

Official COP28 Side Event

Redefining Success: A Just and Equitable Transition through greater Climate Action and SDGs Synergies

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

13:15-14:45 (Dubai time)

SE Room 7, Blue Zone

Concept Note

CONTEXT

Halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, a mere 15 percent of SDG targets are on track. The climate crisis is worsening as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Catastrophic and intensifying heat waves, droughts, flooding and wildfires have become far too frequent. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called for an urgent course correction, stating that “climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals” and urging world leaders to come together behind a rescue plan for people and planet — a rallying cry for synergistic action.

The first global report on climate and SDG synergies, “[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#),” developed by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy- co-convened by UNFCCC and UN DESA, underscores that addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs are inextricably intertwined, and that o-benefits of synergistic action far outweigh trade-offs. It also demonstrates that by maximizing synergies, we can also bridge investment gaps worth trillions of dollars. Bottom line is that we must act on the climate emergency and sustainable development together now to ensure a just and equitable transition towards a net-zero, climate-resilient future.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This event includes a presentation of the key messages and recommendations of the first Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy. The event features members of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy as well as other stakeholder, including member states and non-state actors who are championing tackling climate and SDGs together and will be sharing perspectives, experiences, and actionable steps towards accelerating progress on both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, while upholding equity and just transitions. The event will also provide insights into key milestones in 2024 where this critical topic of enhancing climate and SDG synergies and deepening its evidence-base can be further advanced.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What, in your view, is the most compelling reason to enhance synergies between climate and the SDGs?
2. Issues of just transitions, equality, and leaving no one behind are critical to both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris goals. Can you provide insights and concrete examples on how synergistic approaches can help uphold these principals?
3. Significant investments are needed to achieve the SDGs and climate goals, and current financial flows towards these objectives remain hugely inadequate. What financing instruments and opportunities exist to drive both agendas forward in an integrated manner?
4. A major challenge in adoption of a synergistic approach towards the SDGs and the Paris goals is a weak science-policy-society interface and there remains a sizeable disconnect between scientific evidence and applied policy action. How can this be addressed?

5. How, in your view, can political process related climate and the SDGs, including the UNFCCC COPs, Biodiversity COPs, IPCC, UNGA, HLPF amongst others be best leveraged to elevate the importance of integration and synergies across the SDGs and climate action?

AGENDA

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

<p>Opening 13:15 – 13:25</p>	<p>Mr. Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, United Nations Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>
<p>Keynote address 13:25 – 13:35</p>	<p>Ms. Emma Siemens Lorenzen, Policy Advisor, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. Pedro Mariano Martins Pontes, General Coordinator of Cooperation at the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil</p>
<p>Presentation 13:35 – 13:45</p>	<p><i>Presentation of the report “Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together”</i></p> <p>Mr. Luis Gomez-Echeverri, Emeritus Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Co-chair of Climate and SDG Expert Group <i>online</i></p> <p>Ms. Diána Üрге-Vorsatz, Director, Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy (3CSEP), Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy</p>
<p>Panel discussion 13:45 – 14:35</p>	<p>Mr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy</p> <p>Ms. Tolullah Oni, Clinical Director of Research, University of Cambridge & Founder, UrbanBetter, Member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy</p> <p>Mr. Vikram Widge, Senior Advisor, Climate Policy initiative (CPI)</p> <p>Ms. Katherine Browne, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)</p>
<p>Final Remarks 14:35-14:40</p>	<p>H.E. Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vice-Minister of the Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan</p>
<p>Closing 14:40 – 14:45</p>	<p>Mr. Minoru Takada, Secretary, UN-Energy secretariat, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</p>

LOGISTICS

This is a system-wide side event; thus we kindly invite all, government representatives, UN agencies and other stakeholders to participate and contribute to the outcome of the event. Please kindly RSVP through the following link by 5 December 12:00 noon Dubai time: <https://forms.office.com/e/Ds6JsmtmYh>

- The side event will take place in a hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation.
- The side event is located in the Blue Zone of the Expo Dubai in SE room 7. For information on the location of side event room, please refer to the maps provided below.
- Online participants can follow the side event at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/k-GNtEHKOc?si=6kNwQpNNCemgQ1KI>

