



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



SDG
Pavilion



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022

UN DESA @ COP27

7–18 November 2022

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

Summary Report



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



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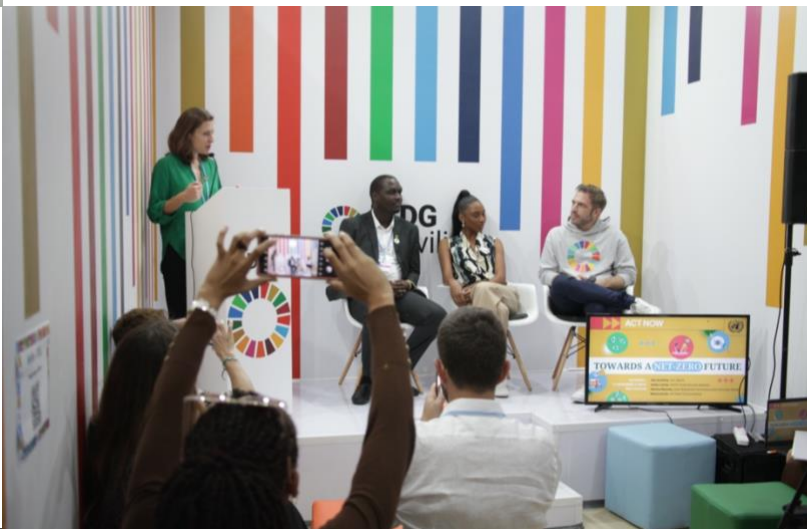


10 days

110+ events

130+ organizing partners

500+ speakers



5 world regions

90+ countries

29 Facebook Live events

11K+ live views





UN DESA at UNFCCC/COP27

7 November - 18 November 2022

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2022 UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), hosted by Egypt, took place from 6 November to 18 November 2022 at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre in Egypt.



COP27 featured a high-level plenary and side events, key negotiations, and press conferences, hosting **more than 100 Heads of State and Governments**, over **35,000 participants** and numerous pavilions showcasing climate action around the world and across different sectors. This makes Sharm el-Sheikh the second-most well-attended climate COP in history.

As per the COP27 Presidency's vision statement, the aim for COP27 was to be

the turning point where the world comes together and demonstrates the requisite political will to take on the climate challenge through concerted, collaborative and impactful action. These [goals](#) of the Egypt Presidency were summarized in four focus areas:

1. **Mitigation:** Unite to limit global warming to well below 2°C and work hard to keep the 1.5°C target alive, in particular through the implementation of the Glasgow pact call to review ambition in NDCs and create a work program for ambition on mitigation.
2. **Adaptation:** Ensure that COP27 makes the crucially needed progress to achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation and urge all parties to demonstrate the necessary political will if we are to capture and assess our progress towards enhancing resilience and assisting the most vulnerable communities.
3. **Finance:** Make significant progress on the crucial issue of climate finance while moving forward on all finance-related items on the agenda, through enhancing transparency of finance flows and facilitating access to meet the needs of developing countries, especially Africa, LDCs, and SIDS. Progress on delivery of the annual USD 100 billion will build more trust between developed and developing countries, showing that actual commitments are being fulfilled.
4. **Collaboration:** The advancement of partnership and collaboration will help deliver goals and ensure the world is adopting more a resilient and sustainable economic model where humans are at the center of climate talks. The UN negotiations are consensus-based and reaching agreement will require inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders, especially vulnerable communities and representatives from countries in Africa that are increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change.



In addition to a range of topics focused on enhancing implementation and raising ambition on a broad range of issues related to climate change, Egypt designated several [thematic days](#) for focused discussions to deliberate on and share with the wider audience.

Following these overarching goals and building on the experience of advocating for a synergistic action on both climate and the SDGs, the fourth edition of the SDG Pavilion, hosted by DESA, provided a highly visible platform to showcase solutions and practices by all stakeholders on energy, forests, the ocean, transport, water and many other SDGs, and action on advancing their implementation in light of climate change.



2. MAIN OUTCOMES OF COP27

The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan: This was agreed to as “cover text”. It highlights that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least USD 4-6 trillion a year. The plan reuses language on 1.5°C and phasing down coal from last year’s Glasgow Climate Pact. The plan “requests” countries that have not yet done so to “revisit and strengthen” their 2030 climate targets by the end of 2023, “as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement”. It makes first-ever mentions of renewable energy, food, “[tipping points](#)” and the need for financial system reform. The plan has been criticized for not advancing ambition on 1.5°C and growing calls for all fossil fuels phaseout.

Loss and damage: Countries decided on a breakthrough agreement to provide “loss and damage” funding for vulnerable countries hit hardest by climate disasters. Parties also agreed on the institutional arrangements to operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, to catalyze technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Adaptation: Governments agreed on the way to move forward on the Global Goal on Adaptation, which will conclude at COP28 and inform the first Global Stocktake. New pledges, totaling more than USD 230 million, were made to the Adaptation Fund. UN Climate Change’s Standing Committee on Finance was requested to prepare a report on doubling adaptation finance for consideration at COP28 next year.



Mitigation: A mitigation work programme was launched in Sharm el-Sheikh, aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. The work programme will start immediately following COP27 and continue until 2026 when there will be a review to consider its extension. Governments were also requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts to phasedown unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Finance: Serious concern was expressed that the goal of developed country Parties to mobilize jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 has not yet been met, with developed countries urged to meet the goal, and multilateral development banks and international financial institutions called on to mobilize climate finance. Deliberations continued on setting a “new collective quantified goal on climate finance” in 2024, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Global Stocktake: The second technical dialogue of the first [global stocktake](#), a mechanism to raise ambition under the Paris Agreement, was wrapped up at COP27. The UN Secretary-General will convene a ‘climate ambition summit’ in 2023, ahead of the conclusion of the stocktake at COP28 next year.



SNAPSHOT OF MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Secretary-General announced a USD 3.1 billion plan to ensure everyone on the planet is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.

The **Secretary-General’s High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Commitments** published a report at COP27, serving as a how-to guide to ensure credible, accountable net-zero pledges by industry, financial institutions, cities and regions.

The G7 and the V20 (“the Vulnerable Twenty”) launched the **Global Shield against Climate Risks**, with new commitments of over USD 200 million as initial funding. Implementation is to start immediately.

Announcing a total of USD 105.6 million in new funding, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Walloon Region of Belgium, stressed the need for even more support for

the **Global Environment Facility** funds targeting the immediate climate adaptation needs of low-lying and low-income states.

The new **Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership**, announced at the G20 Summit held in parallel with COP27, will mobilize USD 20 billion over the next three to five years to accelerate a just energy transition.

Important progress was made on forest protection with the launch of the **Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership**, which aims to unite action by governments, businesses and community leaders to halt forest loss and land degradation by 2030.



3. HIGHLIGHTS - UN DESA's Engagement at COP27

UN DESA's engagement at COP27 focused on contributing to the objectives of the conference and promoting the synergetic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, centered around:

1. UN DESA leadership engagement
2. SDG Pavilion
3. UN System-wide events and other high-level events

Outside of these activities, the team successfully engaged in:

- 1) Partnership-building and consultations with existing/new partners on key issues related to DESA's work on energy, climate change, forests, etc.

- 2) representing the organization and speaking at various meetings and side events held by other institutions
- 3) following the negotiations/major announcements made at the COP and reporting back on the progress on key issues.

3.1 UN DESA LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AT COP27

UN DESA's engagement at COP27 focused on contributing to the objectives of the conference and promoting the synergetic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement through different engagements.

UN DESA USG Li Junhua participated in multiple in-person and virtual COP27 activities, supported by the team on the ground. These events included high-level consultations, the inauguration of the SDG Pavilion along with the Secretary-General, and bilateral meetings where he highlighted UN DESA's contribution to climate action, underscoring the importance of synergetic action on the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Mr. Li reiterated that UN DESA stands ready to support the outcomes of COP27 and move them forward in 2023 at several key UN events, particularly the SDG Summit, as well as the UN Water Conference, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Climate and SDG Synergies Conference.



3.2 SDG PAVILION

The [SDG Pavilion](#) brought together global experts and policymakers leading the implementation of climate action and the SDGs for discussions on how to accelerate action across both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

More than 110 events were hosted at the Pavilion by almost 140 partners from over 90 countries across all five regions. Many events in the SDG Pavilion occurred in a hybrid format, with audiences able to watch from anywhere in the world.

The SDG Pavilion once again proved extremely popular for sharing knowledge and highlighting actions that align the goals of both interlinked global agendas, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. The necessity of integrative responses that maximize the synergies between both global agendas and linking implementations has manifested throughout all events of the SDG Pavilion.



UN DESA led the organization of **29 events** (including 15 fireside chats) at the SDG Pavilion, all of which were streamed and archived on Facebook, allowing more visibility and post-event access to audiences around the world. The events supported the outreach efforts of the Department and communicated key messages from the following interactive discussions focused on the ocean, water, energy, forests, climate and SDG synergies, finance, partnership, and others:

- Scaling Up Private Investment for SDG and Climate Action
- Towards Strengthening Forest-Based Climate Actions After 2024
- Building a Sustainable World for 8 Billion People
- Environmental Monitoring for Loss and Damage: Early Warning Systems and Impact Attribution Capacity in the Caribbean SIDS
- Less Division, More Ambition: High-Level Dialogue on Loss and Damage in Small Island Developing States
- The Role of Science, Technology, Innovation (STI) and Education in Climate Action for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)
- Helping SIDS Transition to Low-Carbon Mobility System: Climate, Transport and Energy Nexus
- Partnerships for Raising Indigenous and Marginalized Voices in Academia
- Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Climate Change and Biodiversity Objectives through Innovation and Clean Technologies

- Delivering in Synergy on Climate Action and the SDGs: A Pathway to Untapped Potential
- Turning Pledges into Inclusive and Equitable Actions: Synergistic Implementation of Climate and the SDGs
- High-level Event on Energy Compacts (in partnership with UN-Energy)
- Towards SDG7 Review at the High-level Political Forum: Taking Stock and Triggering Action (in partnership with UN-Energy)
- Sustainable Blue Economies in a Changing Ocean Environment: Pacific Perspectives (organized by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean)
- Enhancing Capacity of Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to Raise Climate Ambition (in partnership with UNOSD and UN ESCAP)

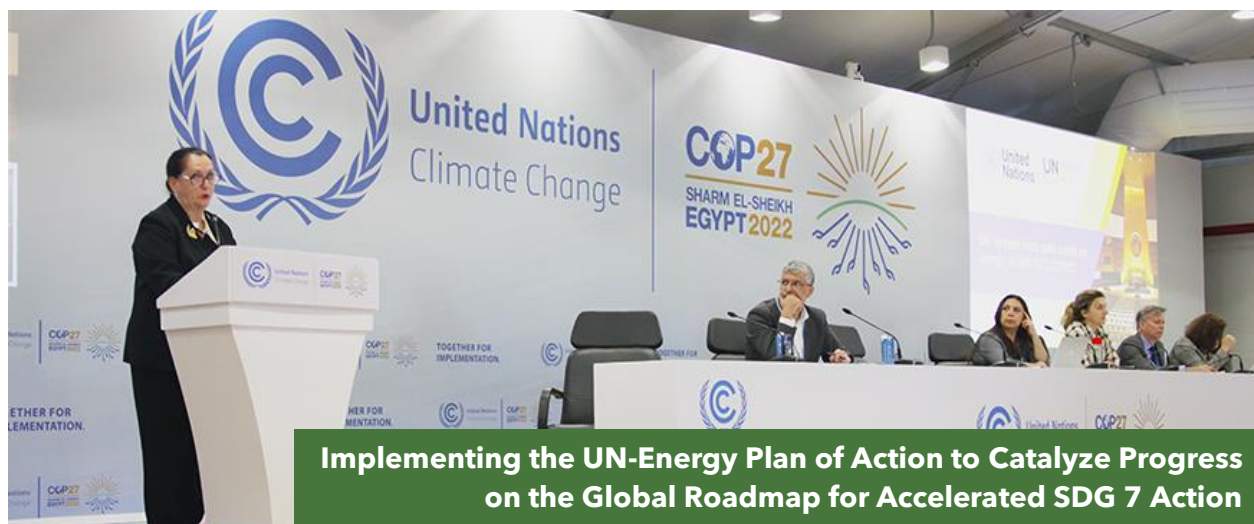
More details about the events at the SDG Pavilion can be found in Annex 1.





3.3. UN SYSTEM-WIDE EVENTS and other HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

UN DESA hosted two official COP27 side-events.



On 12 November, the official COP27 side event on [**Implementing the UN-Energy Plan of Action to Catalyze Progress on the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action**](#) brought together representatives from various UN agencies to discuss their energy activities in support of sustainable development and net-zero emissions. The event opened with a video message from Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and remarks by Dr. Khalida Bouzar, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for the Arab States, UNDP. Two panels followed with the first one focusing on action on the ground and the second one discussing the challenge of creating an enabling environment for action. Read the [UN-Energy Plan of Action here](#).




High-level Dialogue of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) on “Turning the tide on deforestation”

On 17 November, DESA and FAO jointly held the [High-level Dialogue of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests \(CPF\) on “Turning the tide on deforestation”](#) at COP27. The event brought together heads and principals of the participating CPF member organizations, including Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy-Director General; Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary; Ms. Susan Gardner, UNEP Director of Ecosystems Division; Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization; Ms. Juliette Biao, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat; and Mr. Donald Cooper, Director of Transparency Division, UNFCCC Secretariat. The event also featured special guest speakers: Ms. Roselyn Fosua Adjei, Director, Climate Change and National REDD+ Focal Point of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, Co-chair of the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership. The event was opened by Mr. Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Ms. Semedo, FAO. In his opening remarks, USG Li highlighted the critical importance of healthy forests to accelerate the progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, noting the opportunity to feature forests as a key factor for making progress towards the SDGs and address deforestation at the 2023 SDG Summit. He urged the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund to include the implementation of UN Strategic Plan for Forests as eligible activities for funding.

Following the opening remarks, a high-level panel discussion was held. In her remarks, Ms. Biao underscored key elements to accelerate and upscale actions to turn the tide on deforestation, particularly the UN Strategic Plan for Forests as a guiding framework for forest-related work in the UN system, robust cross-sectoral national forest policies, increased finance for forest, and strengthened forest governance at national, regional and global levels.

Other points highlighted during the panel discussions include: the opportunities to provide up to one-third of the climate change mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize global warming below 1.5°C through forest and other nature-based solutions building on the launch of the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership at COP27; and the importance of the CPF’s role in supporting access to public finance for activities targeted at halting deforestation, conserving and sustainably using forests, restoring forests, and support the leveraging of



private investment for sustainable land use, agriculture, forest conservation, restoration and management.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The SDG Pavilion, as the only multi-stakeholder platform focused on climate and SDG synergies, should continue as a main feature of DESA engagement at annual COP. The demand is demonstrated by the huge number of applications and its enormous popularity during the COP. This year, the colorful SDG Pavilion branded with the DESA logo and the icons of the 17 goals was prominently located near the entrance to the conference and near the popular Ocean Pavilion, as well as the USA, Canada, Israel and Scotland pavilions. This year, the SDG Pavilion was bigger than ever before, with two stages and more behind-the-scenes meeting space. The expanded space allowed for more events and bilateral dialogues, raising the profile of UN DESA. The logistical workload surged, however, and the on-the-ground team was stretched to the limit (working from early morning to late in the evening). Better managing the event schedule and employing more modern audio/visual arrangements for hybrid engagement and live streaming will be critical in improving efficiency and managing the workload.

Cooperation with UN entities can be leveraged further. This year's successful collaboration with a significant number of UN entities and intergovernmental organizations helped demonstrate DESA's convening power and connect dots across numerous interrelated issues and stakeholders. In total, 7 Resident Coordinators were featured in fireside chats thanks to cooperation with DCO. This year DGC held two events in the SDG Pavilion, and more partnership with that Department merits further consideration to enhance communications and advocacy, including to assess the feasibility of bringing its own AV crew from New York. Communication materials about the SDGs, such as postcards, as well as the SDG pins, were in high demand. These materials and others can continue to help enhance DESA's communications.

DESA engagement in climate processes including at the annual UNFCCC/COP processes should continue to be further contextualized and anchored within the overall strategic focuses of the Department. As demonstrated at COP27, outcomes of the annual climate COP will continue to influence actions to advance the SDGs – significantly. They will also increasingly inform the Secretary-General's strategic priorities. Further alignment and synergies between SDG actions and climate actions will be crucial, and the annual [Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies](#) will provide a unique platform. It will be important for DESA to engage climate processes consistently to inform its work planning and deliverables, and proactively take advantage of relevant processes. The DESA engagement at the climate COP can also be further enhanced to announce/showcase significant deliverables, analysis, partnerships and capacity-building efforts of the Department.



Annex 1: SDG PAVILION PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Tuesday, 8 November

Harnessing Synergies with Innovation, Inclusion and Accountability



"Let's be clear—it's not too late to rescue the SDGs and get back on track," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at the inauguration of the SDG Pavilion on Tuesday. The event also featured remarks from UN Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua and Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Mr. Junhua of UN DESA, which is organizing the Pavilion, urged an integrated approach to strengthen synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement—two agendas that address our "environment emergencies and development dilemmas. He added that the SDG Pavilion would provide a platform for discussions among experts at more than 130 events over the next two weeks.

The Secretary-General said that "this pavilion is a hub of hope" and a meeting ground to share ideas and heal a world where "the SDGs are growing more distant by the day" and one that is "hurtling towards climate chaos." He stressed the need for "massive investment in women and girls, decent work, health, education, renewable energy and social protection systems" and echoed his calls for reform of the international financial system, debt relief, and additional climate commitments by all countries.



Finally, Mr. Stiell of the UN Climate Change Secretariat said that "if we fail on climate change, the SDGs will be unachievable." He added that both the public and private sector needed to be engaged, and the SDG Pavilion reflects this new integrated direction, at the intersection of climate, energy, gender equality, forests, oceans and more. He stated, "Everybody, every single day, everywhere in the world, needs to do everything they possibly can to avert the climate crisis, which in turn will positively impact each of the SDGs."



Energy Compacts — voluntary commitments by governments, business and civil society organizations — are proving to be an important avenue for spurring climate action towards achieving net-zero, while advancing universal energy access. Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair, launching the [Energy Compacts Progress Report 2022](#), highlighted the progress made by some 200 Energy Compacts over the past one year since their launch at the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021. The event also featured a high-level panel sharing early experiences and prospects for green hydrogen through the Green Hydrogen Energy Compact.





Fireside Chat with USG Li Junhua

Organized by UN DESA

[Watch the event](#)

UN Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua, participating in his first COP27 since becoming the chief of UN DESA, shared his views on the importance of SDG and climate synergies in a fireside chat on Tuesday. Since the SDGs and the Paris Agreement were both adopted in 2015, he said that "those two twins cannot grow up without each other, so the two agendas cannot be implemented without the support of each other."

The USG also noted the need for more investment in adaptation and mitigation efforts—as well as the need to make good on previous commitments. He said that UN DESA stands ready to support the outcomes of COP27 and move them forward next year at several key events, particularly the UN Water Conference, the Climate and SDG Synergies Conference and the SDG Summit.



**Driving Innovations for Building Gender-responsive,
Climate-resilient Communities**

Organized by HACEY Health Initiative

The event was targeted at raising ideas on the topic “Driving innovation and investment for building gender-responsive, climate-resilient communities.” The effect of climate change is currently being experienced as reflected in the rising levels of displacement of communities by natural disasters such as floods. The burden is more severe in communities where gender inequality is upheld by age-old tradition and where economic inclusion for girls and women is not prioritized. The discussion by the speakers (Abiola Oshunniyi, Emeka Obiagwu and Aisha AbdulAzeez) highlighted the challenges and opportunities in enhancing access to innovations and investment for improved livelihood for women for disaster-affected communities. Communities that are able to follow this approach on closing gender gap in economic empowerment are able to better fight the ills of climate change.



“The SDGs as evolved from MDGs do not necessarily represent progress, but their existence are rather indicative of a collection of problems and things we have done wrong. After 2030 we may have new indicators where climate change is integrated in all of them, as a result of the increasing problems created by climate change.” The event included several IPCC authors who helped explore some of the key interlinkages between climate change and the SDGs. Siri Eriksen and Debbie Ley (Lead Authors of ch 18 in IPCC AR6 Working Group II) gave a brief introduction to the theme, outlining the role of SDGs in climate-resilient development, as well as how interlinkages between the SDGs and mitigation and adaptation have been assessed in the Working Group II Assessment Report of 2022. This introduction kicked off a panel discussion chaired by Sherilee Harper. The panel consisted of Elisabeth Gilmore, Lisa Schipper, Debbie Ley, Luis Fernández-Carril, Guéladio Cissé, Zoha Shawoo, Chandni Singh, Stacey-ann Robinson and Tabea Lissner.



During the 60-minute event, the panel discussed the importance of disruptive and enabling technologies. The focus of the discussion looked at the barriers and needs to put in place system thinking able to effectively implement the right and just technological innovations. Critical notes were raised on the need to develop technologies that are multidimensional and those able to service multiple purposes, employment of which demands to rethink global financial system as well as collaboration agreements to be successfully implemented. While new technological advancements like AI, blockchain, hydrogen, etc. are shaping the global North, the importance of enabling access to technologies providing basic human needs such as education, clean water, health and energy were stressed as well. The common outlook stays that we should foster and accelerate technologies that contribute to all layers of sustainability, create green jobs, and are embedded in greater structures than just single projects or community.

Transparency on Environmental Impact: Mobilizing for Systemic Change

Organized by WBCSD

This session brought together a wide range of stakeholders, from business to NGOs and civil society, discussing progress made in preserving and protecting our planet. The panel established that what is lacking are methods to accurately and consistently quantify progress made. Technological tools and infrastructures to share data between companies and with key stakeholders in the ecosystem were also at the center of discussion to ensure impactful action for environmental conservation. Finally, the panel delineated key learning opportunities and jointly defined programmes can accelerate broader environmental transparency.

Mitigating Climate Change in Africa through Investing in SDGs 14 and 15 and Linking these to SDG 5 on Gender Equality

Organized by FEMNET

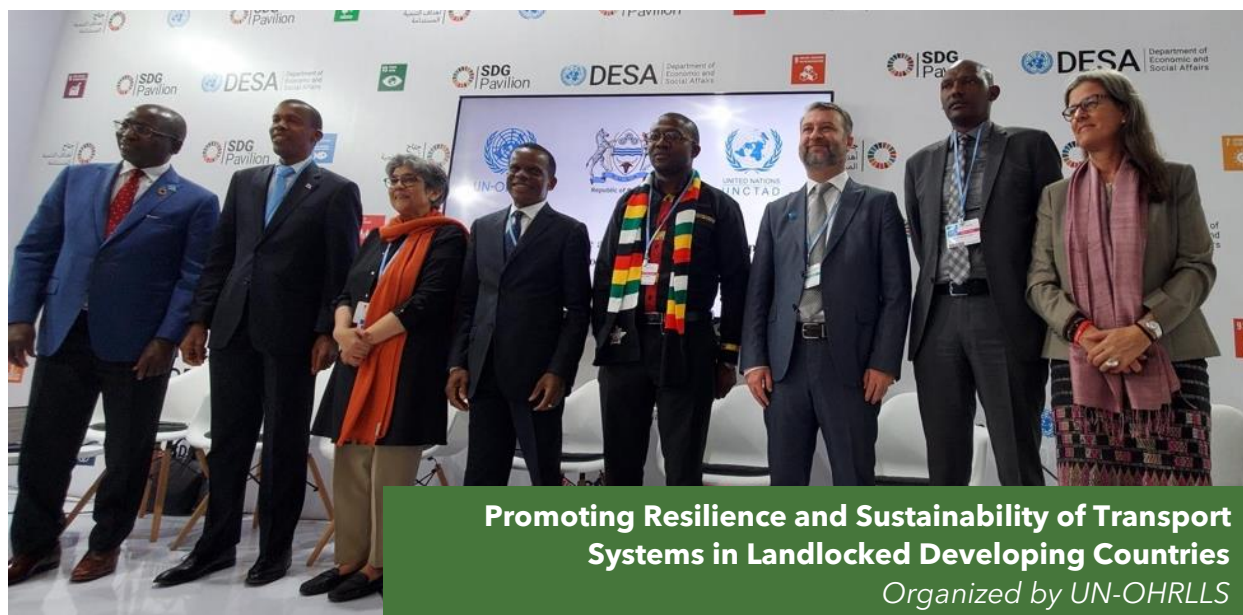
For equitable, inclusive, intersectional, and sustainable development of climate-friendly mitigation solutions, SDGs 14 and 15 on Life below water and Life on Land respectively must involve SDG 5 on gender equality. The blue and green economy models must also center marginalized & indigenous communities and women in developing climate-friendly solutions. Using this lens, panelists deliberated on achieving climate-friendly investments in economic activities, infrastructure, and skills for sustainability with a core understanding that if terrestrial ecosystems are not managed properly it may result in the pollution of oceans, while the protection of coastal areas benefits terrestrial ecosystems.

Wednesday, 9 November

Lifting Voices for an Equitable and Just Transition



The discussion focused on what is needed to support market-based approaches for strengthening the resilience of agriculture in Southern Africa. As highlighted by Aina-Maria Iteta from the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, over 70% of Namibia's population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, the majority of whom are smallholder farmers who rely on subsistence production. Their livelihoods are now at risk due to climate change. SMEs, like Simusolar, are well-placed to provide locally tailored climate-smart solutions to smallholder farmers, yet they need support to test their business models, develop the necessary business skills and raise financing to successfully scale their operations. The Resilient Investment in Southern Arica (RISA) facility, designed by UNIDO and Camco, will provide a holistic support package – through technical assistance and financing – to SMEs developing climate-smart solutions for agriculture in Southern Africa. The discussion helped inform the design of RISA and strengthen partnerships for its successful implementation.



Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations and Global Chair of the LLDCs moderated the event that highlighted how climate change is impacting transport systems and services in LLDCs, through the increased frequency of disasters, including flooding, storms, droughts, cyclones, heatwaves, and other extreme climate events. Participants emphasized that transport systems are very important for connecting the LLDCs to the world, and a key enabler for achieving the SDGs. Participants included ministers and representatives from LLDCs, and international and regional organizations. Rwanda and Zimbabwe shared their national experiences. In terms of solutions, participants highlighted examples that include: promoting renewable energy used in the transport sector (including electricity and bio-fuels); production of electric batteries, electric vehicles including trucks; increased use of electric motorcycles; strengthened early warning systems and disaster management; mainstreaming of climate change in the transport sector. Participants discussed some of the incentives that can be used such as reduced taxation for hybrid vehicles. The meeting stressed the need for concessional resources to build resilient and sustainable transport systems.



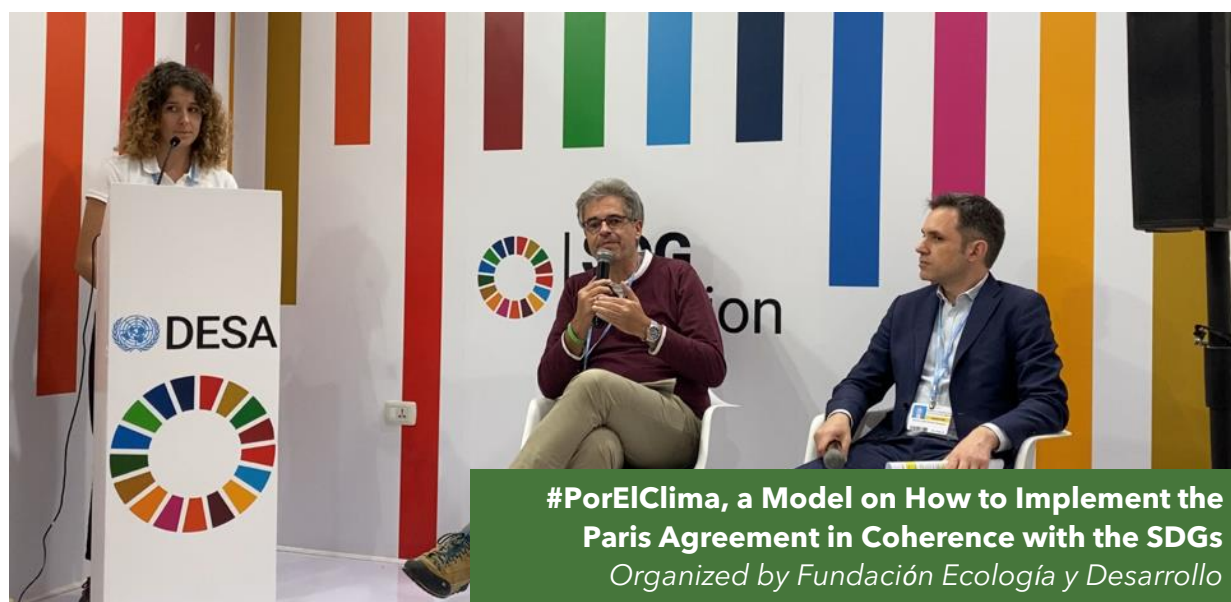
Trillions of dollars in additional investment will be needed to achieve the SDGs and climate objectives. At the side event, CEO members of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISSD) Alliance presented actionable solutions to address some of the critical obstacles to scaling up private finance and investment. Participants also stressed the need to better align investments with sustainable development to achieve impact. GISSD CEO members highlighted the Alliance's Key Deliverables, including the Sustainable Development Investing definition, the Model Mandate to integrate the SDGs in the contractual relationships between asset owners and asset managers, and the recommendations for Multilateral Development Banks to scale up private capital mobilization. GISSD representatives also emphasized the need for more investment opportunities in developing countries and stressed the potential of innovative blended finance instruments to mobilize investment in areas such as sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Moreover, GISSD members underscored the critical role of the UN system in further strengthening the collaboration and building trust between the public and private sectors.



57 Million Scouts Making the World's Largest Coordinated Youth Contribution to the SDGs

Organized by World Organization of the Scout Movement

In the last decade, Scouts have contributed more than 2 billion hours towards achieving the SDGs. Young people are committed to a better, greener world, and we saw four inspiring examples of that today in the SDG Pavillion. Scouts have worked towards the SDGs long before 2015 as part of Scouting's mission and will continue to do so long after 2030. Now, Scouts For SDGs in partnership with Alwaleed Philanthropies is the world's largest coordinated youth contribution to the SDGs. We heard from Grecia Barcena (Mexico), Anita Valente Da Costa (Brazil), Kazi Zubair Hossain (Bangladesh) and Ahmed Maher (Egypt), representing World Scouting and moderated by Hannah Graham (Manager, Advocacy & Partnerships, World Scouting).



#PorElClima, a Model on How to Implement the Paris Agreement in Coherence with the SDGs

Organized by Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo

Ms. Philippine Ménager, moderator of the session, had the honour of receiving Mr. Mario Rodríguez, Just Transition Director in ECODES, and Mr. Miguel Muñoz, Head of Climate

Policies and Alliances in Spanish Green Growth Group, to discuss how to implement the Paris Agreement in coherence with the SDGs. After an introduction made by the first panelist on the synergies between the 1.5° objective and the SDG framework, we introduced #PorElClima (#ForClimateCommunity) — an ambitious, coherent and efficient model of action for climate. In Spain, it reinforces climate action by sectors: companies, public administrations, hostel sector, health entities and individuals. The focus is on local and sectoral action to change our societal model step by step. To demonstrate it, Mr. Muñoz shared success stories and good practices from the private sector and proved that businesses are agents of change.



Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions being implemented around the world are providing key support to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This event included panelists from Latin America, Africa, Western Asia and Europe who had the opportunity to exchange and disseminate knowledge and experiences related to innovative and integrated technological systems being implemented in these regions. These systems ensure the efficient and sustainable use of water and energy resources. The presentations focused on the benefits and impacts of these innovative systems on climate change and biodiversity.

Financing SDG7 in Africa - on Track towards a Just Energy Transition?

Organized by African Union Commission, European Commission, Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership's (AEEP) event at the SDG Pavilion on 9 November discussed the most pressing issues on financing SDG7 in Africa. The key messages of the event were the following: 1. Pursuing SDG7 requires a mix of on-grid and distributed energy solutions and

sound energy regulation; 2. Very good progress is being made on-grid with the Continental Master Plan, Africa Single Electricity Market and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa; 3. Distributed solutions are growing quickly and there are ways envisioned to migrate these to on-grid systems in time; 4. Funding shortages are manageable if contextualised within figures like African GDP and money lost due to electricity outages – research shows it is cheaper to pursue SDG7 than not to; 5. The AU has adopted Just Energy Transition and its pathways as an active workstream.



Co-hosted by IE University and the UN Joint SDG Fund, the event convened Sovereign Wealth Fund executives, global asset managers and philanthropists towards the launch of an “SDG Investment Council”. The Council will explore opportunities to accelerate investments in the SDGs, specifically through SWF commitments and partnerships with private asset managers. The event attracted thought-leaders to introduce and advance SDG/ESG integration in SWFs. Identify practical solutions, tools, and best practices to ease SWFs to invest in the SDGs, including developing countries as a new domestic source for financing the SDGs. To create a permanent community of knowledge and practice to help SWFs implement the sustainability transformation. Well-managed SWFs can support delivery of the SDGs by helping to improve the quality of public spending, strengthening international competitiveness, earmarking spending for high impact projects and promoting green or ethical investments. Broadening the mandate of SWFs to include sustainable investing is an essential lever to close the financing gaps to reach the SDGs. Furthermore, the mandate and investment horizon of SWFs make them well-suited to supporting SDG-aligned investments, in particular green finance.



The Hydropower Sector employs around two million people globally and it is expected to grow to meet climate goals. However, women are a minority in the sector. Moderated by the International Hydropower Association's Climate Policy Manager Debbie Gray, this session presented key findings from the ESMAP (World Bank) funded study on gender in the hydropower sector. The session provided strong recommendations to break down barriers to women's entry and advancement in the sector such as: 1) Highlighting the role of women role models and mentors in the workplace, 2) Raising awareness to promote hydropower as an interesting career, 3) Providing clear targets to ensure that gender balance is adjusted at a rate which can be monitored and tracked. The session consisted of an introduction by moderator Debbie Gray as well as interventions from Flavia Teixeira (Engie-Brasil), Hjhi Siti Aisah Adenan (Sarawak Energy) and a panel discussion.

Driving Innovation to Accelerate a Just Energy Transition - JUSTIS Digital Entrepreneurial Ecosystem & the Informal Sector

Organized by UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), UN ECA

The session was moderated by Dr. Linus Mofo. The main discussion centered around JUST green transitions in the African continent with a focus on informal sector inclusion and accelerating green innovation. The key topic of conversation focused on what constitutes a compelling just transition for Africa and the role of digital technologies. Panelists insisted on the necessity of having short-, medium-, and long-term goals for energy transition grounded on development contexts and an acute need to ensure energy. Insisting further that vulnerable groups including women must be included in green transitions, considering that they are highly represented in vulnerable employment and the informal sector. It was concluded that the role of digital technologies cannot be overestimated in the transition as a conduit for information exchange, early warning triggers, and use of emerging technologies such as AI and IoT. The importance of connecting green entrepreneurs and informal sector agents with policymakers and financiers to reduce information gaps and support innovation was highlighted. In synopsis, partnership is crucial to create synergies in supporting JUST green

transitions in Africa. The JUSTIS digital platform, a UNU-INRA and UN-ECA initiative, was successfully launched and demonstrated.

Fireside chat with Samina Ammassari UN Resident Coordinator in Gabon, and Didier Trebucq UN Resident Coordinator in Barbados

Organized by DCO and DESA

The UN development system reform has provided us with empowered Resident Coordinators, who are responsible for articulating and leading the UN development system's efforts on priority policy issues in a country. In Gabon and in the ten SIDS countries served by the RC in Barbados, climate finance is one of those strategic priorities to enable the implementation of the Paris Agreement and bring important co-benefits to make the sustainable development agenda a reality. The UN Resident Coordinators Samina Ammassari and Didier Trebucq shared some of the challenges and bottlenecks facing developing countries in accessing scaled-up climate financing and enlightened on the work of the UN in supporting countries in addressing those challenges. Finally, distinguished RC guests reflected on their role in scaling-up climate finance, crucial for the successful implementation of country commitments under the Paris Agreement and to advancing achievements of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.

An Expanded Innovation Space for Transformative Climate Solutions

Organized by UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub

[Watch it here](#)



Today's event, "Climate Impact Talks: Partnerships for the SDGs" focused on the importance of partnerships for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. This including raising awareness about ocean acidification with the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification as well as the role of education. The organizations will continue working together for the UN Ocean Decade with Ecoship being the platform for future partnerships.

Thursday, 10 November

Advocating Youth for Transformational Priorities



The Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET) is an independent advisory council to the United Nations Secretary-General. This panel consisted of five members of the CEET where they discussed the critical role of engineers in accelerating the energy transition and in identifying key technological pathways and solutions. They presented their priorities which included identifying best engineering and technology practices to support a just energy transition; enhancing regional and global collaboration and connectivity around technology pathways and accompanying finance; and working together with other agencies and in-country stakeholders to identify priorities and develop roadmaps. The moderator, Ms. Luisa Barros, Director at Clean Energy Latin America, asked the engineers if the technologies necessary for the energy transition are already available. The panel

discussed the drop in the price of renewables while also recognizing that regionalization is key – the technologies available in one nation may not be scalable or suitable to the local context.

Other technologies, such as those used to decarbonize cement and steel, still require research and development to reach net-zero emissions.

(Pictured: Jeffrey Sachs, economist and professor at Columbia University and member of the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs)



The Global Youth Forum on Health and Climate Change session focused on delivering recommendations by the youth who attended the forum virtually before, in addition to attendees of the Conference of Youth 17. The recommendations were delivered by Mohamed Eissa, WHO Egypt Climate Change and COVID-19 Youth Associate and IFMSA Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Khaled Abdelghaffar, Egyptian Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Maria Neira, Director of the WHO Department on Environment and Public Health and Dr. Naeema Algasseer, WHO representative in Egypt, who were all engaged in a discussion to further guide the youth and support them in their action on climate change and health.



**#Decarbonize Global Child Climate Program:
Centering the Voices of Children in Climate Conversations**
Organized by Centre for Global Education & TakingITGlobal

Youth Association Engaging children in meaningful dialogue and action around climate change is critical to supporting young people's vision for a better future. This session presented the impacts of the #Decarbonize Global Child Mobilization, a school-based program that bridges the perspectives of thousands of young people from over 70 countries. Among the important outcomes of the discussion, the panel served to champion youth-to-youth peer learning, innovation, and action. Speakers showcased examples of innovative, national climate change education programmes, and reflected on what is needed to scale up and enhance youth capacity-building initiatives. Finally, key elements that facilitate transformative action at different levels within the K-12 education system were discussed.



**Critical Minerals for Net-Zero: How to Ensure
Sustainability and Circularity?**
*Organized by Youth 20 (Y20) Indonesia in partnership
with Development Reimagined and SEforALL*

For the first time in COPs' history, the side event "Critical Minerals for Net-Zero: How to Ensure Sustainability and Circularity" brought the issue of environmental and social implications in the energy transition minerals sector under the spotlight. The intergenerational panel of speakers discussed the state of play in the energy transition minerals market and addressed persistent concerns such as ESG compliance, deep-sea mining, and the Global South's role in minerals value chains. A circular economy was identified as one of the solutions to reduce environmental pressure on the planet, which, however, would not suffice to ensure sustainability. Yet, smart and responsible mining and equal access to multilateral standard-setting for all engaged and affected stakeholders were suggested as instrumental measures to ensure a more sustainable extraction of minerals used in the energy transition. The cross-cutting proposal from the panel stressed the need to raise the profile of the critical minerals issue at future COPs. The panel was moderated by Vadim Kuznetsov, UNMGCY SDG7 Youth Constituency regional focal point and G20 youth delegate from Russia. The panelists were Guillaume Pitron, journalist and documentary director, Edward Málaga, Congressman of the Republic of Peru, Hannah Ryder, CEO of Development Reimagined, and Jodi-Ann Wang, senior climate policy analyst at UNPRI and G20 youth delegate from Canada.



This event showcased transformative approaches to delivering intergenerational equity and climate action through young people's leadership. Particular focus was given to the action delivered in synergy between climate change and other sustainable development goals. Panelists especially recognized the importance of local knowledge, the creation of strong policies and regulations, the reinforcement of collaboration to create sustainable, resilient solutions, and analyses of effective solutions for delivering climate action. The speakers

reflected on how young people are already delivering change and suggested what can be done more to break down silos, respond to future challenges, and realize the benefits of a nexus approach.



The UN development system reform has provided us with empowered Resident Coordinators, who are responsible for articulating and leading the UN development system's efforts on priority policy issues in a country. In Lao PDR, where more than one-third of its population is young people, the issue of climate change and sustainable development is a priority concern. In this fireside chat with DESA, Deputy Minister Outhavong shared what are the priorities of the national government on climate change, and particularly on youth and future generations. From her side, Sekkenes, the UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR, talked about how the UN Country Team supports these national priorities and about her personal role in helping to shift the needle towards inclusive and sustainable communities.



The ClimateScience Olympiad prompts youth to get in the shoes of world leaders and come up with solutions to real climate issues. This year, the Olympiad gathered 55,000+ participants. So, it wants to go further by giving a chance to this year's Top 3 to directly present their solutions and real-life implications to experts, ministers and stakeholders. The event constituted an exceptional opportunity to highlight the youth's role in climate solutions (through SDGs 13, 7, 11) by highlighting the best solutions to those who have the power to implement them, thus accelerating collaborations between youth and global stakeholders.



UN DESA spoke with the head of IOC-UNESCO about how the ocean is the source of many climate solutions and why it should play a bigger role in climate discussions. He discussed how

SDG 14 on the ocean is chronically underfunded and shared his hopes for how the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development can spur more investment in global ocean science and services.



This youth-led, youth-planned, and youth-focused event explored structures, tools and best practices for meaningful youth involvement at all stages of development projects in relation to sustainable urbanization. A multitude of aspects has been covered throughout the event, including finance, design, implementation and operations of urban projects from all sectors (private, public, academic and research, and civil society) supporting the need to ensure institutional, sectorial, geographic and gender balance. All panelists highlighted the importance of the role of youth in action towards the SDG11 targets. The diverse panel of speakers had the opportunity to share their particular experiences as youth that is contributing to sustainable urbanisation and decisive action against climate change.



This session, moderated by Alice Albright, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), showcased MCC's partnership with the governments of Niger and Sierra Leone. MCC works hand in hand with its partner countries on large-scale grant programs that not only build infrastructure on the ground that meets critical investment needs, but also that support country-led policy and institutional reforms aimed at driving longer-term sustainability, private investment and impact. The High Commissioner for the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens initiative, Ali Bety, and the Environmental Specialist for the Government of Sierra Leone's Compact Development Unit, Ansumana Swarray, presented the concrete results of MCC's investments in those respective countries.



This event highlighted the key role of Indigenous and local communities' women and youth in mitigating and adapting to climate change and biodiversity loss. The speakers gave extensive examples of both traditional knowledge and innovative practices that have allowed their communities to create new solutions to climate change. They shared several experiences from different parts of the world (Central and South America, Central Africa and Indonesia), with outstanding data and facts, that indicated the crucial role performed by local forest and Indigenous women and youngsters in the development of resilient and sustainable natural resource management. Local, national, regional, and global financial initiatives from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPCLs) organizations have also been covered throughout the conversation. Finally, the event welcomed the representative from the UK government who shared views and financial compromises towards supporting IPCLs, thus continuing the conversations related to the 1.7 billion dollar-pledge announced during COP27.



The UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) together with the Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN), an initiative coordinated by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), launched a report "Accessing Climate Finance: Challenges and Opportunities for Small Island Developing States." Opening remarks were provided by H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) followed by a short presentation on the report by Ms. Laetitia De Marez, Director of CFAN. The event was moderated by Mr. Hans

Damien Sass, Programme Management Officer at OHRLLS. H.E. Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations, H.E. Ms. Catherine Stewart, Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change and Mr. Juan Pablo Hoffmaister, Multilateral Governance Manager, GCF provided excellent insights into the discussion. The event provided an overview of the main challenges faced by SIDS in accessing climate finance and put forward actionable recommendations in the lead-up to the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024.



This event was moderated by the President of Global Actions, Mrs. Constance Genevée. It shed light on the projects being carried out by the panelists. After Global Actions' President shared experiences, the Director General of the National Environment and Climate Fund of Benin shared how Benin, through the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development, contributes to the training of young people and the support of their initiatives. Afterward, UNFPA Benin, represented by Mr. Djawad RAMANOU, shared how his organisation involves young people in their different projects and supports their participation in climate policies. Then, the four youth delegates from Benin presented through programmes how they engage youth in the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Finally, the Youth Action Principle (YAP), which was obtained following the consultation of 17 organisations prior to COP27, was presented and validated by the audience.



Moderated by Kelly Wanser (Executive Director, SilverLining), this event brought together climate science and data experts from SilverLining NGO, C4RE Services, and the University of Cape Town to discuss why equity in climate science is a justice issue. Chris Lennard, Senior Researcher at the University of Cape Town, spoke about the importance of high resolution climate models in local and regional decision-making, the current state of climate modelling in South Africa and the implications this has for decision making. Madeleine Karlsberg Schaffer, Global Youth Initiative lead at SilverLining, explained the current disparity of climate research capacities between the Global North and Global South via the comparative case study of South Africa and Malawi. Dr. Abu Syed, C4RE Services, highlighted the need for better climate modelling capabilities in Bangladesh to conduct critical research in solar climate interventions, and why researchers from the Global South must participate in such research. The event also identified what opportunities exist for enhancing access to climate data and models in the Global South through cloud computing and SilverLining's Cloud for Climate Initiative.

The Role of Asia-Pacific's Youth in Climate Action *Organized by UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub - YECAP and Youth Co:Lab Initiatives*

Organized by young climate leaders from Asia and the Pacific, the session, "Transforming Awareness to Action: The Role of Asia-Pacific Youth in Climate Action" shares the outcomes of the pre-Stockholm+50 consultations and insights from the regional research on the impacts of climate change on young people and how they are addressing these challenges. Participants will have a better understanding of the context and perceptions of climate change and how young climate leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs are taking action to tackle the climate crisis. The inputs will help the co-organizers and convening partners of the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) to strengthen programming activities in the future.



The Agenda 2030 Compass was launched at COP27 by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Swedish steel producers' association (Jernkontoret). The tool allows users to engage in a co-creation process and jointly evaluate the merits of a given investment option, product, or policy by assessing direct and indirect effects on the SDGs. "The Agenda 2030 Compass provides a practical, structured way to approach the SDGs in a company or government's decision," said Timothy Suljada, Head of Division at SEI. "Overall, the organizations were positive about being a part of the co-creation process for developing the tool," said Åsa Gerger Swartling, Head of Knowledge Management at SEI. "Over 100 experts contributed with 500+ assessments of interactions between pairs of SDGs. Data collected in this crowdsourcing exercise has served as a key input to the Agenda 2030 Compass," said Robert Laubacher, Executive Director, MIT Center for Collective Intelligence. The compass was developed by SEI, MIT Center for Collective Intelligence, Jernkontoret and Swedwise.

Friday, 11 November

Investing in Climate-smart Solutions



A new [technology brief](#) presented today at the SDG Pavilion singles out the cement, iron and steel, and chemicals and petrochemicals industries as the most significant industrial CO2 emitters. The brief, focusing on the Pan-European, North American, and Arab regions – prepared by UN Regional Commissions UNECE and ESCWA – identifies practical measures that should be turned into action, as part of UNECE’s [Carbon Neutrality Toolkit](#). Olga Algayerová, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): “There are pathways for energy-intensive industries to transition to a carbon-neutral economy while improving global competitiveness. Governments and industry should embrace the concepts of circular carbon economy and industrial clusters.” H.E. Princess Noura bint Turki Al-Saud, AEON Collective, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: “Sustainability is inherent to our livelihoods and invaluable to our progress. It’s important that CCE and its four “Rs” — reduce, reuse, recycle and remove — are front and centre of government strategy.”



The event brought together thought leaders from global and regional research and policy institutions to reflect on the linkages between science and policy implementation in the Middle East and Africa. Speakers discussed progress with regard to ensuring that climate actions and policies are informed by research and evidence, and the barriers and opportunities for science-based solutions in addressing climate change. Panelists also shared success stories and cases where research has informed policy and practice, and identified existing and future mechanisms to enhance the uptake of science-based solutions in climate policy and action. Speakers finished by highlighting some of the myths that currently pervade the gap between science and policy, highlighting such myths as the idea that science is all that matters whereas practical and indigenous knowledge are also key, and the myth that it is policymakers who need capacity building, whereas scientists need their capacity built in order to effectively communicate with policymakers.



Important dialogue, streamed to Indigenous partners around the world, focused on Indigenous-led renewable energy solutions linked to livelihoods and productive activities, based on human rights and reflecting community priorities. The Small Grants Program and the Right Energy partnership teamed up to pilot community-led energy solutions, including solar, micro-hydro and biogas to facilitate Indigenous Peoples' access to energy and energy finance. The panelists shared successful experiences from El Salvador, Cameroon and Malaysia, and reflected on key success factors and ways to scale up the partnership.



Actions are contagious, they can scale up to spur the collective change we need to tackle the climate crisis. The #MyClimateAction event in the SDG Pavilion at COP27 featured a video of the finalists of the photo/video competition conducted by Agora in support of the UN's ActNow

campaign. Two youth activists – Elizabeth Wathuti (Kenya) and Archana Soreng (India) – discussed their climate action work, followed by a short documentary film about Ewi Stephanie Lamma (Cameroon), the winner of the photo/video contest, who then shared her personal climate journey. The discussion ended with Agora handing the award to Ewi Stephanie, and the panelists sharing their message to world leaders at COP27.



**Measuring fossil fuel subsidies in the context of the SDGs:
Increasing transparency in times of high energy prices**
Organized by International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Fossil fuel subsidies are bad news for the climate, social equity and public budgets. In this session, OECD's Special Advisor to COP27 unveiled that fossil fuel subsidies reached \$731.6 billion USD in 2021. This is almost double from 2020, reaching similar levels as 10 years ago, which shows how countries have failed to deliver on their decade-long commitments to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. The session also highlighted that transparency in measuring is key to better manage fossil fuel subsidies. To this front, UNEP's Fiscal Policy Expert presented the process under SDG indicator 12.c.1 that very few countries have reported under this indicator yet due to a lack of awareness and capacity. Representatives from Costa Rica and Ireland then shared how they are measuring fossil fuel subsidies and which challenges they have faced. Finally, IISD emphasized the role of civil society organizations in collecting data and holding governments accountable for measuring fossil fuel subsidies and implementing reform.

More information is available [here](#). The latest detailed data on global fossil fuel subsidies will soon be available on the [Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker](#).



Mobilizing SMEs' Climate Action: A National Case Study and Lessons Learned
Organized by Climate Strategy & Partners

Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in their decarbonization is key for a social and just transition to net zero emissions. In this session, Adriana Rodríguez, Research Associate at Climate Strategy & Partners, has presented the results of a 1-year consultation with more than 300 Spanish SMEs that show their climate ambition and best practices to implement an ecological and competitive business model. Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera, Chairman of the Spanish Green Growth Group, has also provided an overview of the current economic situation in Spain during the energy crisis, how it is impacting SMEs, and hence the importance of eliminating dependence on fossil fuels. A representative of the SME Climate Hub in Spain, Carmen Navarro, has illustrated how this initiative is mobilizing SMEs climate commitments and providing them with the necessary tools to reduce their emissions. Finally, a moderated discussion took place between youth activist María Serra from EarthUprising, and entrepreneur Victoria Alonsoperez, CEO of Chipsafer, on the drivers and barriers of climate action in SMEs.



Lack of accountability is a common problem across global environmental and sustainability regimes, which hinders progress on the SDGs. This event discussed how accountability can be incentivized and operationalized for countries and companies via new mechanisms for nurturing constructive accountability and creating a culture of upholding promises.



UNESCO Cairo facilitated a rich dialogue session that discussed a newly proposed optimization model involving evidence-based integrated SDGs Solutions for Developing Economies. The solution in a nutshell called for a set of actions to deliver SD in rural impoverished rural areas:

1. A well-designed Poverty Reduction and Social Protection (PRSP) policies framework revolving around the implementation of the “Aristotle Framework for Action” Initiative;
2. Adoption of the newly developed Pro-poor Environmentally Green Engineering Systems (PEGES) Standard that defines a list of the mandatory working STI principles, which can easily identify the appropriate set of green jobs and green technologies and applications required to foster accelerated sustainable development in DC;
3. High-speed Internet connection for all DCs to ensure the success of education digitalization;
4. The creation of a Sustainable Development Green Technologies Education and Utilization (SDG-TEU) Centers of Excellence (CoEs): these are virtually operated platforms;
5. Transformation of all poor villages into Agro-based Technopolis (AbT): by utilizing the PEGES Standard, new societies with a concentration of technology-based businesses, i.e. emphasis on technology, (call them Agro-based Technopolis) are to replace most of the rural poor villages and small towns.



Over the past year, small island states – already experiencing the most serious impacts of climate breakdown – have taken strong steps towards securing climate justice through the use of international law. Leaders behind the UN General Assembly resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on legal aspects of climate harm, as well as advisors of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), discussed why the use of international law is so important, what these initiatives could mean for their nations and the wider international community, and where support is needed.

Saturday, 12 November

Enhancing Adaptive Capacities and Climate Resilience



Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, spoke in the social media space at the SDG Pavilion on Saturday, Adaptation Day. He noted that the most vulnerable people, including people in small island developing States, are especially in need of more financing for adaptation measures—many of which benefit both ocean action and climate action. The Special Envoy also said that he wants to see more youth engaged in climate negotiations and admired their push for intergenerational justice.



UN DESA in collaboration with UNECE hosted a fireside chat on sustainable fashion featuring Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and Lily Cole, author, model and climate activist. The speakers discussed the need for the fashion industry to cut in half its emissions by 2030 to stay on a 1.5-degree global warming pathway, especially in the upstream—fiber production, yarn preparation, fabric dye for clothes and raw materials for shoes. One thing making a difference and helping push transparency in the industry is the UNECE's Sustainability Pledge Call to Action, which aims to mobilize companies towards increased traceability and transparency in value chains with their pledges through concrete and measurable actions.



In the "Scaling Carbon Removal Economically and Responsibly" panel discussion, experts discussed where the global carbon removal market stands today and pathways forward to reach gigaton scale. The panelists covered how carbon removal intersects with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and how to scale carbon removal responsibly. The panelists were Aditya Argawal, Global Carbon Removal Partnership; Marcius Extavour, XPRIZE, Patrick Buergi, South Pole, and Tomas Thyblad, NASDAQ. The panel was convened by the Carbon Business Council and moderated by Ben Rubin, the Executive Director of the nonprofit trade association.



In tackling the climate crisis, leaders must lead but every one of us can make a difference. Today's event on ActNow – the UN's campaign on individual action on climate change and sustainability – featured Akufuna Muyunda (youth leader, Zambia), Ashley Lashley (UNICEF youth advocate, Barbados) and Alex Armillotta (CEO, AWorld). Speakers discussed the AWorld mobile app as a key engagement tool, youth activism on health and environment, as well as youth development and renewable energy entrepreneurship. Learn more about the [campaign](#) and download the app [here](#).



Vicky Sins, Decarbonisation and Energy Transformation Lead at the World Benchmarking Alliance, moderated a lively discussion on the need for the transport sector to decarbonise and

incorporate just transition planning in order to meet climate goals. The panel included representatives from the UN Global Compact, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), Children's Investment Fund, and the International Transport Workers Foundation to discuss the results of WBA's recently launched Transport Benchmark that measures the top 90 influential transport companies across maritime, air, rail and heavy transport on their progress towards decarbonisation and just transition. For the world to successfully decarbonise by 2030 and to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, the transport sector must step up progress and in the process, support their workforce and affected communities by incorporating just transition planning.



It is urgent to deploy more systemic and integrated landscape initiatives to ensure we meet our climate and biodiversity targets. To achieve this, landscape partnerships need to be empowered and exchanges between them and the finance sector need to be organised to break the numerous silos that exist between institutions. The building blocks of a constructive approach aiming to scale finance in landscapes were presented. They rest on the combination of capacity-building programmes for landscape partnerships, of financial advisory services and the creation of a landscape accelerator programme that would support bottom-up initiatives and connect them to appropriate finance mechanisms. The 1000 Landscapes programme proposes to play a role in bringing a large group of organisations together and helping to “connect the dots” between them in order to implement these building blocks.



And Justice for All? – Aligning Action to Support the Most Vulnerable
Organized by UNU-EHS

In this session moderated by UNU-EHS senior expert Simone Sandholz, experts from 3 continents, comprising academia, policy and international organizations, came together to discuss how the achievement of one SDG or agenda goal can and must also contribute to others to particularly support the most vulnerable. They shared inspirational examples from different continents, scales and settings to subsequently identify overarching trigger points that can serve as role models for others. The subsequent conversation highlighted the power of shared narratives to achieving the 17 SDG as well as other agendas including on human rights together.



Sustainable Blue Economies in a Changing Ocean Environment: Pacific Perspectives
Organized by Sasakawa Peace Foundation
[Watch it here](#)

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, with the support of Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, organized a discussion focused on sustainable blue economies in the Pacific. High-level speakers from Palau, Tonga, Fiji, as well as the Pacific Island

Forum, IUCN and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme shared their views on new areas of growth.



Climate change and water are inextricably linked. Most climate change impacts are indeed expressed via the water cycle. Also, climate change knows no borders. Cooperation between countries is thus essential for both climate change adaptation and mitigation. While cooperating, countries exchange data and reduce uncertainties, identify better priorities and avoid maladaptation, as well as share costs and benefits and use both finance and human resources more efficiently. The Water Convention is a powerful global instrument to advance cooperation in climate change adaptation at the transboundary level. The 2023 Water Conference will provide a crucial milestone to accelerate actions on water and climate.



More and more countries are developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to advance policies and strategies that lead to both resilient and sustainable development. Yet examples showcasing progress in adaptation and development action are still limited. During this event, countries shared how they have defined progress in adaptation across priority development sectors, along with tools and processes they have used to capture and communicate progress.



In times of climate anxiety, amid feelings of insecurity and disorientation, trusting relationships are an invaluable resource in developing effective collaboration, and collective leadership and

action. Recent global crises have shown that, to respond most effectively, countries need to act collaboratively. While it may be argued that mistrust is a significant barrier, it is not insurmountable. Experts with extensive experiences in global governance, scientific analysis, international sustainability projects and applied spiritual wisdom joined together in a dialogue to share their perspectives and facilitate new insights.

Monday, 14 November

Elevating Local Action for Global Achievements



Bertrand Piccard, aviation pioneer and UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, stopped by the SDG Pavilion to discuss how to make the case to the private sector that sustainability can be profitable. Piccard, who in 2016 completed a round-the-world trip on the solar-powered airplane Solar Impulse, said that he was encouraged to see major airlines invest in solar in recent years, but cautioned that we need better policies to incentivize meaningful business sustainability.



The event brought together COP27 delegates from Member States, partners and stakeholders. The event was opened by Mr. Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and moderated by Ms. Juliette Biao, Director of the UNFF Secretariat. The event featured a keynote address by Amb. Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Chair of UNFF18-19, and a panel discussion with the participation of senior officials of the European Commission, India, Kenya and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The discussions highlighted the opportunities provided in the ongoing preparations for the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF MTR) and the first global stocktake (GST) of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and stressed the importance of countries and stakeholders accelerating forest-based climate actions in support of the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Paris Agreement, particularly through increasing forest finance and capacity building for developing countries.



The invited representatives of displaced communities and organizations working on universal access to sustainable energy, focusing on the humanitarian energy access space, provided expert insights on inclusive data, systemic change in the UN, and inclusive investments. The panel focused on the context of displacement communities; how to ensure they are considered and prioritized, and how the inclusion of affected communities in humanitarian energy activities highlights the "leave-no-one-behind" principles.



Ensuring just transition and leaving no one behind as central elements of integrated approaches to policy, financing, planning and implementation on climate and SDGs synergies was one of the main outcomes of the 3rd Global Conference on Climate and SDGs Synergies, co-convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, in July 2022. Building on this principle, the interactive discussion held on the margins of COP27 at the SDG Pavilion, explored through concrete examples how harnessing synergies across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement can at the same time help advance inclusive and just transitions. Speakers included some distinguished experts from a variety of backgrounds, shared main projects, practical insights, and key results from their field of work on incorporating a “climate and SDGs” lens. From science and policy to financing and delivery of development co-benefits, speakers highlighted the basic necessity of recognition and understanding of how synergistic actions can benefit societies and lead towards more equitable, fair, and resilient outcomes.

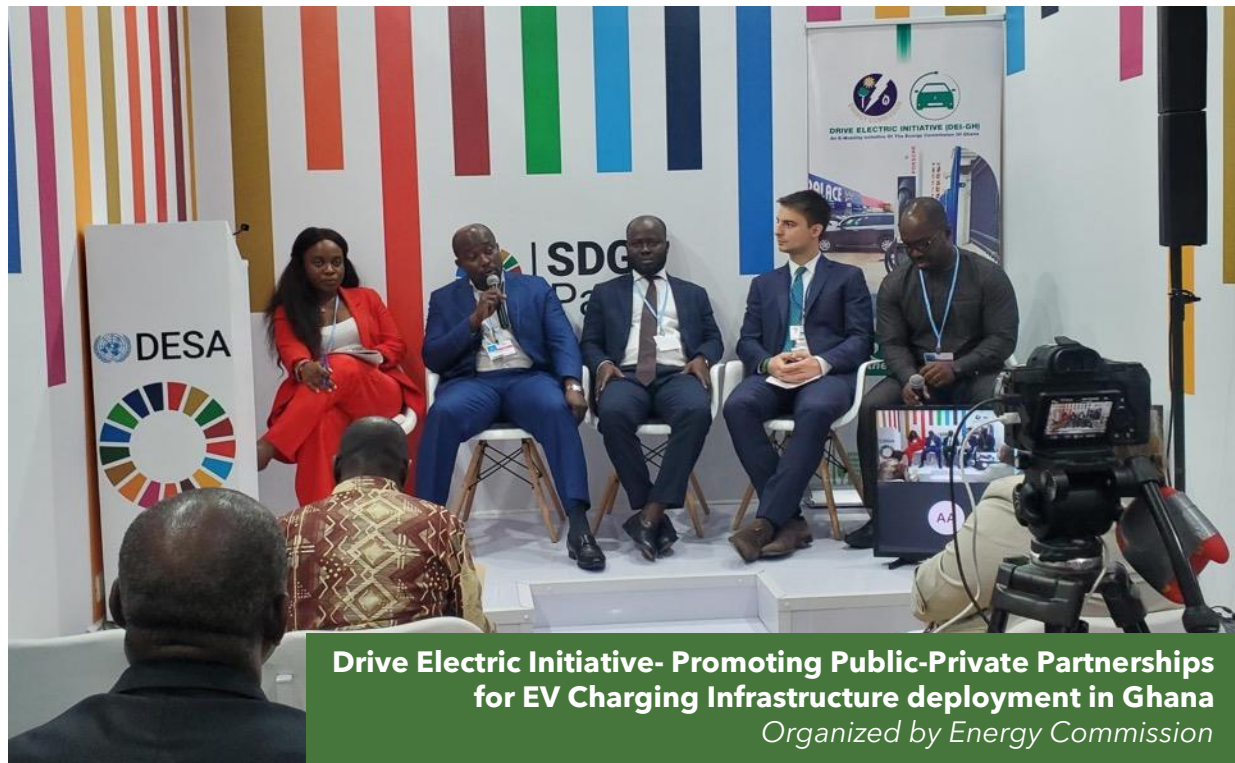


This event discussed the impact youth have on the climate agenda, building on the experience of CoY17-COP27. The speakers included youth climate advocates as well as UN officials working on youth empowerment, where they reflected on the level of youth participation within the COP process, the influence they have at the national level, within their respective delegations, and as youth groups on the UNFCCC process. Three key recommendations for action: Focus on empowering young peoples' representation at COP, including through national delegations, working with and through YOUNGO, and through independent youth advocacy for climate action. Focus on the priorities of youth, including green jobs, youth-led climate adaptation and mitigation actions, and in climate-related decision-making, including matters of Damage and Loss. Empower young people with the resources, financing, access, and exposure opportunities to enable them to accelerate transformative climate action. These recommendations will be central to UNRCO-UAE, UNICEF, and UNFPA's plans at COP28.



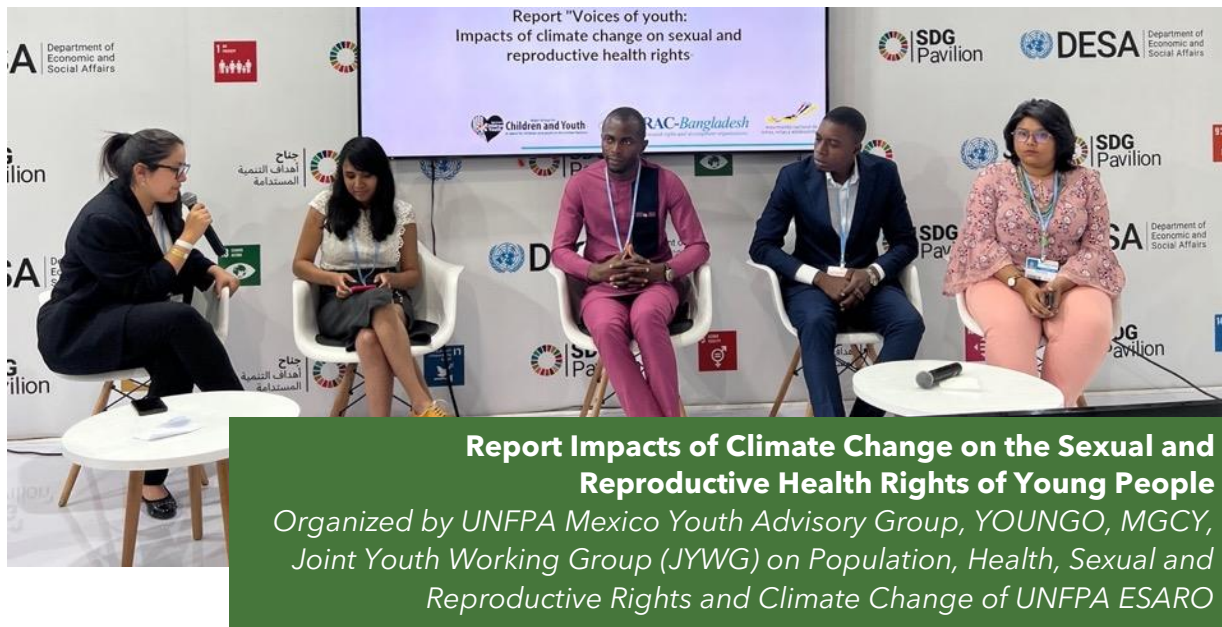
As the need for water resilient systems becomes a necessity, efficient and committed strategies that include concrete commitments to implement adaptation plans, promote financial sustainability and investments in water-related initiatives, and strengthen water systems must be at the top of the world's climate priorities. Discussions during this event supported the

creation of a clear roadmap, as well as effective actions and programs for local governments, to increase the resilience of cities and their ability to manage water-related challenges.



**Drive Electric Initiative- Promoting Public-Private Partnerships
for EV Charging Infrastructure deployment in Ghana**
Organized by Energy Commission

The Commission, as part of efforts to create responsible and sustainable electricity demand in the country, embarked on a Drive Electric Initiative (DEI) in 2019, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Transport to introduce electric vehicles in Ghana. The DEI is an innovative move by the Commission to Increase electricity demand sustainably to match supply as a way of partially addressing the electricity generation over capacity; to prevent Ghana from becoming a dumping ground for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and to usher in an era of green and sustainable technology for the future and help to meet our climate targets. The session served to amplify international awareness of the Drive Electric Initiative.



Emerging evidence suggests that climate change will affect sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), access to voluntary modern contraception, and gender-based violence (GBV). Thus, within the framework of COP27, the launch of the global report "Voices of youth: Impacts of climate change on sexual and reproductive health rights" was carried out, which includes the voices of 768 young people from 99 countries, ages 15 to 35. This report names the effects of climate change experienced by communities, and its consequences on their daily lives. It recognizes that climate change is a matter of social justice, impacting people in different ways with respect to age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, disability, migrant or refugee status, and geographic location. The study shows that 67.68% of young people consider that there is a link between climate change and SRHR, especially recognizing the link with access to health services, access to maternal and/or neonatal health, dignified menstruation/menopause, and complications and death during childbirth. The development of the research and the authorship of the report was in charge of Isabel Adriana García Gómez who is a member of the UNFPA Mexico Youth Advisory Group and a member of the UNFPA JYCW.



The workshop presented a framework to apply the SDGs to mining projects in order to measure their sustainability and overall economic and social impact. Thus demonstrating how SDGs were utilized to assess the effectiveness of the deployment of equity "impact investment" by institutional investors and development debt funding by multilateral banks, and agencies.



With growing economies and greenhouse gas emissions, the stabilization of our climate system largely depends on the Asia-Pacific region. This UNOSD/UNESCAP event shared an overview of the current level of climate ambition in the NDCs in the region, and showcased

useful capacity development tools including handbooks, simulation tools and macroeconomic models. Country representatives and experts from Nepal, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and China joined together and shared their knowledge and experiences on climate action at a national and subnational level from the government, private sector and youth perspectives. Despite a great deal of mitigation efforts going on, it was pointed out that there are still considerable capacity gaps in institutions, financing, technology, and human resources in moving forward to raise climate ambition.



The forests of Latin America, despite the governance and conservation challenges they face, are vast carbon sinks and contribute to climate action. In the extensive tropical forests of this region, a significant contribution to SDG 15 is offered by those forests: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and sustainably manage forests. In this session, the main contributions to climate action were discussed by the speakers, along with the protected natural areas of the region, community forest management, and the contributions of indigenous and local forestry.



This session included a conversation on early warning systems as a means of averting loss and damage, and building resilience in the Caribbean.

Tuesday, 15 November

Ensuring Affordable and Clean Energy for People and for Climate



On Tuesday, 15 November, as the world population surpassed 8 billion people, UN DESA, UNFCCC and UNFPA marked the milestone with a discussion on how to build a sustainable world for this growing population. "This growth is a story of human success, as it was caused

by the decline of mortality and an increase in life expectancy," said John Wilmoth, Director of the UN DESA Population Division. He noted that the pace of global population growth is slowing and is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.

It is a coincidence that the Day of 8 Billion falls during COP27, but the organizations took the opportunity to discuss policies that can ensure a sustainable future, for example, ensuring that human development includes grassroots viewpoints, and that sexual and reproductive rights are protected. Izabella Teixeira, a former Environment Minister from Brazil and member of the UN's High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, noted that most of the population growth is happening in countries with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions and that developed countries, even though their population is in decline in many cases, must raise their climate ambition.



**Towards SDG7 Review at the High-level Political Forum:
Taking Stock and Triggering Action**

Organized by UN DESA

[Watch it here](#)

The event Towards SDG7 Review at the High-level Political Forum: Taking Stock and Triggering Action brought together experts from various organizations to discuss how best to prepare for the review of SDG7 at the HLPF in order to take full advantage of this opportunity to trigger action. This included a discussion of the contributions of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG7 TAG), such as the SDG7 Policy Briefs. The co-facilitators of the SDG7 TAG, Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, Special Envoy, Climate and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Director, ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, opened the event which included two panels. The first panel focused on the SDG7 review as a catalyst for action and the second panel discussed how to ensure an inclusive and well-informed SDG7 review.



On Energy Day at COP27, UN DESA spoke with Angela Wilkinson, Secretary General and CEO of the World Energy Council, about how to balance climate security, human development and energy security. She spoke of the need to "humanize" the just energy transition, noting that it can't happen overnight, but what's important is that billions of people around the world understand their role and their choices regarding sustainability.



How can more financing for forests lead to better results for climate action? UN DESA interviewed Juliette Biao, the Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, about her

forestry experience in Benin and how that motivates her to be an advocate for forest-based solutions for the climate challenge.



The Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action includes a dedicated milestone on the re-direction of fossil fuel consumption towards renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2025. Simon Black, Climate Economist from IMF, in conversation with UN DESA explained the importance of this ambitious target. He provided insights as to why fossil fuel subsidies are continuously rising despite the growing consensus on their impact on climate change via depressing the cost of fossil fuels. Current fossil fuel subsidies reached \$731.6 billion USD in 2021; almost double what they were in 2020 -- reaching similar levels as 10 years ago. He also noted the importance of data and evidence that clearly shows the external cost of subsidies, including impacts on health. In collaboration with the World Bank, the IMF is supporting countries in overcoming a number of challenges related to fossil fuel subsidy reforms.



The session shed light on the effects of climate change on sand and dust storms in the Gulf countries and the multi-faceted impacts on public health, economic disruptions, physical damages, and urban dwellers' daily activities. The session also included an overview of the ongoing collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development to address the issue of sand and dust storms and improve resilience to this significant challenge, especially in Iraq and Kuwait. Insights were also shared on opportunities for scaling up and further replication in other areas of similar conditions.



This event showcased the recently launched IAEA Energy Compact “Supporting Member States in their Clean Energy Transition” and highlighted the role of nuclear power in climate change and in accelerating the transition to net zero and achieving SDG7. At the same time, the IAEA’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program, which aims to help increase the number of women in the nuclear field, was presented.



The Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action includes a dedicated milestone on universal electricity for healthcare facilities by 2030. Dr. Neira, in conversation with UN DESA, highlighted the importance of this target, and the role that electrification of health centres plays in advancing multiple SDGs, including those related to health and gender. Despite this critical linkage, many health centers, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, remain without electricity. She also emphasized that ensuring access to electricity and clean energy must be a top priority that will also have climate co-benefits. Partnerships such as the HEPA are bringing the health and energy communities together to support countries in advancing issues related to health and energy, including the electrification of health centres



UN DESA spoke to Sheila Oparaocha, Director of ENERGIA and co-facilitator of the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group, about the need to improve gender data related to SDG 7. While women face the steepest challenges in securing access to clean and affordable energy, this is not accounted for adequately in current systems, she said. The SDG 7 review at the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development can be a place for further progress on this issue.



This event drew attention to the importance of partnerships in facilitating the transition to sustainable energy and advancing the climate agenda. ESCAP, Energy Foundation China and other collaborating organizations highlighted effective partnerships through the launch of Pakistan's SDG7 Roadmap, the launch of Cambodia's National Cooling Action Plan, and the panel discussion "Putting Plans into Action through Partnerships." The panel discussion focused on how actionable plans are developed, and how plans are put into action.

Find out more about the [SDG 7 Road Map for Pakistan here](#).



City governments, through their civic mandates and long-term planning perspectives, are critical institutions to address climate impacts, decarbonize buildings, infrastructure, and mobility, ensure food security, transition to renewable energy, and build more resilient and sustainable communities. Cities are both contributors to the problem and the key to a solution. This event featured locally-led examples of inclusive climate governance and capacity building by mayors, networks, and non-party stakeholders. It also launched and presented how the ACE City Champions Initiative can help strengthen institutional capacity to capitalize on the coordination through those ACE efforts.

UAE Energy Transition to Achieve SDG7

Organized by Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE

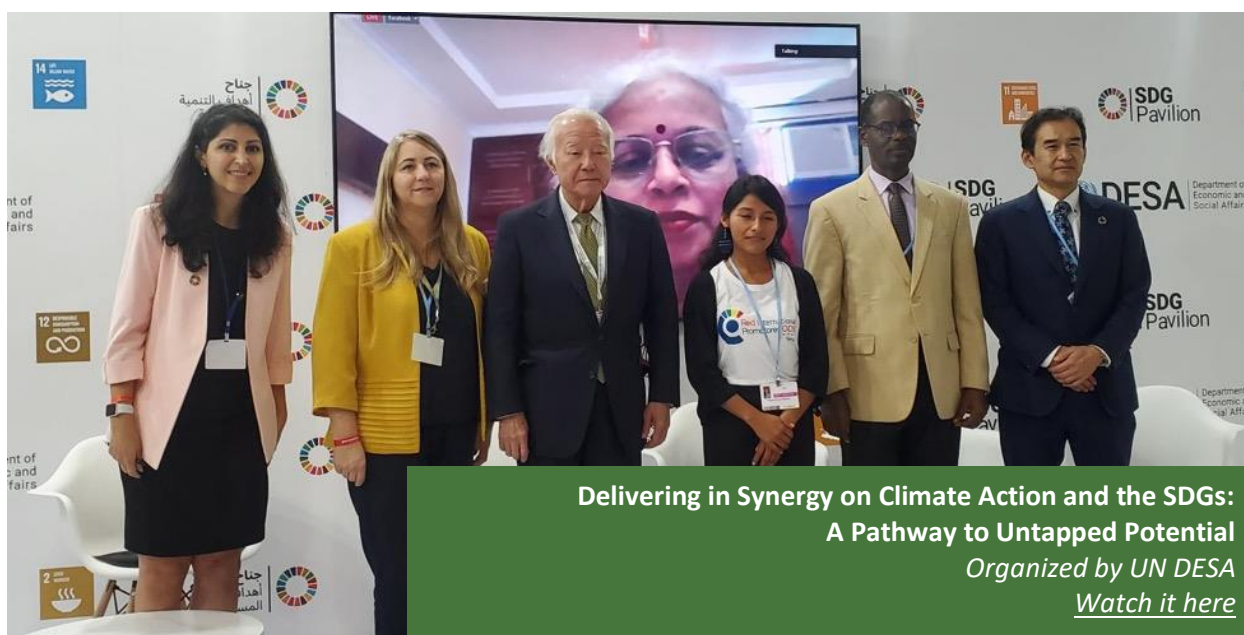


On December 2nd, 2021, we celebrated the UAE's Golden Jubilee and launched the government strategy: "Towards the next 50", with energy and climate action being two of the top priorities on our national agenda. To kick-start the next 50 years, we are updating our National Energy Strategy and are currently in the transition phase. In 2017, we launched our first unified federal Energy Strategy with the bold goal of diversifying energy sources. From an already ambitious strategy, we are set to increase our efforts. The new energy economy will be more electrified, efficient, just, inclusive, interconnected, and clean. As part of this process, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure launched the National Integrated Energy Model (IEM). The IEM is the first step of designing the future of energy in the UAE and a road map for a new phase for Energy sector sustainability, in partnership with Khalifa University and IRENA.

In order to steer through the energy transition, we will have to be very careful and consider various elements that will pave us to our goals and inspirations. To tackle the energy transition, the UAE has adopted a wide range of energy mix with the right balance between sustainable development and reducing climate change as part of our energy strategy 2050 to ensure net-zero emissions by 2050.

Wednesday, 16 November

Living Responsibly and in Harmony with Nature



Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement represents a significant opportunity in the global movement towards ensuring sustainability, equity, and justice. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Ono, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of the Environment in Japan, as a host of the [Third Global Conference on Synergies between Climate and the SDGs](#), highlighted how COP27 serves as a strong platform for amplifying commitments, enhancing knowledge base, mainstreaming synergistic actions into NDCs, and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and youth empowerment. While different development opportunities, national contributions, and societal needs characterize diverse implementation pathways across regions, there is no doubt that proactive delivery on both climate and the SDGs fronts will benefit all societies. Moreover, in a world that is facing multiple crises, acting in synergy on different fronts is the only way to ensure lively environments and fair societies.



For this purpose, the panel of speakers representing multi-stakeholder voices and expertise, marked the urgent need to ensure enabling environments and coordinated implementation at all levels of operations. The discussion called upon all countries and their partners to work together to address challenges and widen opportunities between and within communities to faster achieve sustainable development and limit warming to 1.5°C. Some of the key proposals included building a holistic education system around climate and the SDGs to strengthen youth empowerment, breaking silos between development and climate implementation projects to limit trade-offs, and promoting decentralized solutions to build resilience. One of the consistent points reiterated by the speakers included reflections on how harnessing synergies across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement can at the same time help advance inclusive and just transitions.

(Picture: H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Ono, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan)



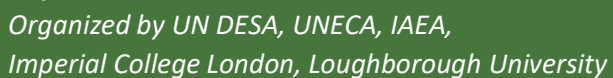
How can SDG 17 be a guidepost for building partnerships that can raise the profile of Indigenous and marginalized voices in academia? While time, money, nationality and access can all be challenges to meaningful partnerships, the research provided by social scientists in academia is the perfect place to start building relationships, says Reynaldo Morales, professor at Northwestern University's Buffett Institute of Global Affairs. He says that academia can provide concrete evidence for things like climate change, he says, and it is critical that this information is shared as part of established processes at the local, regional, and international levels of policy-making. Indigenous and traditional knowledge must be a part of the evidence provided.



On Biodiversity Day at COP27, UN DESA held a fireside chat with Issa Sanogo, UN Resident Coordinator in Madagascar, and Francoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia, to discuss those countries' priorities regarding SDG 15, Life on Land. In both Madagascar and Serbia, biodiversity and forests are important policy concerns, with implications for both the climate and sustainable development agendas. From water to energy to sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity is an entry point for advancing the breadth of the SDGs, and the speakers shared how they are coordinating UN efforts in their countries.



This event was organised by the SIDS Unit of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals and was envisioned to provide additional space at COP27 for further elaboration on the issue of Loss and Damage, in particular, its possible future resourcing. It was also intended to be a platform for free and frank discussion, on both challenges and opportunities, and how to build momentum to ensure that the international community concretely addresses and supports the SIDS position on loss and damage, in the face of the dire consequences anticipated under our present global temperature trajectory. Moderated by the Chief of the SIDS Unit, Mr. Sai S. Navoti, the panel members included the Honorable Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance & Minister Responsible for Climate Change, Tuvalu; Dr. Spencer Thomas, Ambassador and Special Envoy for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Grenada; Mr. Espen Ronneberg Adviser, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); and Mr. Exsley Taloiburi Expert-Climate Change & Resilience Organization of Africa Caribbean & Pacific (OPCP). USG Li delivered a video message as Opening Remarks.



Climate Change Impacts on Africa's Economic Growth
Organized by African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF)

This event provided first-hand information on Africa's Climate Economic situation with a view to eliciting global support and interventions for the provision of acceptable modern techniques and partnerships in the most vulnerable communities in the African continent. The African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF) demonstrated the commitment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP-27 to help Africa find a solution to the rising impact of climate change on its economic growth.



Exploring the Climate-biodiversity Nexus for a Healthy and Sustainable Planet

Organized by Igarapé Institute and Science Panel for the Amazon

The event “Exploring the climate-biodiversity nexus for a healthy and sustainable planet”, hosted by the Igarapé Institute in partnership with the Science Panel for the Amazon discussed the drivers, interlinkages and different perspectives on the interconnected climate and biodiversity planetary crises. The Amazon Rainforest, which is dangerously approaching its “tipping point,” is an emblematic site to observe the interplay between these two crises as well as a site of emerging solutions. The four panelists addressed the issue from different perspectives, including the scientific community, private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and youth constituencies. From their different vantage points, they all agree on the need for new economic models that are compatible with a standing forest and value local communities and their knowledge. Although there are still multiple challenges to implementing and scale-up nature and people-based solutions, all speakers emphasized the importance of multistakeholder coalitions and different forms of collaboration to deliver these solutions and protect the forest and its people.



The session demonstrated that Net Zero Carbon Architecture in Africa is a solution to address both the housing shortage and climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa. Almost 230 million houses need to be built by 2030 if we are to achieve SDG 11. The building sector globally is responsible for 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. The session demonstrated that three approaches are needed to address the housing shortage and to mitigate climate change: the technical aspect; the policy aspect, and the financial aspect. Prof. Francois Garde of the School of Architecture at La Reunion presented technical solutions on how to build green.



The seminar, moderated by Evandro Gussi, CEO of the Brazilian sugarcane and bioenergy industry association, presented a value-chain approach to the sustainable production cycle of sugarcane and its many versatile decarbonization applications beyond transport. With over 50 years of experience in sugarcane ethanol production, panelists explored the numerous solutions offered by sugarcane in replacing petroleum derivatives, including 2nd generation ethanol, bioplastics, biogas, and hydrogen.



Hasmik Barseghyan, the President of the European Youth Parliament for Water, invited the speakers to a cross-regional dialogue (from Eastern Europe, MENA, South Asia, Latin America) on the multiple aspects of human rights on a healthy environment, clean water and sanitation, gender equality in access to water and energy resources, impact of climate change on women, and human security.

Mrs. Corinne Lepage, the Former French Minister of Environment, welcomed the speakers and the audience and encouraged them to join the Universal Declaration of Humankind rights and duties, as ambassadors. The commitments to "leave no one behind" and to "reach those furthest behind first" in the 2030 Agenda are important principles to follow, but how do we do it? What is the role of democracy in supporting water accessibility? What is the real impact of COP conversations on the life of rural communities? What are the concrete actions that are implemented in different parts of the world?



This session shared a wide range of diverse voices from communities at the frontlines of the fight for a more just and sustainable future. This dynamic dialogue considered the challenges that many communities face for climate and social justice and highlighted stories of real change taking place around the world. The session also included short videos of community groups highlighting their struggles and solutions in each part of the world; and the launch of a new web platform, Zovu, that provides a space to share direct stories of community change-makers.

Thursday, 17 November

Integrating Social Priorities and Climate Ambitions



The conversation was on the role of strategic intelligence in shaping the energy debate and what narratives to use to strengthen the voices of renewable energy. REN21 introduced its influence mapping tool. Using this AI-based tool, REN21 can map trends and identify relevant stakeholders both inside and outside the energy world to strategically position renewables in the public debate, mirroring approaches already used by businesses. Participants discussed narratives around social and economic development, jobs and finance, and the tools needed to reach decision-makers. A key conclusion was the need to work on the pricing of renewable energy benefits for society, in addition to the cost discussion.



The Side Event entitled: “The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Climate Action for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)” was organized by the SIDS Unit of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA, focusing on the role of STI in transitioning SIDS to a sustainable energy future. It showcased the latest efforts and initiatives to accelerate the decarbonization of the energy system. The event also discussed current efforts being exerted in SIDS to assist their transition to a carbon-neutral economy and the potential of “long-duration energy storage”, by the World Long Duration Energy Storage Council (LDESA) and “wind power, by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) to become a cornerstone of Green Recovery and for building better towards a more sustainable and resilient future for SIDS. IRENA highlighted its various renewable energy initiatives in SIDS. Facilitated by the Chief of the SIDS Unit, Mr. Sai S. Navoti, the panelists included, Mr. Amjad Abdulla, Head of Partnerships (IRENA), Ms. Lidia Aviles, Director Operations LDES Council, Ms. Wangari Muchiri, Senior Policy Director & Head of Africa Wind Power (GWEC).



The event saw interventions from the national level, as well as civil society, around nature-based solutions, with case studies from Uganda. The discussion and presentations focused on how local communities can be engaged as “champions of nature-based solutions” while enforcing national protection policies. The key question was around how conversation and the development needs and infrastructure investments to channel urbanisation can be reconciled. Cities Alliance provided some hands-on experience from their Wetland Restoration project in Uganda and the minister reiterated the importance of upscaling these inclusive projects.



The California-China Climate Institute (CCCI) and the Innovation Center for Energy and Transportation (iCET) convened an expert panel on sustainable decarbonization in China. Moderated by Jessica Gordon, Senior Policy Fellow at CCCI, the panel included: Feng An, Director, iCET, Nan Zhou, Senior Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Hu Min, Principal, Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP), Ethan Elkind, Climate Program Director, UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy and Environment and Yubo Zhai, Head of ESG and Carbon Neutrality Business. The panelists discussed many opportunities and challenges in China's near-term decarbonization across sectors, at the national and subnational level, and the ways in which China's decarbonization has impacts in other jurisdictions including California.



The event highlighted how ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), when effectively implemented, can underpin successful achievement of the SDGs. The discussion was based on a review undertaken by the Friends of EbA (FEBA) on the interconnected role of EbA across the SDGs, and provided case studies focusing on SDGs 2, 13, 14, 15 and 16, representing the global triple crises, and the fundamental need for justice and peace in order to effectively tackle these emergencies. At the nexus of sustainable development, human rights, climate action, and nature conservation, EbA recognises the symbiotic connections between people and ecosystems. And, when done in a just and equitable way, supported by enabling policies and legal frameworks, effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement, adequate financing clearly contributes to driving progress in achieving SDGs.



The session, moderated by Ombretta Tempa, land specialist at UN-Habitat and the Global Land tool Network (GLTN), launched the newly published report on “[Land governance, Natural Resources and Climate Change in the Arab Region](#)”, developed by the Arab Land Initiative’s partners UN-Habitat, GLTN and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

During the session, four critical interrelated regional challenges discussed in the report were highlighted. Such challenges fall at the intersection of global discourses on land governance and climate change: 1) land degradation, 2) resource-based conflicts (prevailing mainly in countries where pastoralism is still a major source of livelihoods), 3) land dispossessions and displacements (mainly of small landholders), and 4) chaotic urbanisation and encroachments on public and communal lands – including on climatic sensitive zones not safe nor suitable for living. Poor land governance was reported to be the common denominator underlying these challenges. Among the actions proposed to face the above-mentioned challenges, the report underscores the need for holistic, integrated and sustainable land management approaches that address the critical relationship between land degradation and increased climatic pressures on land.



The event was hosted by Zaliha Abdulhamid Lawal, the SDGs coordinator for Followthemoney who had on the panel Jennifer Adaobi Okoye, Data Analyst - Ladies in Data for Climate Change; Beatriz, a Brazilian lawyer experienced in Human Rights, Gender, Sustainability and Compliance; and Hyeladzira James Mshelia, Programs Associate at Connected Development who demystified the nexus between climate change and gender-based violence, especially as it affects women and girls.

Part of the conversation from the session was about how government, civil society organisations and citizens can co-create toolkits within different political, and socio-economic policies that address the issues of gender equality. Also, the need to create an informal structure or platform where vulnerable groups can come together and engage with most importantly people at the helm of affairs has been highlighted. Finally, the need to have more women leading conversations and negotiations at COP28 has been emphasized by all panelists, thus helping in improving climate justice and women and girl-child empowerment.

As the world sets the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and coordinates the Global Stocktake (GS) for COP28 in line with the Paris Agreement, questions remain regarding the appropriate mechanisms to engage grassroots groups and reflect locally-led adaptation. This interactive session provided different stakeholders with a space to discuss concerns, strengths, and needs of grassroots groups regarding the GGA and GS processes.



The session brought together major UN entities and their partners to discuss fossil fuel dependency and energy efficiency. The discussions highlighted how private sector investments in UN energy infrastructure are needed to achieve energy transition goals. During this side event, a 20-million-euro Multi-Partner Trust Fund was introduced which will contribute to decarbonizing energy infrastructure in humanitarian contexts and other fragile settings by installing energy-efficient appliances and renewable energy systems using innovative PPP models.



Ines Yabar, a Board Member of L.O.O.P introduced the session and invited the welcome speaker for the session. It was opened with a short exhortation by Kristine Hughes, Director, Global Plastics Action Partnership at the World Economic Forum. Her talking points centred around the Global Plastic Action Partnership and the influential role young people play in driving circularity to meet up with climate goals. Joshua Amponsem, Founder-Green Africa Youth Organisation mentioned the need for young people to be at the frontlines beyond the typical activism. He cited the Global Plastic Action Partnership as a call to action for young people to also be involved in policy and professional climate work.



A Keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Saeed Al Tayer, Chairman of the WGEO, where he praised the work being done by Potential and HSBC on the programme Tatawwar: meaning “to develop” in Arabic, brings together students aged 15-18, schools, parents and the business community to help innovate for a

shared future. It gives them the chance to build their social business skills, learn more about the sustainable development goals, connect with the corporate world, and hear advice from leaders in their respective areas. Over the past four years the programme reached circa 16,000 students from more than 2,000 schools. The programme won six awards regionally and internationally for best online and community development initiative. We are currently funding a Decentralised Autonomous Organisation allowing the alumni to scale the programme globally in collaboration with the UNFCCC. Furthermore, the programme is now integrated in the UAE Ministry of Education curriculum.

H.E. highlighted the importance of the youth in the UAE society and how the country is supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills among the youth and creating an enabling environment towards facilitating innovation.

The keynote was followed by a panel discussion with the main outcomes being:

- The role of social entrepreneurship as a model of companies that do good while still making profit is still in development but has definitely grown in importance
- The youth are key players in addressing social change by using their skills not to progress on their career and increase income, but also to create social value as a main objective
- The programme Tatawwar has been instrumental for the students taking part on it to spark their innovation and create solutions with high potential at very low cost. However, scaling up those ideas is still a challenge. The programme also supports on the academic journey of the students by encouraging the development of various soft skills
- The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals as a model to direct a company's social values must be done at an early stage, due to the complexity of tracking and demonstrating impact
- It is critical to address social issues such as labour rights, decent and equitable work conditions and overall human rights while fighting climate change. This is key as there is a risk that addressing current problems, we create others in the near future of similar or bigger importance.



The event discussed how to elevate the potential of Just Energy Transition Partnerships and Nationally Determined Contributions as vehicles for combating climate change, poverty, and providing energy access, therefore contributing to achieving SDGs 1, 7 and 13. NGO high-level representatives, governments and UNDP highlighted challenges, lessons learned and policy options to maximize social benefits. The event was in a fireside chat format with a dialogue between participants that responded to guiding questions by the moderator.

Friday, 18 November

Transitioning Together in Synchrony with Nature



This event heard presentations from Mr. Gianni Chianetta – Founder & Director, Greening the Islands (GTI), Mr. Karl Peet, Senior Advisor, Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT), Dr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary-General, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece, and Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch (IPAB), UNDESA. SIDS contribute a minuscule proportion of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption, but are highly exposed to climate change impacts, in particular to extreme weather events and sea-level rise. There is a great need for targeted investments into SIDS to transition to insular mobility systems and to set targets towards zero carbon by 2040. The decarbonization of SIDS is not only needed as a mitigation effort, but also as a strong signal to the global community that a zero-carbon future is possible.



This event explored the nexus of SDG 3 (health), SDG7 (Energy) and SDG13 (Climate Change). Speakers demonstrated the potential for significant health gains from taking a just energy transition (JET) approach – including the benefits of clean air, mental health gains and improved access to health - and presented an action agenda for implementation. It explored the principles for a healthy transition to deliver a clean energy future for a thriving healthy society. Creating a healthy fossil-free world requires re-imagining a new healthy energy future, delivering a system of diverse technology, innovative solutions, and decentralised ownership, with a focus on people, health, and the environment. Following the presentation of the health impacts of fossil fuels, presenters then gave positive solutions to ensure the health co-benefits. Speakers presented cases of energy transition needed in South Africa and India, and there was a focus by two speakers on the transition to clean public and active transport.



This session highlighted the Yurok tribe's local, nature-based solutions for fighting climate change. Their example provided a foundation for a broad exploration of the conditions for indigenous leadership and ownership in successful forest conservation and development initiatives. Key messages included:

Indigenous peoples need to be the decision-makers; diverse voices are a necessity to creating universal and equitable climate policy; equality is not the same as equity and the Yurok and Indigenous peoples are innovators and thought leaders in creating solutions to solve the climate crisis. Jill Blockhus moderated the session.



The event was meant to highlight the critical role that renewable energy can play in supporting the realisation of not only SDG7, but also many of the other SDGs. Ms. Grace Ronoh of the Access Coalition, Kenya; Ms. Anaid Velasco of CEMDA, Mexico; and Ms. Aryanne De Ocampo of CEED, Philippines brought in perspectives from their respective regions about how renewable energy was being used in supporting their work with the poor and the underserved. Mr. Stephan Singer of CAN International, gave a global overview of how clean energy can support many development goals, also highlighting the positions of science, key reports, and data on renewables. The event clearly showed how global growth in renewables, especially decentralised renewable energy, could catalyse development and early achievement of many SDGs. The event was moderated by Ms. Janet Milongo of CAN International.





Annex 2: RELEVANT WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

SDG Pavilion at COP27 Website

The official SDG Pavilion website can be accessed here:

<https://www.un.org/en/COP27/SDGPavilion>

SDG Pavilion Daily Newsletter

The SDG Pavilion daily newsletter has been released each day of DESA engagement during COP27. Each edition provided an overview of the official CO27 proceedings and negotiations, in addition to a comprehensive summary reported of events held at the Pavilion with photos and link to resources. All newsletter editions can be viewed below.

- ⇒ [Monday 7 November](#)
- ⇒ [Tuesday 8 November](#)
- ⇒ [Wednesday 9 November](#)
- ⇒ [Thursday 10 November](#)
- ⇒ [Friday 11 November](#)
- ⇒ [Saturday 12 November](#)
- ⇒ [Monday 14 November](#)
- ⇒ [Tuesday 15 November](#)
- ⇒ [Wednesday 16 November](#)
- ⇒ [Thursday 17 November](#)
- ⇒ [Friday 18 November](#)

Social Media Outreach

On social media, the UN DESA flagship Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the targeted SustDev Twitter and Facebook accounts, were active throughout COP27, promoting the highlights from the SDG Pavilion. More than 25 events were livestreamed and archived on the UN DESA and SustDev Facebook accounts during the two weeks. Please see the links below to view the content:

UN DESA accounts:

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)

SustDev accounts:

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)

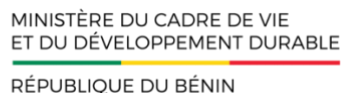
Photos

All of the photos from the SDG Pavilion are available in a dedicated album on the [SustDev Flickr page](#).

Annex 3: MAIN PARTNERS









The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



清华大学
Tsinghua University

The Nature
Conservancy



UNALA
Unión de Azúcareros
Latinoamericanos
União do Açúcar Latino-americano –UNALA–



UEA
University of East Anglia



United Nations
Climate Change

UN
environment
programme



UNECE



ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



unicef
pour chaque enfant

unitar
United Nations Institute
for Training and Research



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



UN-OHRLS



UNOSD
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-EHS
Institute for Environment
and Human Security



UNITED NATIONS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INRA

Institute for Natural Resources in Africa



SUSTAINABLE
WATER &
ENERGY
SOLUTIONS
NETWORK



wbcscd



World
Benchmarking
Alliance



World Food
Programme



World Health
Organization



YOUNGO
HEALTH WORKING GROUP



For further information, please contact:
Division for Sustainable Development Goals
Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations

November 2022



DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**