

Closing The Ambition Gap: Fostering Synergies Between Climate Action and SDGs

Monday, 18 November 2024
13:30-14:45 (Baku time)

SDG Pavilion, Blue Zone, C4

Draft Concept Note

CONTEXT

As we approach 2030, the urgency to tackle climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality is paramount. The [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) reveals that only 17% of the SDGs are on track, with over a third showing significant regression. With more than 80% of SDG targets directly linked to climate, it is essential to integrate climate action with sustainable development efforts. Immediate and transformative solutions are necessary to accelerate progress and address the investment gaps worth trillions of dollars, in line with UN Secretary-General António Guterres' call for decisive climate action in "A Moment of Truth."

Since 2019, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have underscored the critical importance of synergy between climate action and the SDGs. The first global report, "[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#)," highlighted the potential for synergies to enhance resilience, build institutional capacity, and ensure policy coherence. The subsequent report, "[Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want](#)", provides a roadmap for achieving transformative change.

Political commitment is essential for realizing win-win synergies that can correct our current trajectory. There is increasing recognition of these synergies in intergovernmental discussions, particularly at COP28, where the outcome [COP28 Global Stocktake](#) reference several SDGs, and the [UNEA 6/7 resolution](#) emphasizes implementing environmental commitments in synergy with the SDGs. The [G7 communique on climate, energy and environment](#) also reinforces the commitment to a synergistic approach to the global crisis. The [2024 HLPF Political Declaration](#) emphasizes the commitment to enhancing synergies for effective national climate and development policies.

The next two years are crucial for course correction, with the upcoming round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due by early 2025. These NDCs must align with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Finance discussions at COP29 and COP30 will be essential, especially as developing countries struggle to secure the funding needed to meet their climate and development goals, with estimates suggesting trillions of dollars are required. Emphasizing synergistic solutions can lead to more coherent and integrated actions, ultimately resulting in more effective outcomes.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The event aims to catalyze the development of actionable plans and initiatives that leverage synergies between climate action and the SDGs. By presenting the findings of the [2024 report on Climate and SDG Synergy](#), participants will gain enhanced awareness and commitment among policymakers, stakeholders, and the public regarding the importance of integrated approaches to address climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality.

Co-convening organizations will outline the next steps for Climate and SDG Synergy, presenting a roadmap that supports the milestones leading to COP30.

Experts will present specific opportunities related to Climate and SDG Synergy, highlighting innovative strategies and initiatives that can drive impactful results for human capital. The event will also deliver concrete policy recommendations aimed at enhancing synergistic actions, leading to more effective and cohesive policies at local, national, and international levels.

Additionally, the event will facilitate networking and collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, with specific focus on fostering partnerships that promote integrated climate and development actions. Finally, the exchange of knowledge and best practices will enhance capacity building and reinforce a collective commitment to sustainable and inclusive progress.

The event will also showcase best practices on how to integrate the SDGs in the next generation of the NDCs (NDC 3.0) due ahead of COP30.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- The 2024 Sustainable Development Goals report highlights that only 17% of the SDGs are on track, and more than a third show significant regression. The latest reports of the IPCC, UNEP, and WMO are also testament that we are off track on the Paris goals. Urgency of action is critical. In light of this, what concrete steps can be taken at national and other levels to bridge the ambition gap between climate action and SDG progress?
- What are some sectoral policy entry points for maximizing synergies? What strategies and solutions exist to navigate potential trade-offs? What is the role of multi-stakeholders, including youth, civil society, and business?
- Finance is amongst the key issues being discussed here at COP29. The urgency of addressing climate change while reaching the SDGs is compounded by the need for trillions of dollars in financing. How can synergistic solutions help bridge the financing divide? Do integrated actions result in more cost-effectiveness solutions?
- With the upcoming NDCs due in early 2025, what are some concrete challenges and opportunities for countries to consider integrated approaches to their climate and development efforts? What are some examples of NDC design and implementation processes that not only target climate objectives but also drive broader social and equity outcomes?
- How can upcoming political processes, including the UNFCCC COPs, the Financing for Development Conference, the UNGA and other milestones, be best leveraged to promote synergies across inter-governmental processes and enhance political commitment to breaking siloes and pursuing integrate solutions?

AGENDA

Opening Remarks 13:30-13:35	Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick , Manager, Capacity-building subdivision Means of Implementation division, UNFCCC
Scene-setting Presentation 13:35 – 13:45	By a member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies, presenting the outcomes of the 2024 report on Climate and SDG Synergy Ms. Diana Urge-Vorsatz , Vice-Chair, IPCC and Professor, Central European University
Panel discussion 13:45 – 14:35	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA

Panel discussion on Climate and SDG Synergy

- **Mr. Ma Jun**, founder and director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE)
- **Mr. Junichi Fujino**, Principal Researcher/ Program Director, City Taskforce Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
- **Ms. Jennifer Baumwoll**, Climate Promise Global Coordinator, UNDP Climate Promise
- **Ms. Dianna Kopansky**, Head, Freshwater Ecosystems & Wetlands Unit, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP
- **Ms. Katherine Browne**, Team Leader: International Climate Risk and Adaptation; Research Fellow, SEI
- **Mr. Joshua Amponsem**, Co-Director Youth Climate Justice Fund and Founder of the Green Africa Youth Organization

Q&A

14:35 – 14:40

Q&A with the audience

Next Steps and Closing

14:40– 14:45

UN DESA / UNFCCC

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