**Delivering Together: Integrated Solutions to**

**Secure Ambitious Climate Action**

Side Event at COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan

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| Thursday 14 November 2024 | |
| TIME: | 11:30am – 1:00pm |
| ROOM: | Side Event Room 1 (SE 1), Blue Zone |

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| OBJECTIVES: |
| * Demonstrate that achieving Agenda 2030, and maintaining those development gains, depends on robust and coherent climate action. * Illuminate the unique value-add of the UN system to advance coherent climate action at national level, to catapult SDG achievement. * Highlight the particular role of the Resident Coordinator, including through the strategic coordination role in the Joint SDG Fund, in delivering the best of the UN system at national level. * Showcase examples of the UN system leveraging climate finance at national level while Leaving No One Behind. * Spotlight water, a crucial manifestation of climate, as a key area for climate action that would benefit from similar engagement of the RC system and UNCTs. * Make a clarion call to action by governments and all stakeholders to harness the unique potential of the revitalised RC system for UN system-wide support to climate action on the ground. |

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| AGENDA: |  | | |
| TIME | MINS | TITLE | PURPOSE |
| 11:30am | 5 mins | Welcome and introduction by the Moderator, **Ms.** **Kanako Mabuchi,** Head of UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Azerbaijan | Setting the Scene; Introducing the Panelists |
| 11:35am | 3 mins | Video Message by the **Deputy Secretary-General** | SDG Acceleration and the UN system |
| 11:38pm | 5 mins | Keynote Remarks by **Mrs. Retno Marsudi**, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Water | Water as an impactful entry point for ambitious and economy-wide climate action and SDG acceleration, and the critical role of RCs and UNCTs to support governments making systemic changes through water |
| 11:43pm | 4 mins | Joint SDG Fund **Video** |  |
| 11:47 | 6 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Natalia Salas**, Professional on Climate Change, Forests and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia | Joint SDG Fund programme on food finance in Bolivia – importance and value-add of UNCT working together and RC leadership for economy-wide climate action |
| 12.03am | 5 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Gita Sabharwal**, UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia  *(pre-recorded video)* | UNCT Indonesia delivering together via joint programmes; climate finance |
| 12:08am | 6 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Bérangère Boëll**, UN Resident Coordinator in the United Arab Emirates | Post COP28 UN engagement with the UAE focus on climate finance |
| 12:14pm | 6 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Vladanka Andreeva**, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan | UN Development System delivering joint support to COP29 Presidency; linkage of climate action and SDGs across the three Rio Conventions , translation of climate ambition into the new cooperation framework between UN and Azerbaijan. |
| 12:20pm | 6 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Kamala Huseynli Abishova**, COP29 Presidency | On Baku Water Initiative |
| 12:26pm | 6 mins | Intervention by **Ms. Elizabeth Sellwood**, Chief, Environmental Security Unit, UNEP | On the implementation of the Baku Water Initiative |
| 12:32pm | 20 mins | **Q&A** | Interaction between audience and panelists |
| 12:52pm | 1 min | Final thought by **Ms. Bérangère Boëll**, UN Resident Coordinator, United Arab Emirates | Very short final thought – e.g., an observation, a takeaway, a call to action, a commitment |
| 12:53pm | 1 min | Final thought by **Ms. Kamala Huseynli Abishova**, COP29 Presidency | Very short final thought – e.g., an observation, a takeaway, a call to action, a commitment |
| 12:54pm | 1 min | Final thought by **Ms. Elizabeth Sellwood**, Chief, Environmental Security Unit, UNEP | Very short final thought – e.g., an observation, a takeaway, a call to action, a commitment |
| 12:55pm | 1 min | Final thought by **Ms. Natalia Salas**, Professional on Climate Change, Forests and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia | Very short final thought – e.g., an observation, a takeaway, a call to action, a commitment |
| 12:56pm | 1 min | Final thought by **Ms. Vladanka Andreeva**, UN Resident Coordinator, | Very short final thought – e.g., an observation, a takeaway, a call to action, a commitment |
| 12:57pm | 3-4 mins | Closing by **Moderator, Ms. Kanako Mabuchi,** Head of RC Office, Azerbaijan | Thanks all speakers and audience and closes the session |

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| KEYNOTE REMARKS:   * **Her Excellency, Mrs. Retno Marsudi,** UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Water   PANELISTS: |
| * **Ms. Vladanka Andreeva**, UN Resident Coordinator, Azerbaijan * **Ms. Bérangère Boëll,** UN Resident Coordinator, United Arab Emirates * **Ms. Gita Sabharwal,** UN Resident Coordinator, Indonesia [Pre-recorded video] * **Ms. Kamala Huseynli Abishova**, COP29 Presidency * **Ms. Natalia Salas**, Professional on Climate Change, Forests and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia * **Ms. Elizabeth Sellwood**, Chief, Environmental Security Unit, UNEP   *Moderator*   * **Ms. Kanako Mabuchi**, Head of UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Azerbaijan |

BACKGROUND:

Nine years after the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Agenda were gaveled, the world’s progress on these goals is far off track. Several compounding crises have impeded the world’s efforts – from Covid-19 to debt distress to geopolitical conflicts. Emissions reductions of 42 per cent are needed by 2030 and 57 per cent by 2035 to get on track for the 1.5°C goal. Only 17% of the SDGs are on track to being achieved by 2030. With climate action and sustainable development being two sides of the same coin, financing for both is only a trickle of the volume and pace needed.

In light of these challenges, there is an urgency for accelerated and focused climate action at national level, to deliver transformative solutions at speed and scale aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. At COP28, the Parties adopted the UAE Consensus, in which they agreed to triple renewable energy, to double energy efficiency, to boost adaptation and to transition away from fossil fuels. A key tool to turn these commitments into action to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and address loss and damage is climate finance. At COP29, all Parties must agree a new climate finance goal (New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)) that truly responds to the needs of the developing countries, to support their mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage efforts.

The NDC process under the Paris Agreement presents a timely opportunity, offering perhaps the best chance to ensure global warming stays under 1.5°C. At COP30 in Brazil in late 2025, countries must come prepared with the third generation of NDCs (NDCs 3.0) that must be fully aligned with the 1.5°C temperature goal. To be commensurate with this ambition, NDCs 3.0 must be backed up by robust policies and regulations, and must be economy-wide (e.g., overing food systems, health, transport, energy, industry, and other key sectors contributing to greenhouse gas emissions), which also necessitates integrative policy and investment at national level. This demands alignment with other instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, national food systems pathways, etc.

One under-examined but potentially very powerful entry point for ambitious, economy-wide NDCs is water. Increasingly frequent extreme weather events and long-term hydrological shifts are already disrupting the water cycle, leading to reduced water availability and quality, heightened risk of water-borne diseases, and contributing to pollution and habitat degradation, while impacting the potential economic output. Prioritizing water in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies is essential; neglecting it could escalate costs and hinder the achievement of climate goals, intensifying competition for water resources across sectors and regions, and raising risks of migration and conflict. In essence, water is a system which brings together the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The UN Secretary-General has highlighted that for developing countries, the NDC 3.0 process is a chance to create national climate plans that double as national transition plans and national investment plans: to attract capital and investments; to chart a just transition to a net zero future; and to underpin sustainable development for generations to come. The formulation and implementation of NDCs 3.0, and the use of powerful entry points such as water, is therefore an excellent opportunity to not only advance climate ambition and action, but also shift the needle on SDG acceleration writ large through systems transitions; in keeping with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

The revitalized United Nations Development System is uniquely positioned to support countries in this endeavour. Following the UN development system reforms in 2018, the leadership and concerted efforts of Resident Coordinators, with UNDP and the wider UN Country Teams at the national level is vital to delivering on the promise of economy-wide NDCs that are ambitious, inclusive and that accelerate climate action and sustainable development.

A crucial tool available to the UN System is the Joint SDG Fund – the muscle that Resident Coordinators and UNCTs are using to advance coordinated and impactful efforts on the ground. Through the joint programmes of the UN system funded by the Joint SDG Fund, UNCTs are helping governments to make the kind of integrated and economy-wide shifts in policy frameworks that the Paris Agreement requires. This can also help leverage additional financing.

SESSION INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS:

**Question to Ms. Natalia Salas**, Professional on Climate Change, Forests and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

*Food Systems transformation is a key priority for the Government of Bolivia and is critical for climate action. How is the UN Country Team supporting your government to remove bottlenecks and advance this priority?*

**Question to Ms. Gita Sabharwal,** UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

*How is the UNCT in Indonesia, a middle-income country, helping the government and all stakeholders to access climate finance for impact?*

**Question to Ms. Bérangère Boëll,** UN Resident Coordinator in the United Arab Emirates

How is the UN supporting the government of the UAE to advance on climate finance post-COP28?

**Question to Ms. Vladanka Andreeva,** UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan

*While national action is key for our efforts on climate and sustainable development, global processes such as the COP are also key. How has the UNCT in Azerbaijan supported the government in preparation for COP29?*

**Question to Ms. Kamala Huseynli Abishova**, COP29 Presidency

*The COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action recognizes that water is at the heart of climate action. How does the COP29 Presidency hope the UN System will help advance this critical agenda and the implementation of the declaration?*

**Question to Ms. Elizabeth Sellwood**, Chief, Environmental Security Unit, UNEP

*As a key partner for the implementation of the Baku Water Initiative, and as a member of the Operational Steering Committee of the Joint SDG Fund, how will UNEP support integrated solutions at the national level and help unlock financing at scale?*

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| RESOURCE PERSONS: |
| **Kanako Mabuchi** -- [kanako.mabuchi@un.org](mailto:kanako.mabuchi@un.org)  **Karolina Batcho** -- [karolina.batcho@un.org](mailto:karolina.batcho@un.org)  **Elaine Genser --** [elaine.genser@un.org](mailto:elaine.genser@un.org)  **Toscan Vermast** – [Toscan.vermast@un.org](mailto:Toscan.vermast@un.org)  **Poorti Sapatnekar** – [sapatnekar@un.org](mailto:sapatnekar@un.org)  **Gonzalo Pizarro** – [gonzalo.pizarro@un.org](mailto:gonzalo.pizarro@un.org) |