



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



United Nations
Climate Change



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK



GLOBAL CLIMATE
& SDG SYNERGY
CONFERENCE ►►

COPENHAGEN
27-28 MAY
2025

Sixth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Unleashing Synergies Towards an Equitable, Climate-Resilient, and Sustainable Future

27-28 May 2025 | Copenhagen, Denmark

Draft Concept Note

As of 14 February 2025

Co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Sixth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be held on 27–28 May 2025 at the UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark.

CONTEXT

The world is grappling with multiple, interdependent crises that are often addressed separately and in silos. This fragmented approach risks missing the immense opportunities that lie in addressing these crises together. Over 80% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly linked to climate change, and integrated, synergistic actions can unlock co-benefits, optimize resource allocation, and minimize trade-offs, ensuring that no one is left behind. As the UN Secretary-General has emphasized, “*Climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals.*”

Recent developments underscore the urgency of this interconnected challenge. The [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) has confirmed that 2024 is the warmest year on record, with global mean temperatures likely surpassing the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement. This alarming milestone highlights the intensifying impacts of climate change, from rising sea levels to more frequent and severe heatwaves, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable and risking the reversal of years of development gains. Meanwhile, the [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) reveals that only 17% of the SDGs are on track to be achieved by 2030, with progress on over one-third of the goals stalled or regressing. Poverty, hunger, inequalities, and biodiversity loss continue to rise in many regions. While some advances have been made, the benefits have been unevenly distributed, leaving many countries and communities behind. Bold, transformative action is therefore urgently needed to achieve global development and climate goals. The [Pact for the Future](#), adopted in September 2024, reinforces this by decisively calling for scaled up efforts to fully implement the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#).

Integrated approaches—drawing on key entry points such as energy, water, transport, oceans and forests, and leveraging science, technology, and innovation—could significantly multiply impacts and bridge the trillions of dollars’ worth of investment gaps needed to address the climate crisis and accelerate progress on the SDGs. Recognition of these synergies is growing within intergovernmental processes, with the [COP28 Global Stocktake outcome](#) referencing several SDGs, the [UNEA resolution 6/4](#) emphasizing the implementation of environmental commitments in synergy with the SDGs, and the [2024 HLPF Political Declaration](#) committing to enhancing synergies toward the effective implementation of national climate and development policies and actions.

Since 2019, the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA) and the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) Secretariat have been at the forefront of efforts to promote synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their initiatives, including the [Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy](#), have produced [key reports](#) showing how better coordination and integration of policies for climate action and achievement of SDGs could lead to more efficient and cost-effective outcomes. The 2024 report, *[“Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want,”](#)* outlines a roadmap for overcoming fragmentation and achieving the transformative changes required.

Against this backdrop, and with the collaboration of like-minded institutions, UN organizations, and an expanding coalition of host and partner countries, UN DESA and the UNFCCC Secretariat remain committed to raising awareness and fostering synergies. The global climate and SDG synergy conferences have become a pivotal platform for these efforts, growing in size and impact over the years.

SIXTH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE AND SDG SYNERGY

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the sixth edition of the conference will be co-convened by UN DESA and the UNFCCC Secretariat on 27-28 May 2025 at the UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark to accelerate synergistic implementation of climate action and the SDGs. Informed by the [reports](#) of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy and building on the [outcomes](#) of the [Fifth Conference on Climate and SDG Synergy](#), the Sixth Synergy Conference will facilitate in-depth dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and practical recommendations through case studies and empirical evidence to support integrated, country-led approaches, and contribute to key upcoming milestones this year.

2025 presents a critical window for course correction and seizing opportunities to maximize the potential of synergistic action on climate and SDGs. The [upcoming round of Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#), due by early 2025 and before COP30, represents a pivotal moment to forge synergies between national climate action and the SDGs. Closely linking the NDCs with the broader development agenda could transform them into investable action plans driving SDG progress. Other upcoming milestones, including the [4th International Financing for Development Conference](#) in Spain and COP30 in Brazil, offer significant opportunities to further align national and multilateral action on our shared climate and development goals. Integrated policy responses—such as interconnecting the [New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance](#) and Financing for Development tracks in the upcoming Roadmap for Baku to Belém—could help move beyond the more short-term and siloed project-by-project approach, and bridge financing gaps faced by developing countries in advancing their climate and development priorities. By embracing integrated, synergistic approaches, we can shape a sustainable, climate-resilient and equitable future as we advance towards 2030 and beyond.

To amplify impact, the conference is exploring partnerships with relevant bilateral and multilateral stakeholders that can drive forward the different thematic sessions for the conference. It will also explore opportunities for relevant stakeholders preparing and presenting white papers/ non-papers relevant for the conference topics.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Concrete, action-oriented recommendations to enhance synergistic implementation of climate action and the SDGs at both political and practical levels.** These are expected to feed into upcoming global work streams, summits and conferences in 2025, including [G20,] the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in Spain, COP30 in Brazil, and the Baku to Belém Roadmap.
- The recommendations will be presented in a concise Conference Summary, a detailed Conference Report and other informative documentation.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Conference is a multi-stakeholder event, with leading representatives from a variety of constituencies including youth, civil society, private sector, international organizations, and member states. The Sixth Synergy Conference will feature:

- **High-Level Opening & Ministerial Dialogues**, featuring prominent ministers, policymakers, and stakeholders.
- **Breakout Sessions**, including parallel thematic sessions and roundtables, to facilitate in-depth dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and practical recommendations.
- **Special/Side events**, with focus on specific themes, regions, and stakeholders.

MONDAY, 26 MAY

Internal meetings and workshops – *by invitation only*

TUESDAY, 27 MAY

High Level Opening

Coffee break

Plenary Session

Lunch

2-3 Breakout Sessions

Coffee break

Plenary Session

WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY

Plenary Session

Coffee break

4-6 Breakout Sessions

Lunch

Plenary Session

Closing

***Special Event* | Multistakeholder Dialogue**

A more detailed programme overview will be provided in due course.