

# Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want



REPORT ON STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE | SECOND EDITION  
2024

# Climate and SDG Synergy Expert Group

**Composition:** Independent group of 17 experts from diverse thematic and geographic backgrounds.

**Objective:** To prepare publication that builds on evidence-base and demonstrates win-win solutions of addressing climate and sustainable development challenges synergistically.



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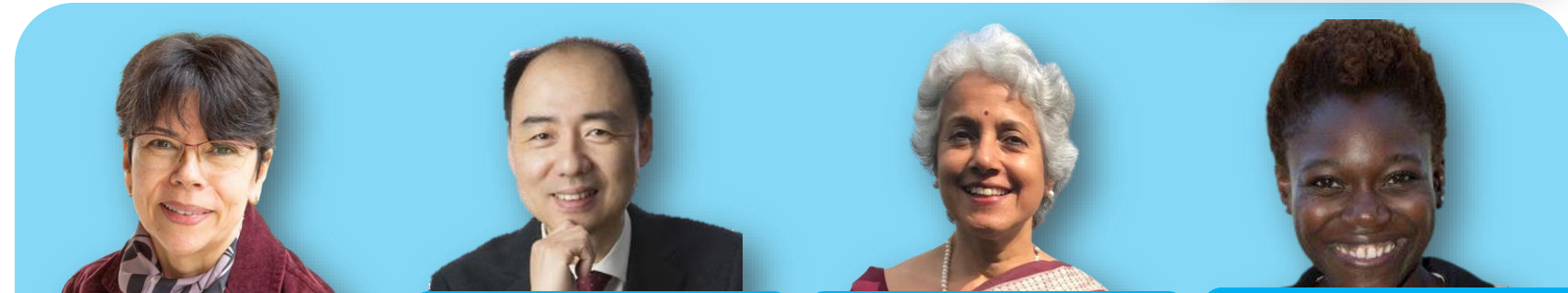


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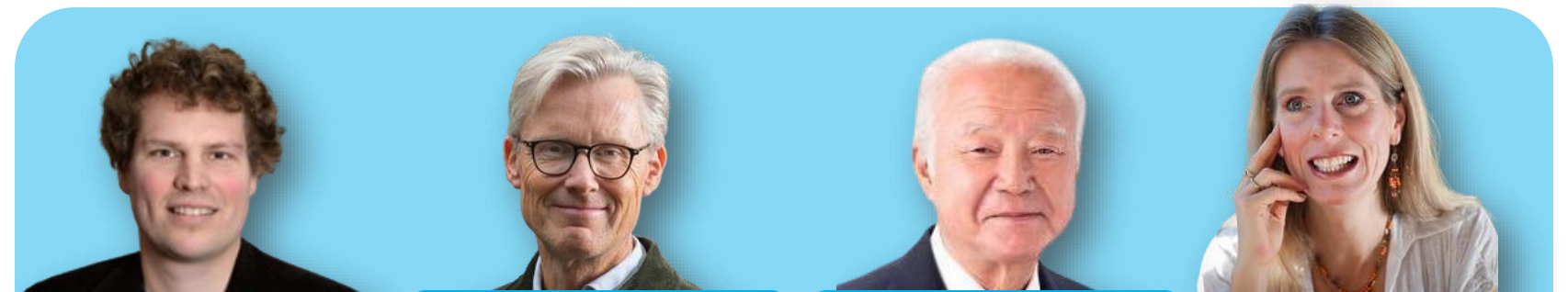


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## 2024 New Expert Group Members



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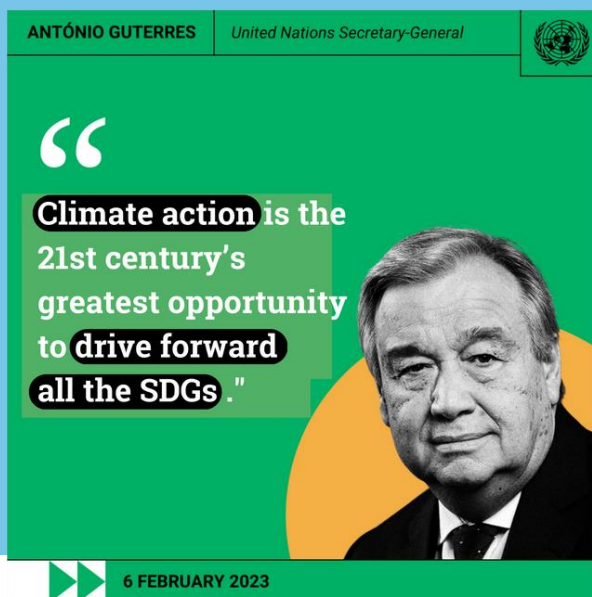
Yannick Glemarec



# Process towards the 2024 Global Report

## UN SG's call for synergistic action

In his priorities for 2023, UN Secretary-General has called for an urgent course correction, urging world leaders to come together behind a rescue plan for people and planet — a rallying cry for synergistic action.



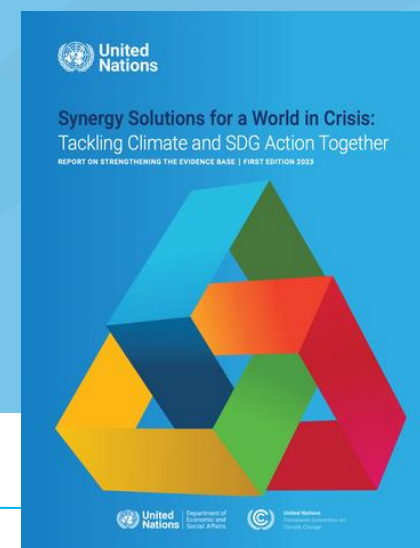
## UNDESA and UNFCCC build a plan for action

The inter-agency partnership aimed at fostering synergistic action between the SDGs and climate agenda, and the outcomes of the fourth Global Conferences held since 2019 provide the essential platform, rationale, and urgency for this report.



## 2023 Global Report

This report emphasizes the need to integrate climate action and SDG to meet the UN Secretary-General's call for course correction, highlighting challenges and opportunities for enhancing these synergies. It provides data, expert insights, and recommendations for synergistic action across the 2030 Agenda and SDGs



## SDGs and climate action are not on track

The GSDR 2024 report reveals that only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are currently on track, with nearly half showing minimal or moderate progress, and over one-third stalled or regressing.

That year was also the warmest on record, with global temperatures nearing the critical 1.5°C threshold.



## Expert Group prepares the second edition of the global report

An international group of 17 experts was co-convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC to draft the first global report. It is the first collaborative effort to systematize knowledge on synergistic climate and SDG implementation, charting the course for accelerated action.



# Towards the 2024 Global Report

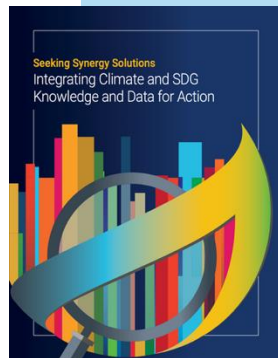
## Synthesis Report

Providing conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the political processes of 2024

Cross-cutting themes

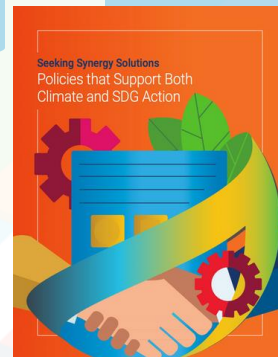
### MEASURES FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION – KNOWLEDGE AND DATA

Thematic Report



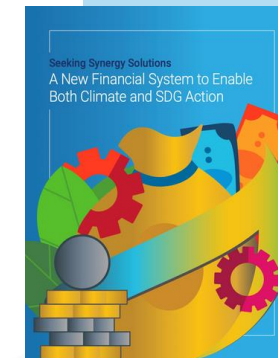
### POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

Thematic Report



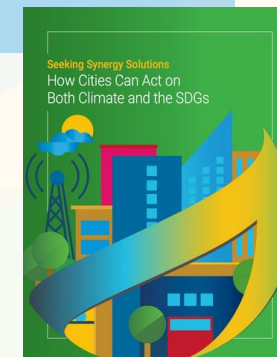
### NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

Thematic Report



### CITIES PLATFORMS FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

Thematic Report



Deep-dive theme



1.

# The Need of Synergy

Pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas.



# Synergistic action will help to course correct

**Need for accelerated action:** Halfway to the 2030 Agenda, a mere 15% of SDG targets are on track and the climate crisis is worsening as GHG emissions continue to rise.

**The impact of acting in silos:** The report presents a list of potential negative impacts in terms of short-falls in financial resources, jobs that are put at risk and people at risk of hunger

**Reduce financial gaps:** Pursuing development and climate targets together reduces investment gaps.

**Achieve targets faster:** Integrating social dimensions enhances chances of reaching climate targets.

**Ensure just transition:** Synergistic planning will ensure a just transition and limit the trade-offs of climate action.

**4.3 trillion**

USD shortfall in financial flows by 2030 to achieve a 1.5°C global climate scenario and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change

When acting in silos...

**80 million**

jobs are put at risk with a shift to a low-carbon and resource efficient economy without a just transition

**84 million**

more people at risk of hunger by 2050 without SDG integration in climate efforts

**70%**

of SDG targets are attainable with climate adaptation measures focused on co-benefits in urban areas

When acting in synergy...

**71-99**

thousand fewer premature deaths in 2030 due to energy system transition under NDCs

**4x**

economic gains in co-benefits through transitioning to a green economy

**24 million**

new jobs created by 2030 through renewable energy

**40%**

of global population could meet WHO air quality standards with strict air pollution and GHG mitigation measure

3.

# The Challenge

We must solve the climate emergency and sustainable development challenges together, or we will not solve them at all.





# Fragmentation

Integrating climate action with sustainable development policies can **accelerate progress, enhance resource efficiency, and facilitate coherent policymaking.**

**Then why is it still not happening to scale?**

**Fragmentation**

in institutional structures

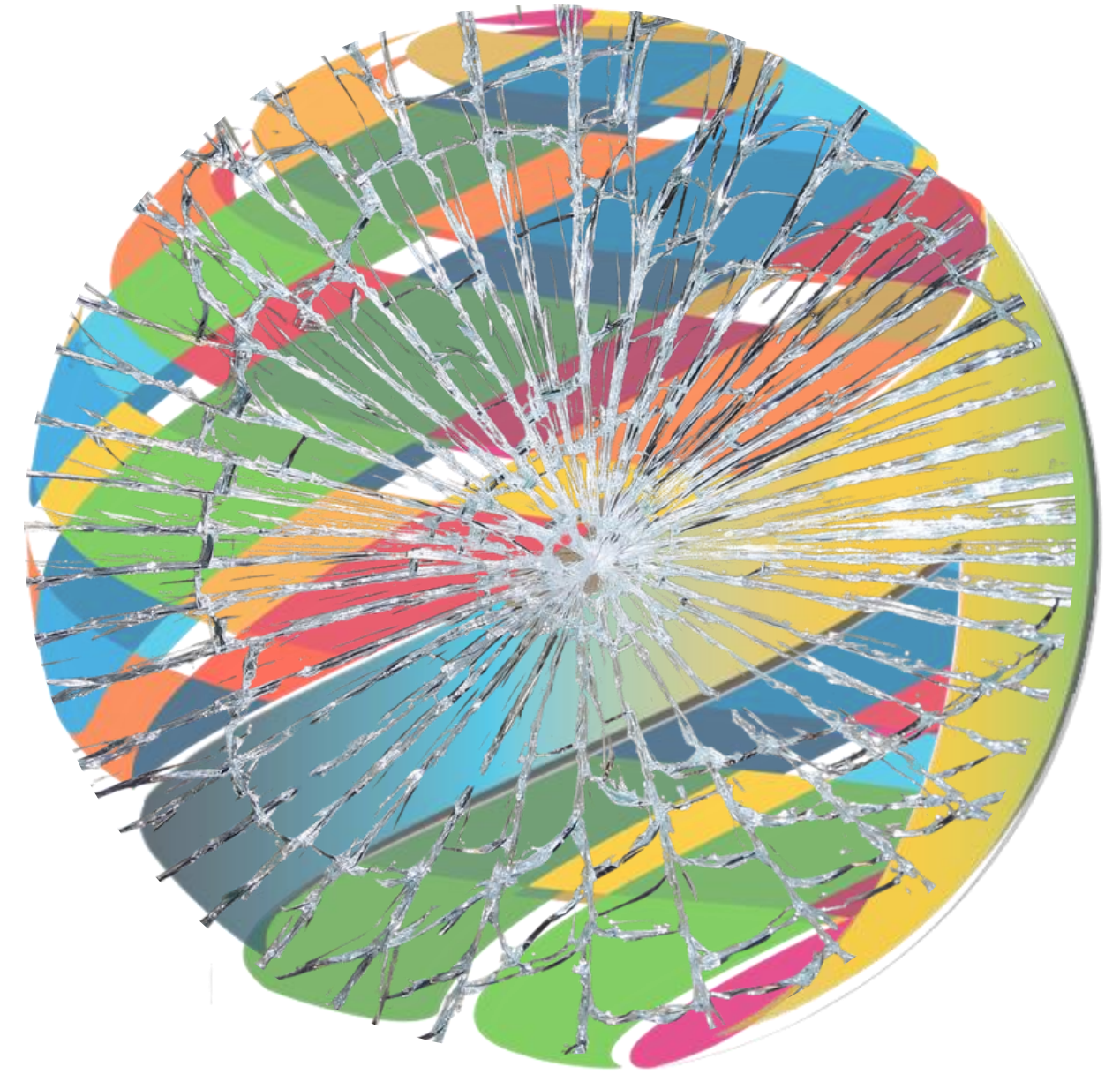
**Fragmentation**

in climate finance

**Fragmentation**

in sectoral and multi-level knowledge

Overcoming this requires enhancing the accessibility and relevance of knowledge and data for policymakers to support effective and synergistic decision-making (i.e. knowledge-action gap).





4.

# The Opportunity

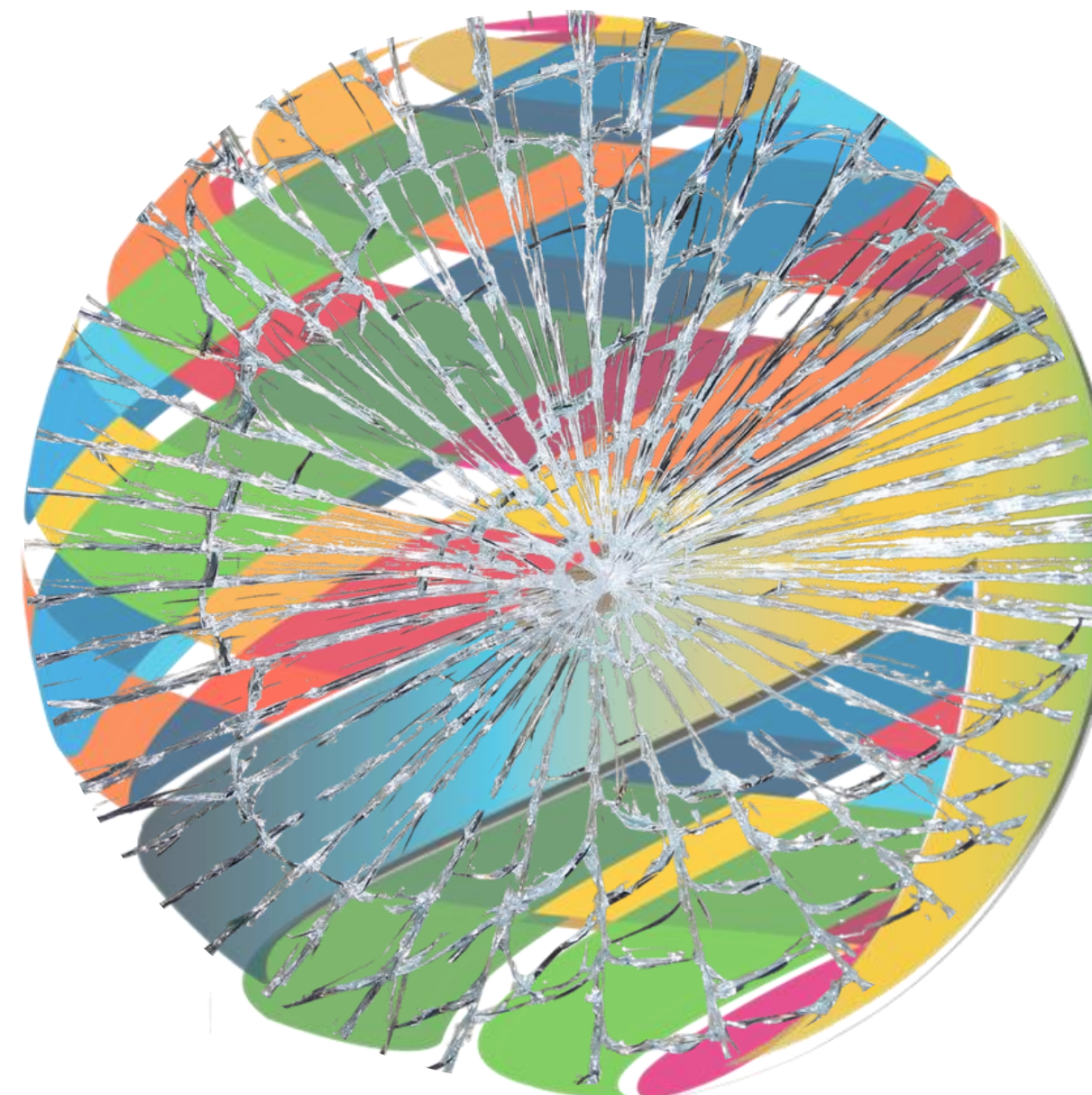


# Addressing Fragmentation

Only approximately 20 of the 150+ new and updated NDCs explicitly refer to SDGs, with the majority failing to consider the interactions between climate policy and SDGs progress.

These challenges can be overcome through:

1. strengthening institutional coordination, by removing silos, reducing fragmentation, and enabling meaningful participation;
2. overcoming incoherence in implementation, by anticipating policy interaction and negative outcomes and reducing transaction costs from horizontal and vertical coordination;
3. navigating policy constraints, by identifying shared ideas and visions of the benefits from climate and SDG action and navigating vested interests that benefit from status quo
4. frameworks, tools and other resources that can facilitate synergistic action at each step

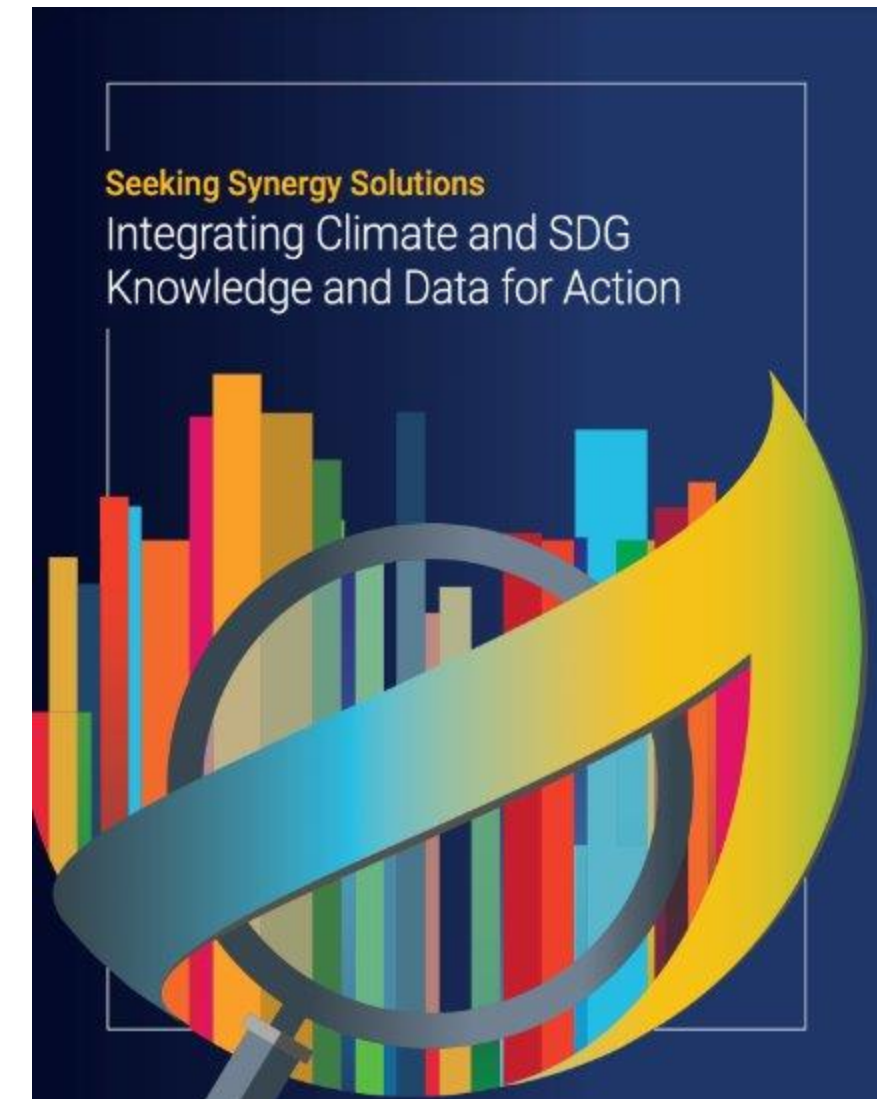


Fragmentation across governance  
Fragmentation across financing  
Fragmentation across knowledge



# Integrated funding models are essential

- USD 8.1-9 trillion needed annually for climate finance through 2030.
- USD 4 trillion annual investment gap for SDGs in developing countries.
- Integration could substantially reduce total costs.



# Recommendations

- 01** **Only with unified action can we succeed**  
Integrating synergetic actions with enhanced cooperation among governments, policymakers, and communities globally is essential
- 02** **Fragmentation is the enemy**  
Addressing fragmentation in institutional structures and strategies is crucial for enhancing synergies between climate and SDGs
- 03** **Deep reforms needed**  
Deep reforms across all sectors, including institutional changes and behavioral shifts, are necessary to make meaningful progress
- 04** **Avoiding top-down approaches**  
Embracing bottom-up approaches involves solutions tailored to local contexts, with strong local engagement and support for community initiatives.
- 05** **Cities as drivers**  
Cities play a critical role in achieving SDG targets and climate goalsthrough innovative, integrated urban planning and infrastructure development
- 06** **Breaking down silos**  
Coordinated, integrated policy development and implementation across different government levels and sectors are essential
- 07** **Experts are everywhere**  
Inclusive engagement across all societal sectors is vital for generating transformative change, particularly incorporating perspectives from marginalized groups
- 08** **Protecting the most vulnerable**  
Strengthened infrastructure, community capacity, and government collaboration are imperative components for building resilience in communities
- 09** **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



# Read the report



For further information, please contact:  
Joint UNDESA-UNFCCC Secretariat Climate and SDG Synergy Secretariat  
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