

BRIDGING THE AMBITION GAP FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT THROUGH CLIMATE AND SDGS SYNERGY

Monday, 16 July 2024
10:30 – 13:00 EDT
UN Headquarters, New York
Conference Room 5



CONCEPT NOTE *(Draft as of July 8)*

Background

Despite the ambitious goals set in 2015 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, our current trajectory suggests we are falling short. Urgent action is needed to address the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality. Reclaiming the vision of 2015 requires innovative solutions and a reassessment of our current challenges and opportunities towards 2030 and beyond.

Since 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been leading efforts to promote climate and SDG synergy as the linchpin for addressing our current challenges and realizing an equitable future. The first global report developed by the [Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy](#) and called upon by the co-convening organizations, titled “[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#),” underscored the importance of pursuing synergies to enhance collective resilience against global crises, promote institutional capacity building, ensure policy coherence, and address investment gaps. The report revealed that maximizing synergies could bridge investment gaps worth trillions of dollars, optimizing resource allocation to address immense financial challenges for climate and development objectives. By harnessing the potential of climate and SDG synergy, we can chart a course towards the 2030 we want.

There is a growing demand for actionable, synergistic, and transformative approaches to address interconnected global crises together. This concept is emphasized in the first [GST outcome at COP28](#) in Dubai, where member states agreed upon the need to address climate action in the broader context of sustainable development. Similarly, the [UNEA 6/7 resolution](#) calls for strengthened global cooperation to maximize co-benefits between environmental action and the achievement of the SDGs. The recent [G7 communique on climate, energy and environment](#) commits to pursue synergies approach towards the SDGs when addressing the triple global crisis. Many governments are adopting a proactive approach to integrated planning at both national and international levels. For instance, Japan, Norway, Denmark, and other likeminded countries have been pioneers in promoting synergistic climate and SDG actions. The government of Japan was able to leverage processes such as UNEA6, G7, G20, COP, and have hosted the 3rd Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy as well as the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 13, leading up to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, thus contributing to advance the concept of synergies on a broader political scale.

The upcoming critical milestones include the UN Secretary-General [Summit of the Future](#) in September 2024, which calls upon all policymakers and stakeholders to present course-changing solutions for mobilizing political and financial actions to combat the climate crisis and achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals. The road to COP29 and then COP30 will entail a series of crucial decisions including by setting a new goal on climate finance and the submission of updated and more ambitious NDCs. The integration of SDGs, together with key principles of just transition and leaving no one behind, will be critical to achieve successful outcomes. To this end, building evidence and providing a roadmap for synergistic solutions is needed now more than ever to support the success of these processes. The 5th Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy in September 2024, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil in the margins of G20 meetings, will bridge the political discussion with practical solutions presented as the main findings of the new, 2024 report by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy.

Launch of the 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy

Building on the outcomes of the first Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, the second report, prepared by the Expert Group with input from over 100 world experts, is a practical response to uncovering challenges and opportunities for revitalizing action towards just and equitable societies on a healthy planet. The report suggests an adaptable and transformative course of action, tailored to current and future global challenges—a pathway characterized by synergistic action. This important analytical piece, with its key 4 thematic areas on policy instruments, knowledge and data, financial mechanisms and cities platforms, will provide a roadmap for policymakers with concrete policy recommendations on how to realize synergistic climate and SDG actions on the ground.

The special event will launch the 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, presenting actionable solutions for key upcoming discussions. It will highlight key messages and recommendations from the report, showcasing practical examples of these recommendations in action by Member States, civil society, and the private sector. The event will serve as a platform to initiate new potential collaborations for synergistic action and reflect on how this work can support policymakers and practitioners.

Expected Outcomes

The event will catalyze the development of concrete action plans and initiatives that leverage synergies between climate action and the SDGs. By presenting the outcomes of the 2024 report on Climate and SDG Synergy, the event will aim to:

1. Increase awareness and commitment among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of synergistic approaches to address climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality. It will encourage a renewed commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by showcasing the benefits of integrated action.
2. Provide policymakers with concrete policy recommendations to enhance synergistic climate and SDG actions. This will lead to the development and implementation of more effective and integrated policies at the national and international levels.
3. Facilitate networking and collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. This will create opportunities for new partnerships and initiatives that promote synergistic action on climate change and sustainable development.
4. Exchange knowledge and best practices between participants on synergistic approaches, leading to enhanced capacity building and learning across sectors and regions.

Guiding Questions

1. How can we ensure that synergistic approaches to climate action and the SDGs are integrated into national and international policy frameworks?
2. What innovative financing mechanisms can be developed to support synergistic climate and SDG actions?
3. How can cities be transformed into platforms for action that promote synergies between climate action and sustainable development?
4. How can we improve the collection, sharing, and utilization of knowledge and data to enhance synergistic approaches to climate action and the SDGs?
5. How can we ensure that no one is left behind in our efforts to achieve synergistic climate and SDG actions?

Draft Programme Overview

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| 10:30 – 11:00 | <i>High-Level Opening Segment</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming remarks by Co-conveners - Opening remarks by High-level representatives of Host Countries of Climate and SDG Synergy - High level remarks |
| 11:00 – 11:10 | <i>Launch of 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy: Key Findings and Recommendations</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-leads and Members of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy |
| 11:10 – 13:00 | <i>Interactive dialogue: Key Entry Points for Synergistic Action</i> |
| 11:10 – 11:55 | <i>Roundtable 1 - Seeking Synergy Solutions – Policies and financing that Support Both Climate and SDG Action</i> |
| 11:55– 12:40 | <i>Roundtable 2 – Seeking Synergy Solutions – Role of Knowledge and Data and Cities to accelerate on Climate and SDGs in synergy</i> |
| 12:40– 13:00 | Q&A with audience / Interventions from the floor |
| 13:00 – 13:10 | <i>Closing: Summary of the discussion and the way forward</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNFCCC and UN DESA |
| 13:15 – 14:45 | <i>High-Level Luncheon hosted by the Government of Japan – by invitation only, United Nations Delegates Dining Room</i> |