



**United Nations**



**GLOBAL CLIMATE  
& SDG SYNERGY  
CONFERENCE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **United Nations conference to seek synergy solutions to address climate crisis and sustainable development setbacks**

***Government ministers and experts to join with business and civil society leaders  
in Tokyo and virtually, 20-21 July***

New York/Tokyo, 19 July -- A United Nations conference opening tomorrow, in Tokyo and virtually, aims to find synergies in solutions to the global climate emergency and the actions needed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The two-day conference will bring together over 1,000 leaders and experts, including government ministers, mayors and governors, and representatives from business, research institutes and many international, civil society and youth organizations. It comes just days after the UN's annual [Sustainable Development Goals Report](#) showed that "years or even decades of development progress have been halted or reversed" as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, and called for an "urgent rescue effort" for the SDGs.

The most recent studies also indicate that global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rose by 6 per cent in 2021 and, based on current national commitments, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14 per cent over the next decade. Impacts are becoming more severe, and time is running out to make a course correction and limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as called for under the Paris Agreement.

"To get the Sustainable Development Goals on track and keep the goal of 1.5 degrees alive, we must dramatically increase the pace of implementation and ramp up ambition," said Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. "The evidence shows that an integrated approach that seeks to strengthen synergies between the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda is critical, and is entirely possible," he added.

"Climate change is the ultimate threat multiplier," said Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change. "It negatively impacts all SDGs and worsens most of humanity's most pressing challenges such as poverty, hunger, drought, desertification, access to clean air, water, energy and more. Because of this, we need to speed up both the implementation of SDGs and of the Paris Agreement, for the benefit of all of humanity."

Formally titled the Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the gathering is co-convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC). Hosted by Japan's Ministry of the Environment, the conference is being

held in partnership with United Nations University (UNU) at its Tokyo headquarters, as well as with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

Mr. Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, Minister of Environment, Japan, said: “This forthcoming conference is aiming to gather good practices on synergies between climate and SDGs and accelerate action toward the goals. I will introduce the Decarbonization Leading Areas of Japan. I look forward to seeing participants in Tokyo or online on July 20 and 21.”

Special events on 20 July (19:15-20:00 JST) will include an awards ceremony by the Japan Ministry of Environment for cities and regions leading on decarbonization, as well as the launch of the Global Compact Japan 2022 Report, examining business sustainability practices. This will be followed by a high-level opening segment, as part of two days of multi-stakeholder panel discussions and dialogues.

On behalf of the United Nations University, Ms. Sawako Shirahase, Senior Vice-Rector, stated, “We are committed to working with other academic and research institutions to provide analytical support needed to promote fruitful synergies between climate and SDG action.”

Mr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), echoed this commitment, stating, “We need to build a convincing evidence base for the value of integrated climate and SDG action, which will be more effective than a silo approach.”

**Websites:**

- The Conference opening segment can be watched online at [webtv.un.org](https://webtv.un.org) (English only).
- The Conference will also be livestreamed (English only, TBC) on its website:
- <https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2022>

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