

Second Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 2-3 April 2020

Overview Concept Note (Draft)

Context

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement in 2015 established a strong foundation for the coherent implementation of climate action and sustainable development objectives across all levels and sectors. The multiple interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement indicate that coherent, integrated and synergistic implementation of both would lead to many benefits.

UNDESA and UN Climate Change (UNFCCC secretariat) have teamed up, in collaboration with other partners, to organize annual Global Conferences on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The first global conference took place from 1 to 3 April 2019 at UN City in Copenhagen, hosted by the government of Denmark, with several hundred participants from across diverse communities, sectors and levels, including governments, international organisations, the private sector, science and academia. Details about the 2019 Synergy Conference are available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies2019>.

Outcomes of the conference informed the in-depth review of SDG 13 at the 2019 HLPF. The Climate Action Summit mobilised transformative partnerships to advance climate action with SDG co-benefits. The SDG Summit Declaration underscored the critical importance of utilising the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to achieve the transformational change needed across all sectors and levels of society.

Against these backdrops, 2020 presents a series of opportunities to advance integrated responses to climate change and the SDGs, with the second Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Beijing, the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon and the UN Conference on Biodiversity in Kunming, providing important building blocks for the SDG Decade of Action and enhancement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in time for UNFCCC COP 26, Glasgow.

Objective

UN DESA and UN Climate Change (UNFCCC secretariat), in partnership with the European Union and in collaboration with other partners, will jointly organize the Second Global Conference to strengthen synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to take place during 2-3 April 2020 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The overall objectives of the Second Global Synergy Conference will be, among others, to:

- identify and share specific examples to illustrate the potential of synergistic and interlinked approaches towards realizing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;
- discuss practical ways to leverage the updates/enhancement of National Determined Contributions in 2020 for maximizing SDG co-benefits;
- discuss how to scale up finance including private capital toward climate-friendly sustainable investments;
- discuss how to leverage global conferences, especially on transport, oceans and biodiversity, for mobilizing synergetic actions and outcomes;
- consider potential substantive inputs to the High-Level Political Forum, the SDG Decade of Action and UNFCCC/COP26, including post-conference follow processes required to this end.

Expected Outcomes

The outcomes of the conference will consist of:

- (i) proceedings of the conference including a policy-relevant summary;

- (ii) action-focused inputs for the High-Level Political Forum, the SDG Decade of Action, UNFCCC/COP26 and other upcoming global conferences;
- (iii) enhanced on-line knowledge platform on synergies, based on case-studies, examples of action and inputs gathered toward/during the conference.

Participation

Around 300 participants, mainly at the technical-level, will be expected from developed and developing countries, consisting of experts from governments, international organisations and other multi-stakeholders covering many SDGs and climate action. Select high-level participants will be invited to join during a high-level segment of the conference. To facilitate interaction among the participants, it is expected a few parallel sessions will also be organised, in addition to potential side events and exhibits.

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PROGRAMME OUTLINE (DRAFT)

2 APRIL: 9:00 – 17:00

High-Level Opening/Setting the scene

- Opening statements
- Keynote presentations

BREAK

Overview presentations

LUNCH – Side events

Synergies in action: Sharing experiences and lessons (3 Parallel sessions)

BREAK

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Reception (tbc)

3 APRIL: 9:00-17:00

High-Level Segment

- Special Addresses

BREAK

Challenges and Opportunities (3 parallel sessions)

LUNCH – Side events

Catalysing Partnerships (3 parallel sessions)

BREAK

Stock-taking Roundtable

Next steps

Closing