

FOURTH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Delivering a Just Transition through Climate and SDG Synergies

16 July 2023, UN Headquarters, New York

Special Event at:



CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement are intrinsically linked, and one cannot be achieved without the other. In the same spirit, the Secretary-General in a recent address on his 2023 priorities stressed that “*Climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals.*” As such, maximizing on the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement by leveraging climate action and SDG synergies has the potential of achieving both agendas faster, while ensuring a just and equitable future.

Integrated planning, coherent policies, and economic stimulus investments designed to meet both the SDGs and climate challenges can generate significant co-benefits and speed up progress. Research has shown that aligning actions on climate and SDGs globally can yield up to US\$26 trillion before 2030 in economic gains, produce over 65 million new green jobs, and save approximately 7 million premature deaths per year. With concerted and coordinated global public and private collaborative efforts, achievement of all SDGs can be advanced, trade-offs avoided, and social disparities reduced.

Milestones

The [First Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference](#) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2019. Participants emphasized that taking climate and SDG development action in an integrated way is not a theoretical concept, but a practical guideline for all forms of decision making. The success and impact of the conference led to a decision to make this an annual event. Addressing the urgency for action to pursue synergistic approaches, UN DESA and UNFCCC co-convened a series of webinars on [Harnessing Climate and SDG Synergies](#) in 2020 and 2021. These events pointed to a variety of options for synergistic policy interventions in different sectors using an

integrated nexus approach. The [Third Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference](#) was held in Tokyo, Japan, in July 2022. It provided a unique opportunity to take stock of practical measures that are being implemented to advance climate and SDG synergies in regional, national and subnational efforts, including through COVID recovery plans and the NDCs. To further strengthen the evidence base for synergistic action and to maximize impact, in May 2023, the UN - UNFCCC secretariat jointly with UNDESA, called for the first Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies. The report will be developed by an Expert Group composed of fourteen experts from a variety of backgrounds and expertise. The report will be launched in September 2023 in contribution to the SDG Summit and other key 2023 milestones including the Climate Ambition Summit, COP28 and UNFCCC regional weeks, to support policymakers in their planning and actions on-the-ground. This work will also form the basis for a more comprehensive and detailed analysis to come in 2024.

Enhanced and successful implementation of climate action and the SDGs requires participatory policy in decision making and *Just Transition* processes that can benefit all and ensure no one is left behind. The Fourth Conference thus places its thematic focus on *Delivering a just transition through climate and SDG synergies*.

The High-Level Political Forum

The [High-Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF) is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The Forum is convened by and in collaboration with of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). HLPF meets annually for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment. Under the auspices of the General Assembly, Heads of State and Government also come together for an [SDG Summit](#) every four years, as will be the case in 2023. Taking place in New York just two months prior to the SDG Summit, the 2023 HLPF will provide key input to the SDG Summit Declaration.

The HLPF serves as an opportunity for stakeholders to assess progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety including the interlinkages between Goals. The Forum promotes integrated actions that cut across the three dimensions of sustainable development, creating co-benefits, addressing tradeoffs, meeting multiple objectives in a coherent manner, and leaving no one behind. The 2023 HLPF will conduct an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

Fourth Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy

The [Fourth Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference](#) is convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Conference is conducted in association with the HLPF 2023. It thus also provides

delegations the opportunity to reflect their on-going review of progress on achieving the SDGs, notably SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17, in a wider context of the multiple interlinkages between these goals and global climate action. The Conference will take stock of progress on synergistic action at all levels. It will also shed light on some of key findings and messages from the work of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG synergies. More specifically, in the margins of the High-Level Political Forum, the Fourth Global Conference on Climate and SD Synergies will deliver:

- **A forward-looking summary**, with a set of key recommendations for enhancing synergistic implementation of the SDGs and climate action at the political level as well as practical levels.
- **A set of empirical evidence** on climate action and the SDGs co-benefits, including how various stakeholders are progressing in delivering jointly on these two agendas and transitioning towards just, equitable, and climate compatible pathways.

Organizational Arrangements

The Fourth Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, Conference Room 4, 5, 6, 7. This will be an in-person meeting. The working language for the meeting will be English.

Annex

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW *(Draft as of 30 May 2023)*

Sunday, 16 July 2023		
10:00 – 10:30 EST	Opening Opening statements will set the scene and the expectations of the Conference.	Conference Room 4
10:30 – 12:30 EST	High-level Segment Ministers and High-level representatives will be invited to share their perspectives on advancing Climate and SDG Synergies.	Conference Room 4
12:30 – 14:00 EST	Lunch break	
14:00 – 16:00 EST	Parallel Sessions: Advancing Climate and SDG Synergies through Shared Evidence and Scalable Action The Conference will provide participants the opportunity for an intensive multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange of experiences. Several break-out sessions will be organized to enable active participation of participants.	Conference Room 5, 6, 7
16:00 – 16:30 EST	Closing Advancing a just transition through climate and SDG synergies and breaking through to a better future for all.	Conference Room 4

Participation: Open by registration to all Member States and other stakeholders including business, CSOs, local governments, youth, academia and others.

Location: The Conference will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Registration: For information regarding registration for the Conference, please visit [Conference website](#).