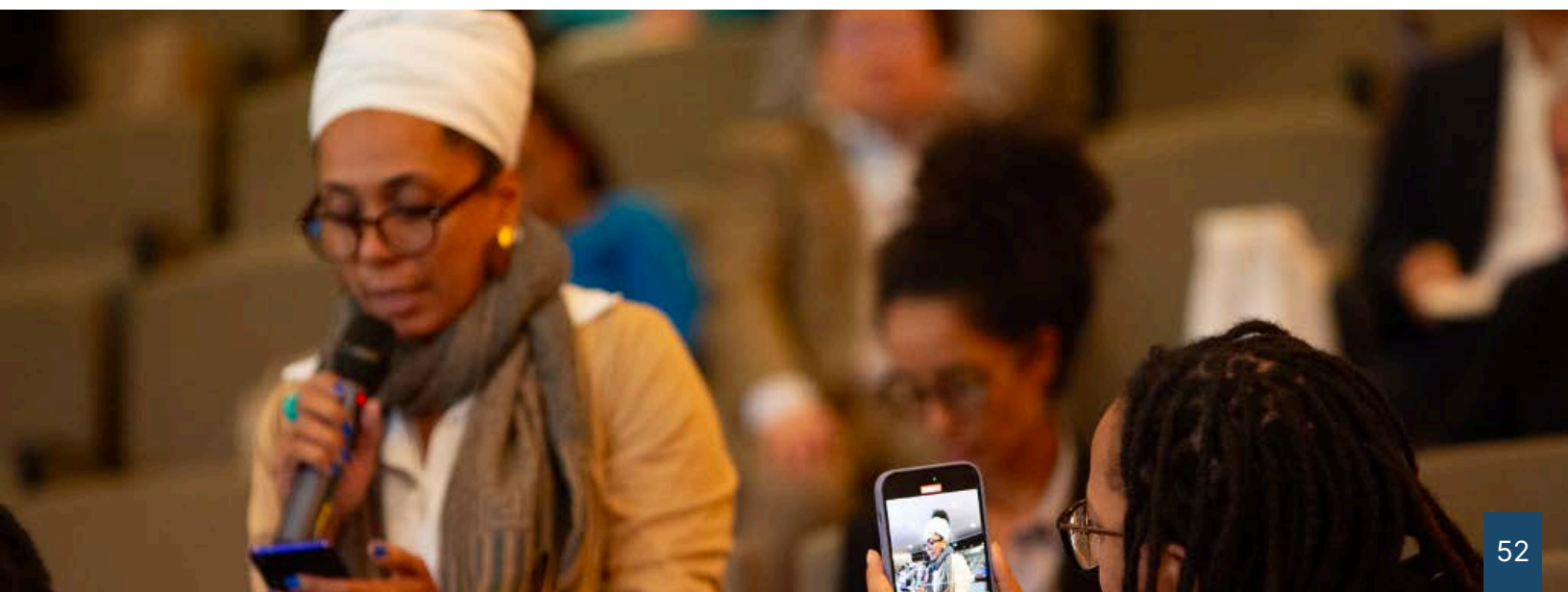
Participants stressed the need for community-driven development and local problem-solving. Participants called for moving beyond top-down approaches to empower communities through action at the local level, including social preparation and capacity building. Participants also stressed the importance of actively involving the urban and rural youth in local development efforts.

Participants emphasized the critical role of forests in both mitigating climate change and supporting economic development. They called for measures to scale up forest conservation and restoration efforts and to integrate biodiversity into ecological transition plans.

The representative of the International Organization for Migration highlighted the importance of incorporating human migration, relocation, and immobility into climate adaptation plans. She emphasized addressing socioeconomic, gender, and equity issues related to climate-induced displacement, and the need for proactive measures to prevent displacement and integrate disaster risk reduction into adaptation strategies.

Participants emphasized the need to address discrimination against marginalized communities. Discrimination issues include injustice in access to land, forced migration, racism, denial of individual or community rights, deforestation and diminishing livelihood resources, and social exclusion. Climate action must tackle these challenges to ensure no one is left behind.

The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), pointed out the effects of corruption on climate and environmental efforts, including distorting decision-making processes; increased costs of measures and the potential loss of funds; private investment discouragement; and a decrease in trust.



# Thematic Session 3: Walking the Talk – Shifting to lifestyles with more sustainable patterns of production and consumption

## Context

Adopted at the Rio+20 Conference and the UN General Assembly in 2012, the 10- Year Framework of Programmes (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production, together with SDG 12 of the 2030 Agenda, seek to advance improved consumer information, more sustainable buildings and construction, food systems, lifestyles and education, as well as more sustainable public procurement, and more sustainable forms of tourism. In this session, speakers were invited to highlight examples and identify sustainable solutions to advance demand management, resource efficiency, and advances towards a genuine circular economy at local, regional, national, and international levels.

## Guiding Questions

- How can programmes of the 10-YFP, climate goals, and SDGs best be aligned?
- What are important policies and regulatory measures to advance SCP? What are important political or social constraints?
- What are important advantages of implementing a value chain approach? What are relevant constraints?
- In which economic sectors or countries have important changes in consumer preferences already been observed?
- What are priority areas for continued capacity building or new partnerships?

Moderator



**Mr. Ralph Wahnschafft**

Independent Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development Policies

Panelists



**Ms. Glucia Mendes Souza**

Professor, Researcher, Institute of Chemistry, University of Sao Paulo (USP), FAPESP Bioenergy Programme Coordinator, IEA Task 39 Bioenergy Co-Lead (Biofuels for Decarbonization of Transportation), Brazil



**Mr. Junichi Fujino**

Programme Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan



**Mr. Fábio Véras Soares**

Director of International Studies, Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil



**Mr. Kulwant Singh**

President of KSS-Institute of Spatial Planning and Environmental Research, Panchkula, India; CEO, 3R Waste Foundation, India (former Advisor at UN-Habitat)



**Mr. Wladimir Henriques Motta**

Professor and Researcher, Federal Centre for Technological Education (under Ministry of Education), Rio de Janeiro



**Mr. Henry Ngara**

Representative of the Youth Constituency for Sustainable Production and Consumption



## Salient Points

At the outset it was noted that SDG12 and the 10YFP covered a wide range of sectors, technologies, products, and policy issues. SDG12 calls for more sustainable and efficient management of resources, reduction of waste, particularly food waste in the commercial sectors, reduction in the use of potentially hazardous chemicals, more sustainable manufacturing and production processes, as well as more and better public awareness creation and environmental education. Therefore, it was not possible to make any general recommendations. Each country would need to define its own approach on how best to identify and address the challenges, and how best to make its patterns of consumption and production more sustainable.

The representative of the Youth constituency noted that there are at least 1.3 billion young people around the world who demand a “seat at the table”, empowerment, and a greater role in decision making on climate policies and the SDGs, including in the area of sustainable consumption and production. He also noted that whilst there was plenty of international debate, actual action and implementation of measures was still very slow.

Participants discussed perspectives and opportunities for changing consumer lifestyles in industrialized countries which a view to bring them in line with the 1.5°C Paris climate goal. Many efforts are underway to advance a more resource conserving and circular economy. The importance of public information and public awareness campaigns was also highlighted.

The representative from India provided a summary overview on the many initiatives taken by the Central and the State Governments of India to advance “mission life”, a comprehensive demand management and lifestyle improvement programme. With a population of 1.4 billion people, India has adopted a step-by-step programme to promote resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production with a view to achieve a net zero carbon economy by the year 2070.

Participating experts from Brazil shared information on the technologies and the economic and environmental benefits of production and use of bioethanol and biodiesel in motor vehicles. In Brazil, modernization of agriculture and sustainable biofuel production has enabled rural communities to upgrade the productivity of previously unproductive pasture lands, increase income opportunities, stimulate innovation, and contribute to a low-carbon economy. Several recent studies suggest that the development of a biofuel economy may also be an option and beneficial in many other countries of the Global South.



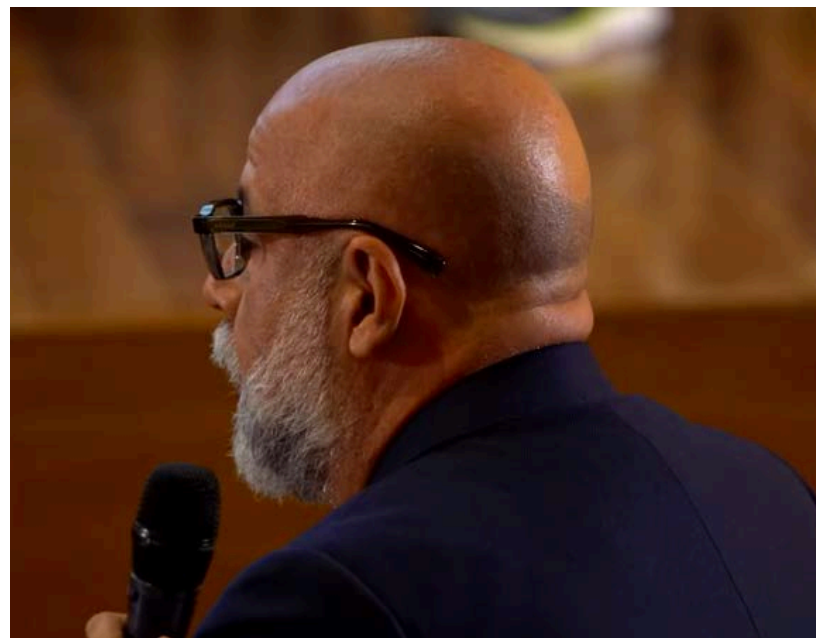
Participants noted that sustainable consumption and production was also an important area of technology development, technology sharing and cooperation. Improved technology cooperation could help developing countries to make domestic production more sustainable.

Participants welcomed national initiatives aimed at formulating and implementing national circular economy models, policies, and strategies.

Participants also noted that there was good reason for optimism: With effective international cooperation, the world community has been able to address and reverse the observed depletion of the ozone layer. Other environmental challenges could also be addressed more effectively if there was more solidarity and better international cooperation.

Environmental education, technical training, and capacity building remains crucial to advance sustainable consumption and production around the world.

Participants suggested that selected aspects of advancing more sustainable patterns of consumption and production may also be discussed on future occasions.



## Thematic Session 4: Cities as Drivers – Building climate action and resilience at local levels

### Context

The 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy focuses cities. The Report highlights the opportunities cities have in identifying and implementing local solutions that deliver multiple benefits across climate and sustainable development goals. In this session, panelist shared experiences and highlighted options and possible solutions to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and achievement of the SDGs. The discussion also focused on enhancing integration and inclusivity, multi-stakeholder participation, and ensuring a just transition that leaves no one behind.

### Guiding Questions

- What specific actions can cities and local authorities take to effectively address climate change while simultaneously advancing the SDGs?
- How can cities and local governments enhance public participation and integrated decision-making on climate action and the SDGs, to leave no one behind?
- What are good policy options that can help reduce local urban air pollution and mitigate climate change?
- How can equity and equality be advanced as part of local employment generation, public investment, infrastructure development, or climate adaptation programmes?
- How can cities and urban areas become exemplars of resilience, sustainability, and social justice in the pursuit of a just world and a sustainable planet?

Moderator



**Ms. Elisabeth Gilmore**

Associate Professor, Carlton University, Canada, and Member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies

Keynote Speakers



**Ms. Parisa Kloss**

Executive Director, Resilient Urban Planning and Development (RUPD)

Panelists



**Mr. Rodrigo Perpetuo**

Executive Secretary of South America, ICLEI



**Mr. Carlos Felipe Pardo**

Founder of SabidurAI & despacio.org



**Ms. Aline Freitas da Silva**

Coordinator of Resilient Cities, State Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainability of Rio de Janeiro



**Ms. Ana Carolina Querino**

Interim Representative, UN Women Brazil



**Mr. Ilan Cuperstein**

Regional Director, Latin America C40



**Mr. Pablo Escribano Miralles**

Regional Migration Environment and Climate Change Specialist, International Organization Migration (IOM)



**Ms. Rayne Ferreti Moraes**

National Officer for Brazil at the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean



**Mr. David Simon**

Professor of Development Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London



## Salient Points

Cities are both significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and key drivers of solutions. Innovation, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and innovative financing such as green bonds and public-private partnerships are crucial for effective action. Successful examples from cities like Copenhagen, Curitiba, and Singapore demonstrate that local leadership and proactive planning can lead to meaningful progress.

Panelists emphasized that local governments need to be recognized as key players in climate and development action. However, many cities face significant challenges due to high poverty levels. This is true for many cities in Brazil, but also for Colombia, and other countries of Latin America. At the city level, the financial resources available to deal with climate change mitigation or adaptation are very limited. Promotion of sustainable mobility in cities was identified as an important area of action. Transport planning can benefit from a greater sharing of transport data and open-source development. Increased use of bicycles, particularly electric bicycles, and smaller electric vehicles can help reduce pollution produced by urban mobility.

Participants from Brazil introduced the Resilient Environment Program, a state-level initiative targeting municipalities in Rio de Janeiro, to address the region's vulnerability to natural hazards such as landslides, floods, droughts, and heat waves. The program has six key objectives, including promoting nature-based solutions, improving intersectoral collaboration, and supporting environmental data monitoring. It also focuses on building resilience.

Participants also emphasized human rights and gender concerns. At national as well as at local levels, Gender Action Plans should be drawn up and implemented. As leaders of cities and local communities, women can make significant contributions to local sustainable development.

The Representative of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) stressed that climate-induced migration often occurs within countries, especially from rural to urban areas. He emphasized that poor urban planning is a major challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean. He pointed out that improving urban planning is essential for achieving SDG target 11.5, which focuses on reducing disaster losses. He also emphasized the importance of engaging diverse communities, like migrant populations, in the planning process by improving communication and participation.

Participants stressed that urban planning need to better address social issues and include informal settlements, which are often particularly exposed to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Sharing selected examples, participants also noted the importance of enhancing climate resilience at local levels in smaller cities.

Participants called for more inclusive urban planning. Urban planning is key in climate and SDG synergy action and must include the perspectives of women, youth, disabled individuals, and other marginalized groups, like informal settlement communities, to ensure that all community needs are addressed.

Participants emphasized the need to engage local authorities. Sharing successful case studies and practical solutions can help build momentum and inspire action at local levels.

Effective climate action and urban resilience require active participation from local communities. Citizens should be educated and engaged in decision-making processes.

Effective climate and SDG action requires collaboration between local, national, and international levels of governance. Cities should not work in isolation but rather integrate their efforts with broader climate strategies.

There is a continuing need for dedicated financial resources and policy frameworks to support subnational actions and to integrate them into national climate commitments. Cities in the Global South need greater support to advance sustainable development and cope with the impacts of climate change. The is particularly true for small and middle size cities.

*To see the keynote presentation, click [here](#).*





# Closing Session

## Co-conveners' conference summary

Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, presented the draft co-conveners' conference summary.



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



**Mr. Daniele Violetti**, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC.

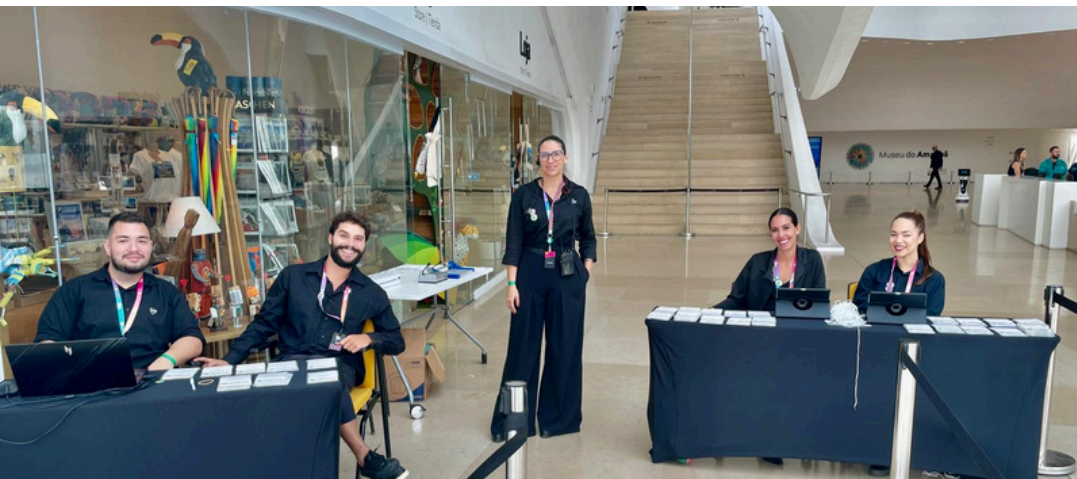
## Closing Remarks

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Bahareh Seyedi**, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, thanked all colleagues, speakers, moderators, and participants for their dedication. She expressed her appreciation of the partnership and the professional support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Brazil which has made this Conference possible and successful. Speaking on behalf of DESA, she thanked all members of the local support and production team for their collaboration and support. With sincere thanks, she acknowledged the support of the colleagues and the staff of the Museum of Tomorrow and the UN-Habitat and UNDP Offices in Brazil. She thanked the members of the UN Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies for their guidance and their participation throughout the preparations and the event. In concluding, she expressed her appreciation of the continuing collaborative and proactive partnership of the UNFCCC Secretariat, represented at the Conference by Mr. Daniele Violetti, and the UNFCCC support team.

In his closing remarks, **Mr. Daniele Violetti**, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC, thanked the Government of Brazil for its generosity and for hosting the Fifth Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He also thanked the Government for making available the spectacular venue of the Museum of Tomorrow, which provided great inspiration. Mr. Violetti thanked all speakers, panelists, members of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies, and the entire

support staff for their respective contributions and their support of Conference and its proceedings. He expressed his sincere appreciation of the collaboration of UN DESA and its Conference Team, which did much of the “heavy lifting” in the preparations and the servicing of the event. Mr. Violetti recalled that back in 2019, when the First Climate and SDG Synergies Conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, only few people would have expected that the process would continue and grow as it did, and attract this much political attention. In his outlook, he called upon countries to seize the opportunity of preparing the next round of Reports on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for making progress on addressing climate change. The new NDC Reports are expected to be transmitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by February 2025. They provide the opportunity to engage all stakeholders, cover all sectors, and plan and implement suitable measures that collectively would bring the world onto a sustainable development path in line with the 1.5°C Paris Climate Goal.

Made possible by the excellent support staff and everyone behind-the-scenes





Enclosed within this annex are a selection of supplementary resources that complement the comprehensive insights provided in the Conference Report.



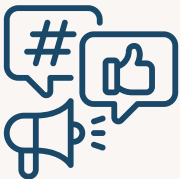
**Conference Programme** can be accessed [here](#)  
- PDF version is available [here](#)



**Conference Concept note** can be accessed [here](#)



**Conference Website** can be accessed [here](#), where conference recordings can be watched



**Social Media** assets are made available for public distribution [here](#)

We extend a warm invitation to all stakeholders interested in the Climate and SDG Synergy initiatives to stay informed about the latest developments through the [Harnessing Climate and SDG Synergy website](#) and by [subscribing to our newsletter](#), ensuring access to up-to-date information.

***We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners, distinguished speakers, and dedicated participants for their unwavering support towards advancing the Climate and SDG Synergy initiatives.***

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