



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



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Operationalizing Climate-SDG Synergies: From Policy Alignment to Implementation

Monday, 17 November 2025 | 13:15-14:30

SDG Pavilion (Blue Zone)

Concept Note

Draft as of 15 November

Rationale and Context

As COP30 in Belém marks ten years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, it represents a pivotal moment to turn ambition into action. The first Global Stocktake (GST), concluded at COP28, confirmed that while climate action has broadened in scope and participation, collective progress remains insufficient to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach. Global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and in 2024 the global average temperature surpassed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the first time. The *2025 Emissions Gap Report* finds that even with full implementation of NDCs, the world remains on a trajectory of 2.3 to 2.5°C warming by the end of the century.

These trends underscore the urgency of COP30 as a milestone for renewed ambition and accelerated implementation. The updated NDCs, which define national climate action through 2035, present a key opportunity to embed stronger connections between climate and sustainable development. As the world enters the final five years of the 2030 Agenda, only one-third of SDG targets are on track, yet more than 80 percent are directly linked to climate. Unlocking synergies between these agendas is therefore essential to deliver progress on both. With widening implementation and financing gaps measured in trillions of dollars, the need for more efficient, cost-effective, and transformative solutions has never been greater.

The Global Reports on Climate and SDG Synergies, prepared by the Expert Group co-convened by UN DESA and the UNFCCC Secretariat, show that policies and investments advancing both climate and development deliver far greater returns than siloed efforts. The first report, *[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#)*, highlighted the vast potential of synergistic approaches to enhance resilience, strengthen institutions, and promote policy coherence. The second report, *[Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want](#)*, laid out a roadmap for transformative change, calling for stronger alignment of policies, finance, and governance. The most recent publication, *[Harnessing Climate and SDG Synergies: Quantifying the Benefits](#)*, launched in September 2025, demonstrates the scale of opportunity synergistic approaches can unlock: enhanced resource efficiency, reduced trade-offs, and co-benefits across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. COP30 provides a timely platform to translate these insights into practical, sectoral action, including energy transitions, resilient cities, nature-based solutions, and inclusive finance mechanisms.



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Expected Outcomes

This COP30 side event, “*Operationalizing Climate-SDG Synergies: From Policy Alignment to Implementation*,” will explore concrete pathways for implementing the next generation of NDCs (NDC 3.0) through integrated, cross-sectoral strategies.

Speakers will highlight different sectoral entry points for operationalizing synergies:

- *Nature and biodiversity*: how nature-based solutions can drive mitigation, adaptation, and support livelihoods.
- *Energy and industry*: how clean energy transitions can support job creation, economic diversification, and energy access.
- *Finance and planning*: how aligning fiscal policy, national planning frameworks, and climate finance, including through the NCQG and the Baku to Belém Roadmap, can accelerate integrated investment.
- *Resilience and equity*: how adaptation planning and social protection systems can deliver co-benefits across health, gender, and poverty reduction goals.
- *Local action and resilient cities*: how urban planning, sustainable infrastructure, and city-level innovation can drive low-emission and climate-resilient development while improving quality of life and advancing multiple SDGs.

The session aims to:

1. Showcase practical examples and enabling policies that demonstrate the benefits of integrated planning and implementation.
2. Identify opportunities to scale up investment in synergistic action through emerging elements of the global climate finance architecture.
3. Contribute to COP30 outcomes by informing strategies for stronger alignment between climate and development action ahead of the second Global Stocktake, the process for which commences in 2026.

By convening policymakers, practitioners, and technical experts, the event will demonstrate that operationalizing synergies across sectors is both possible and necessary to accelerate climate action and leverage it as a driving force for sustainable development in the critical years ahead.



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Tentative programme

Opening Remarks 13:15-13:20	Ms. Bahareh Seyedi , Senior Sustainable Energy and Climate Advisor, UNDESA
Keynote presentation 13:20-13:30	<p><i>Keynote</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Izabella Teixeira, Member, United Nations High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs; Co-Chair of International Resource Panel, former Minister of Environment of Brazil
Panel discussion 13:30 – 14:15	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Energy and Climate Advisor, UN DESA <p><i>Panel discussion on Climate and SDG Synergy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour, Vice President for International Strategies, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, (C2ES); Member of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy Mr. Satya Tripathi, Secretary-General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet Mr. Junichi Fujino, Principal Researcher/ Program Director, City Taskforce, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Ms. Hailey Campbell, Director, Care About Climate
Q&A 14:15 – 14:25	Q&A with the audience
Next Steps and Closing 14:25– 14:30	UN DESA