

## **Side Event: High-Level Dialogue on Energy**

**Event name:** Challenges and Opportunities for Harnessing Climate & SDG Synergies: the role of carbon dioxide removal

**Event date and time:** September 24, 7.00 - 8.15 AM EST

**Organizers:** C2G, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECLAC, UNESCWA, UNECA and the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

**Number of participants:** Nearly 300 viewers on the multilingual YouTube streams (as of 01/10/2021). It was also livestreamed to UNECE's Annual Committee on Sustainable Energy with over 300 participants present in the venue and online.

### **Main speakers and brief summary:**

The event was moderated by Mr. Janos Pasztor, Executive Director, Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) and featured the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions, Ms. Alicia Bárcena (ECLAC), Ms. Olga Algayerova (UNECE), Ms. Vera Songwe (ECA), Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana (ESCAP) and Ms. Rola Dashti (ESCWA).

The event highlighted the instrumental role that the UN Regional Commissions can play in bringing different actors together, addressing knowledge and governance gaps and breaking silos in implementing the SDGs. The speakers stressed that enhancing the governance of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) could provide an excellent opportunity to focus and align regional and international efforts and foster a cross-sectorial approach.

### **The speakers recommended action in the following ten areas:**

- **Recognize** CDR is essential to achieve the sustainable development goals
- **Accept** CDR requires nature-based approaches and technology-based approaches
- **Protect** carbon sinks including forests, oceans and wetlands
- **Develop** clear and ambitious national and international decarbonization targets
- **Put** a fair price on the carbon stocks held as global goods in rainforests and peatlands
- **Institute** favorable conditions for investment in carbon dioxide removal and develop legal, financial and regulatory frameworks with financial institutions
- **Retrofit** existing infrastructure now and develop nature-based solutions
- **Set** patent waivers on next-generation climate technologies to facilitate investment in modernizing global energy infrastructure
- **Enhance** governance of CDR to align regional and international efforts for a global circular carbon economy
- **Support** CDR to become a critical component of viable climate policy options for regions now and in the decades to come.

**Key outcomes:**

A joint statement by the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions calling for enhanced regional cooperation to 'scale up' nature-based and technological solutions for capturing CO2 emissions from the atmosphere and ensuring its long-term storage.

The discussion highlighted the substantial governance gaps that exist in large-scale CDR which need to be addressed urgently to ensure that societal choices, policies and investments take into account regional and national specificities as well as climate and energy goals, in the context of SDG implementation.

**Links to livestream recording/website/social media:**

- YouTube in [English](#), [French](#), [Mandarin](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Press releases on [C2G](#), [UNECE](#), [UNESCAP](#), [UNECLAC](#) and more
- Social Media outreach by all partners and speakers before, during and after the event ([UNECE](#), [ECLAC](#), and [C2G](#))
- Personalized Clips for Social Media for key personalities ([Janos Pasztor](#), [Olga Algayerova](#))
- Garnering press attention with uptake in regional media ([St Kitts and Nevis Observer](#), [Magnetic Media](#))
- Shared with expert mailing lists of all participating organizations

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