





UN DESA at COP29

Summary Report

11-22 November 2024 | BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

Welcome to COP29

Key Highlights





days of activities



30 UN DESA-led engagements



100+

SDG Pavilion events



120+
organizing



90+

partners

countries represented at the SDG Pavilion



100

hours of YouTube livestream

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Introduction

With an ever-tightening timeframe to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are leaving more than half the world behind. The <u>Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024</u> warns that only 17 per cent of the SDGs are on track, with progress stalled or regressed on over one-third of the goals. At the same time, climate change is accelerating, with 2023 the hottest year on <u>record</u>, exacerbating inequalities, driving millions into poverty, and reversing years of development gains. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly called upon countries to step up action, stressing that "Climate action is the 21st century's greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals."

For the past several years, the <u>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</u> has been at the forefront of championing the alignment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, UN DESA continued to lead global efforts on climate and SDG synergies, engaging in a multitude of activities alongside diverse stakeholders to explore innovative pathways for achieving our global goals while ensuring no one is left behind.

Under the leadership of Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua, UN DESA's engagement at COP29 went beyond simple participation, providing a platform—the SDG Pavilion—to showcase actionable synergy solutions that address both the climate crisis and development challenges simultaneously. This report highlights UN DESA's contributions at COP29, capturing its pivotal role in fostering collaboration and scaling up efforts to achieve fair, inclusive and just transitions for both people and planet, paving the way for a sustainable future.



UN DESA Engagement at COP29

At COP29, UN DESA played an instrumental role in advancing the conference's objectives, closely aligning its efforts with the vision of the Presidency. Through the exchange of experiences, good practices, and knowledge, the organization helped promote the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. UN DESA also prioritized communicating key outcomes from intergovernmental processes, building on its broad expertise in areas such as energy, forests, the ocean, transport, water, science, technology and innovation (STI), financing for sustainable development, the Global Sustainable Development Report, and the Climate and SDGs Synergy Reports and conferences.

UN DESA engagement was strategically planned around four pillars:



Beyond these activities, the team effectively contributed through:



Partnership-building and Consultations

The UN DESA team engaged in meaningful partnership-building and consultations with both established and new partners on critical topics such as energy, climate change, forests, and more. These efforts fostered collaboration and bolstered the broader impact of UN DESA's initiatives at COP29.



Representation and Speaking Engagements

UN DESA team members represented the organization at COP29, actively participating in various meetings and side events hosted by other institutions. These engagements enhanced the organization's visibility and influence within the wider climate dialogue.



Negotiations Monitoring and Reporting

The team diligently monitored negotiations and major announcements throughout COP29, delivering timely updates on key developments through daily newsletters. This commitment to comprehensive reporting ensured stakeholders were consistently informed and actively engaged during the conference.

UN DESA Leadership Engagement

Leading UN DESA's efforts at COP29, Mr. Li Junhua, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, played a central role. Actively participating in both in-person and virtual aspects of the conference, Mr. Li, alongside the on-site team, made a lasting impact on the event.



"Amid converging crises, integrated solutions are crucial for our success," said Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, at the opening of the SDG Pavilion at COP29. "We can multiply our impact by aligning climate action with the SDGs. This approach is gaining momentum."

Mr. Li participated in a wide array of events at COP29, delivering remarks both in-person and virtually, at a number of events, including the inauguration of the SDG Pavilion, a fireside chat about climate and SDG connections in 2025, high-level consultations, and bilateral meetings. Throughout these engagements, Mr. Li highlighted UN DESA's pivotal role in driving climate action, emphasizing the deep interconnection between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. His interventions reaffirmed UN DESA's commitment to advancing COP29 outcomes, with a forward-looking focus on key UN events in 2025, such as the third UN Ocean Conference, the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), second World Summit on Social Development and the sixth Global Climate and SDG Synergies Conference.













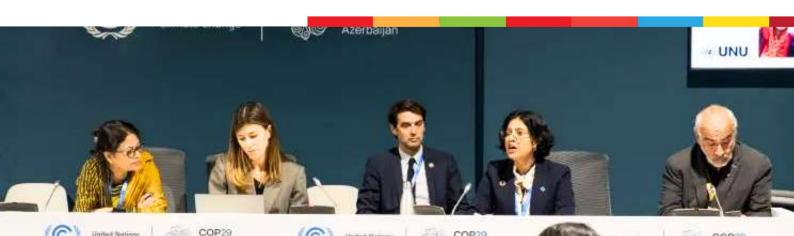
UN System-wide Events and Other High-level Events

An important component of UN DESA's participation in COP29 were the series of UN System-wide Events and other High-level Events that were organised by the various UN DESA divisions, including an official COP29 side event and a COP29 Presidency High-level Event.

Official Side Event on "Synergy Solutions: Overcoming Policy Incoherence and Silos to Close the Climate and SDGs Ambition Gaps"



On 15 November 2024, an official UN system side event, co-hosted by UN DESA and UNU in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat, convened leaders and experts to explore strategies for overcoming barriers to integrated, coherent climate and sustainable development action. Drawing on findings from the 2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies and Fifth Global Synergies Conference outcomes, the event featured insights from Japan, Denmark, the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy, civil society, the finance sector, and the UN system. The discussion emphasized the need to move away from fragmentation and policy incoherence to close the climate and SDG ambition gap, while ensuring just transitions, nature protection, and socio-ecological resilience. Multi-stakeholder experts identified key challenges to coherent and integrated policymaking and highlighted the critical importance of aligning the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) with the SDGs and addressing policy fragmentation in financing to leverage COP29 priorities and upcoming milestones to raise climate ambition. For more information, please consult the event webpage here.



COP29 Presidency's High-level Event on "Forests for Climate, Nature and People: Harnessing Climate Finance for Forests"

The COP29 High-level Event on Forests "Forests for Climate, Nature and People: Harnessing Climate Finance for Forests" was convened on **21 November 2024** by the COP29 President and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).

During the event, high-level speakers from countries and organizations, including the UNFF20 Chair, Ministers from Brazil/COP30 Presidency and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the UN Environment (UNEP) Executive Director, expressed their commitments to drive global action on forests and seek to catalyse international collaboration, forge new financing mechanisms, including the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), and ensure that forests are recognized as a central pillar in both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The event was moderated by the UNFFS Director and Deputy Director, and the Head of the UN-REDD Secretariat.

In particular, the COP29 Presidency outlined several priorities on the need to elevate forest issues as a top priority at all levels, noting importance of scaling up forest financing through existing and new innovative mechanisms, and addressing the critical gaps in forest-related data by improving access through catalyzing and expanding strategic partnerships to accelerate impactful actions on forests. The COP29 Presidency also noted that the 20th session of UNFF (May 2025, New York) will serve to help build momentum toward COP30 in Belém.





Other side events organized by UN DESA and those where UN DESA leadership participated in, include:

UN Office for Sustainable Development

Ensuring Transparency and Integrity -Facilitating climate finance through strengthened GHG Inventories and transparency reporting



Organized by UNOSD and Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea and supported by the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea, the event, held at the Korea Pavilion, explored practical examples of how transparency framework under Article 13 supports the accurate accounting. reporting, and verification needed for the effective functioning of carbon markets and cooperative approaches under Article 6 in developing countries. Panellists from UNFCCC, IPCC and the NDC Partnership underscored the need for good quality data to ensure the realisation of carbon market potential. Country cases including the Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Kazakhstan underlined Ghana, difficulties involved but also innovative approaches to solve this issue.

The side event focused on jurisdictional approaches to implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. With an emphasis on the Republic of Korea's need for Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) to fulfill its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the event aimed to share experiences in developing mechanisms for Article 6 across sectors like forestry, the ocean, energy. Keynote and presentations highlighted strategies for emissions reductions and innovative approaches like blue carbon projects. The event also addressed the needs of developing countries strengthen international cooperation, concluding with a panel discussion featuring diverse perspectives from government, academia, and young researchers.

Seminar on Jurisdictional Approaches under the Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement



UN DESA Division for SDGs

Financing Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for Overseas Territories and Sub-National Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) through Regional Collaboration

A SIDS side event entitled: "Financing Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for Overseas Territories and Sub-National Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) through Regional Collaboration" was held on 11 November at the Pavilion Benelux in Baku. The event, led by the Ministry of Economic Development of Curação and Island Innovation, aimed to address funding challenges for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in SNIJs. The side event emphasized key strategies for enhancing climate resilience in SNIJs. It highlighted the importance of identifying and leveraging various funding pathways, such as EU programs and national mechanisms, to secure financial support for climate projects. Overcoming barriers to financing through solutions like public-private partnerships and regional collaboration was also discussed. Additionally, aligning local climate policies with broader frameworks was deemed crucial for addressing specific challenges. Strengthening regional cooperation and engaging diverse stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and the private sector, was recognized as essential for developing inclusive and effective climate adaptation solutions.





Fostering Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Small Island States and Beyond

Co-organized by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malta, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) of the University of Malta, the SIDS side event titled "Fostering Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Small Island States and Beyond", on 12 November, focused on addressing the climate vulnerabilities and resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are particularly at risk from climate change. The event underscored the importance of international cooperation and the need for tailored financing solutions. It also introduced the Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index (CVR Index), developed by Malta and OACPS, which combines vulnerability and resilience measures to offer a comprehensive understanding of climate risks and adaptation efforts. This initiative reflects Malta's commitment to supporting SIDS through capacity-building and partnerships. Additionally, UN DESA presented updates on the development of the Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), emphasizing the need for complementarity and avoiding duplication and proliferation in climate indices.



Bridging local and global: Empowering communities for climate action



The side event entitled: "Bridging Local and Global: Empowering Communities for Climate Action," held on 14 November at the SHARE Hub Pavilion. Focused on the critical need to integrate local resilience with global frameworks to tackle climate impacts, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The event featured a fireside chat with Jeff Sachs, Sainivalati S. Navoti, and Simon Young, discussing challenges in aligning resilience efforts with global frameworks and the role of financing and insurance in local climate adaptation. The event also highlighted real-world solutions, including direct cash transfers in Malawi and the work of OKUP in Bangladesh to address climate migration. The event concluded with a call to action, emphasizing support for local resilience efforts and loss and damage responses.

Striving for Ambitious Ocean-Based Action: How UN-Oceans can support States in scaling up ocean-related actions, including in the context of the next round of NDCs

The UN Ocean organised a side event entitled: "Striving for Ambitious Ocean-Based Action: How UN-Oceans Can Support States in Scaling Up Ocean-Related Actions," on 16 November. UN DESA was invited to speak on the outcome of the 4th International Conference on SIDS. Held in the lead-up to the 2025 NDCs, the Event emphasized the importance of integrating ocean-based solutions in global climate action. It explored how UN-Oceans can assist states in enhancing their ocean-related climate commitments, particularly in light of the upcoming NDCs. Key topics included the ocean's role in carbon sequestration and climate stabilization, with a focus on the

need for capacity-building, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Panel discussions covered ocean acidification impacts and solutions for Africa's coasts, priorities for SIDS outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, and the role of the BBNJ Agreement in climate mitigation. The event also discussed the integration of aguatic food systems and nature-based solutions in NDCs, promoting the intersection of climate, biodiversity, and human rights. The session aimed to foster collaboration and raise ambition for ocean-climate action.



How Responsible Governance Can Catalyse Renewable Energy Financing

The side event entitled: "How Responsible Governance Can Catalyse Renewable Energy Financing," held at COP29 on 20 November, focused on integrating ethical principles into renewable energy investments. Organized by the Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy and co-organized by the Global Renewables Alliance (GRA), the event aimed to promote human rights, social inclusion, and biodiversity as core components of renewable energy projects. Discussions highlighted the importance of aligning financial strategies with sustainability goals to ensure that renewable energy growth benefits both ecosystems and communities. Key objectives included connecting finance with ethical commitments, fostering policy and financial innovation, and encouraging the adoption of ethical frameworks in energy financing. Highlights included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between GRA and the Global Alliance, the launch of a position paper on human rights and inclusion, and a panel with experts from IRENA, UN DESA, and other key organizations. The event aimed to strengthen alliances for a more inclusive energy transition.





High-Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS Consolidating Strategic Partnerships for Climate Resilience and Equitable Finance for African and AIS SIDS

The "High-Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS" held on 21 November focused on strengthening strategic partnerships to support climate resilience and equitable finance for African and AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, South China Sea) Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The event, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) underscored the urgent need for enhanced collaboration among SIDS, international partners, and financial institutions to address climate vulnerabilities, loss and damage, and debt sustainability. Key discussions revolved around innovative financing tools like debt-for-climate swaps, green and blue bonds, and the Sustainable Debt Coalition. The Dialogue also explored regional initiatives such as the RESIslands project, aimed at strengthening climate resilience in African island states. By highlighting the priorities of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the event aimed to foster actionable solutions to improve access to climate finance and enhance resilience-building efforts, ensuring that SIDS can effectively address climate challenges while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

SDG Pavilion

The sixth <u>SDG Pavilion</u>, hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (<u>UN DESA</u>) in partnership with the UN Climate Change (<u>UNFCCC</u>) Secretariat, featured at COP29 from November 11 to 22. The Pavilion provided an inclusive platform for stakeholders to foster partnerships and advance synergies between climate action and all 17 SDGs. This year, there was a special Forest Pavilion at the SDG Pavilion, where dedicated time each day was focused on ways to protect and sustainably manage the world's forests.

The SDG Pavilion included:

- SDG Main Stage with high-profile speakers on cross-cutting sustainable development themes.
- Engagement Zone for informal networking in a welcoming environment.
- Social Media Space for recording short interviews aimed at reaching an online audience.

The space was a hub for hope and action on achieving climate goals and the SDGs together. It served as a dedicated platform for global experts and policymakers to come together and offer solutions on how to leverage the interrelated nature of climate change and the SDGs.









Key Highlights



120 Multi-stakeholder organizing partners from over 80 countries across all regions

100⁺ In-person events all live-streamed on UN DESA YouTube

100 Hours of constructive discussions



Sustained Impact

2024 marked the sixth occasion that UN DESA hosted the SDG Pavilion in the Blue Zone of the UN Climate Conference. Over the course of two weeks, the Pavilion served as a dynamic space for multistakeholder collaboration, insightful dialogue, and the exchange of innovative ideas through 100+panel discussions and fireside chats. With contributions from established partners and new collaborators, the SDG Pavilion garnered significant attention, becoming an annual stop for many interested in climate and SDG synergies, and solidifying its reputation as a key focal point for advocating the integration of SDGs into climate change discussions at COP. This year, the addition of forest-focused programming as part of the inaugural Forest Pavilion added a new dimension to annual activities.



Diverse Participation

With over 120 multi-stakeholder partners from across all regions of the world, the SDG Pavilion became a hub of global collaboration, bringing together delegates from nearly 90 countries. The events hosted at the Pavilion highlighted the diversity of perspectives, with contributions from UN entities, Member States, academia, youth organizations, and other key stakeholders. These activities reflected UN DESA's commitment to advancing its core priorities by building stakeholder capacities, sharing critical analyses, and fostering dialogue that inform intergovernmental discussions.



Outreach and key messages

Events hosted by UN DESA and its partners at the Pavilion were instrumental in broadening outreach and advancing awareness. The Pavilion offered a dynamic platform for interactive discussions on key issues, including the ocean, water, energy, forests, climate-SDG synergies, finance, and partnerships. All sessions, which were also all streamed online, attracted strong participation, both in-person and remote. Across its six editions, the SDG Pavilion has progressively increased its visibility and accessibility, fostering new opportunities for outreach via partner platforms and boosting shared visibility.



DESA-organized events at the SDG Pavilion

The below 17 events have been organized at the SDG Pavilion by the various UN DESA divisions.

Monday, 11 November

14:20- 14:50	SDG Pavilion Inauguration: Aligning Global Climate Action with the 2030 Agenda	
14:55- 15:10	Climate-SDG Connections in 2025: A Look Ahead	

Tuesday, 12 November

11:45- 13:00	Building a Resilient Future: Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Finance in Small Island Developing States
16:45- 17:00	Innovation for Climate and SDG Action: Fireside Chat with Bertrand Piccard

Wednesday, 13 November

17:00- 17:15	Forests for Climate Action: Introducing the Forest Pavilion at the SDG Pavilion
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Thursday, 14 November

10:00- 11:00	Taking Off for 100% Renewables: The Importance of Early Finance for Islands' Leadership
15:00- 15:15	Fireside chat with Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator for Azerbaijan

Friday, 15 November

9:00- 10:00	Addressing the Water-Energy Nexus in Climate Adaptation Strategies to Build Resilient Societies
12:00- 12:15	Fireside Chat with Katja Iversen, CEO of the Museum of the UN

Saturday, 16 November

13:00- 13:15	Fireside Chat with Bérangère Boëll, UN Resident Coordinator in the United Arab Emirates
13:30- 13:45	Fireside chat with Members of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition

Monday, 18 November

9:00- 10:15	Tackling methane emissions and the waste crisis through data, evidence-based policy and finance
13:30- 14:45	Closing the Ambition Gap: Fostering synergies between climate action and SDGs
17:30- 18:45	Ensuring Universal Energy Access and Just Energy Transition: From the Summit of the Future to the SDG7 review at HLPF 2026

Tuesday, 19 November

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9:00- 10:30	Preparing for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026-2035	
10:45- 11:45	Unlocking the Potential of Sustainable Urban Transport for More Climate Ambition	
12:00- 12:15	Fireside Chat with Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean	

For more details about events at the SDG Pavilion, please see Annex 1.



Inaugural Forest Pavilion at the SDG Pavilion

This year, an inaugural Forest Pavilion was organised at the SDG Pavilion by the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat at UN DESA and multi-stakeholder founding partners. This Pavilion provided a platform to strengthen political commitment and accelerate action for forests by all stakeholders.

With the climate crisis deepening and the SDGs veering off course, forests stand as the bedrock of our journey towards a net-zero, climate resilient, and equitable future for all. At this critical moment for the achievement of the Global Forest Goals by 2030, it is imperative that forests are placed at the forefront of the global political agenda, including climate change negotiations.

Against this backdrop, the Forest Pavilion featured daily programming from 11-22 November during COP29. For more information on the Forest Pavilion, including the full programme and daily newsletters, please consult the website here. The list of events is available below.











Tuesday, 12 November

Lead: UNFF Secretariat

Social Media Stage

14:00-14:30

MoU Signing Event

Partner: Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), UNFF Secretariat

Main Stage

16:30-18:00

The Forests of Central Africa: Mobilising the Region and International Community to Preserve the Congo Basin's Forests and Biodiversity and Carbon: Presentation of the results of the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0 (2021-2025) and current thinking on the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0 Post-2025

Partner: Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Wednesday, 13 November

Lead: UNFF Secretariat

Main and Social Media Stage

15:00-14:30

Grand Opening of the Forest Pavilion

Partner: All Forest Pavilion Partners

Thursday, 14 November

Lead: People's Republic of China

Co-Leads: Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC)

Social Media Stage

9:00- 9:30	Carbon Market in China	
9:30- 9:50	China's Practices in Green Finance	
10:30- 11:00	Lessons learned from the Adaptation Fund for Agricultural Development Programme (ASAP)	
11:30- 12:00	Global and Brazil Perspectives on the Forest Sector and COP30	

Main Stage

14:00-17:00

Solving the Forest Finance Puzzle in the Paris Agreement Era

Friday, 15 November

Leads (Legal Instruments): Brazil, Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), Asian Development Bank (ADB) Lead (Forest Policy): Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO))

Main Stage

13:00- 16:00	Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI): A Global Partnership to Improve the Legal Protection of Forests Partner: IUCN WCEL, ICEL, UNEP
16:30-	Advancing Forest Policies for Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Achievement and Carbon Market Access through International Cooperation
18:00	Partner: Gold Standard











Saturday, 16 November

Lead: International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

Co-Leads: Center for International Forestry Research – World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF)

Social Media Stage

9:00- 9:50	Why Are Forests Central for Climate Action?	
9:50- 10:10	The Blue Carbon Deck: a Transformative Partnership Platform	
10:10- 10:30	Who Decides in Forest Matters?	
10:30- 10:50	Scaling Soil Health for Healthy Forests	
10:50- 11:10	Progress and Lessons Learnt on how Vietnam and Indonesia Develop their Forest and Blue Carbon Market and Policies	
11:30- 11:50	Forests and Society towards 2050: Global Forest Research Cooperation for Climate Solutions	
11:50- 12:00	Tree-Based Bioeconomies for Climate Resilience and Sustainability	

Main Stage

14:30- 15:20	Driving Sustainable Development through Science-Business Collaboration Partner: IUCN WCEL, ICEL, UNEP
15:30- 16:20	Innovations in private forest finance Partner: International Sustainable Forestry Coalition
16:30- 17:05	Lessons Learnt from Deforestation Research Partner: CIFOR-ICRAF
17:15- 18:00	Shaping policy through Technology Partner: Canadian Forest Service



Monday, 18 November

Lead: Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (PA2F)

Co-lead: Government of Canada, International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) / UNFF Youth and Children Major Group

Main Stage

9		30-
1	1	:00

Panel 1: Advances to the Path to COP30

Panel 2: Mechanisms to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Partner: Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP)

11:15-13:00 Sustainable Climate Actions for Protecting Landscape and Inspiring New Generations in Forestry (SAPLING)

Partner: International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) & Grassroots Energy Management Support (GEMS)

16:00-17:30 Panel 1: Indigenous Knowledge and Rights in Forest Conservation

Panel 2: Empowering Women and Indigenous Leadership in Forest Conservation

Partner: International Ranger Federation (IRF), International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Indigenous Guardians (Canada), The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) (NGO)

Social Media Stage

13:30-18:00

Podcast with Monique Frison (Canadian Forest Department) Interviews (Ted Talk style) with Malamine Bodiane and Marynsia Mangu







Tuesday, 19 November

Lead: International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)

Co-Leads: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Committee on Climate Change and House of Representatives of the Philippines

Main Stage

13:00- 14:30	BambooBoost: For Prosperity, Climate Action, Resilience, and Biodiversity Partner: UNFCCC & INBAR
14:30- 16:30	Promoting Transformative Innovation for Climate Action in Agroforestry Partner: IICA & UNFCCC
16:30- 18:00	Bamboo Innovation Initiative – Promoting the Circular Economy Partner: Government of the Philippines





Wednesday, 20 November

Lead: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) / Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Co-lead: Japan, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Main Stage

9:00-13:00

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) COP29 Events Series

Partner: Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP)

Lead: United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS)

Main Stage

16:00-17:15

Primary Forests and Climate Change Mitigation

Partner: Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Tuesday, 21 November

Lead: UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Co-Leads: Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (CBDS) & International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA)

Main Stage

15:0 15:4		Advancing Sustainable Development and Nature-Positive Outcomes through High-Integrity Voluntary Carbon Markets Partner: Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM)	
16:0 16:4		Pitch and Connect: Introducing the SAFE Initiative to Restore Vulnerable Forest Ecosystems Partner: UNEP Safe Initiative & Korea Forest Service (KFS)	
17:0 18:0		UN-REDD flagship: Agriculture Forestry Innovation and Finance: Scaling Ambition towards 2030 Partner: UN-REDD	
18:1	15-	Learning Tools for a Net-Zero, Biodiversity Future for Forest Countries	

Friday, 22 November

Lead: UN Forum on Forest Secretariat (UNFFS)

Partner: UN-REDD & KFS

Main Stage

18:45

13:30-	Clos
15:00	CIO

Closing of the Forest Pavilion

Digital Communication and Outreach

A robust communication strategy, synergized with on-the-ground initiatives, has been designed to amplify the impact of UN DESA's contributions during COP29. This approach weaves a unified narrative across digital platforms, seamlessly complementing the dynamic events at the SDG Pavilion and across other events at COP29 in Baku.



Dedicated Website: A dedicated <u>website</u> for the SDG Pavilion at COP29 was launched, featuring the full programme, links to individual event webpages, and recordings, to showcase SDG Pavilion activities and actively engage both in-person participants at COP29 and the global audience following online.



Daily Newsletters: Throughout DESA's engagement at COP29 from 11 November to 22 November, a daily newsletter from the SDG Pavilion was released highlighting key moments from that day. This newsletter was sent to a mailing list of around 8000 interested stakeholders. Each edition provided a comprehensive summary of the day's events at the Pavilion, accompanied by photos and links to relevant resources. The newsletters also provided brief updates on major activities, announcements from COP29, and progress in negotiations, ensuring stakeholders stayed informed and connected. The newsletter archive is available on the SDG Pavilion website's news and media tab here, with individual editions linked below:









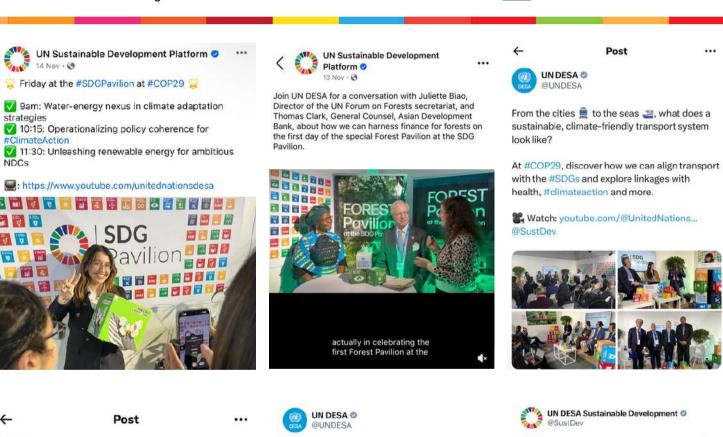
Web News and Announcements: A series of web stories have been published on the <u>UN DESA</u> <u>website</u>, capturing the most significant moments of COP29 and showcasing the department's active engagement throughout the conference. Featured stories include:

- 4 things you should know about the SDG Pavilion at COP29
- 'Pay up or humanity will pay the price', Guterres warns at COP29 climate summit
- Water for climate: Together better, together stronger
- COP29 climate talks end with \$300 billion annual pledge
- Reflections from the SDG Pavilion at COP29



Social Media

- A dedicated, publicly accessible <u>Trello board</u> was created to share outreach materials related to the SDG Pavilion. This included the Pavilion logo, digital card templates, suggested social media messages, photos and summaries of Pavilion events, YouTube livestream link, relevant resources, and more.
- Social media platforms were leveraged to amplify DESA's presence and engagement at COP29, engaging both stakeholders and the general public. UN DESA flagship Facebook and X accounts, as well as the targeted SustDev Facebook and X accounts were active throughout the Conference to promote the SDG Pavilion and its events. The daily programme and livestream link were shared each day from 11-22 November to make the events at the SDG Pavilion accessible to both in-person and global audiences.
- The UN DESA YouTube Channel featured a livestream of 100+ hours featuring 100+ events taking place in the SDG Pavilion, reaching audiences who were unable to attend COP29 in-person. Recordings of events are accessible on the SDG Pavilion website here.





UN DESA Sustainable Develo... *

It's the final day at @COP29_AZ! Join the

#SDGPavilion live stream for the last sessions of

@SustDev





Recommendations and Next Steps

UN DESA's engagement at UNFCCC COPs over the past six years underscores the crucial evolution in recognizing the interconnectedness of climate action and sustainable development. As we reflect on these milestones and plan for the future, a strategic pathway emerges to expand and deepen UN DESA's contributions to the dynamic landscape of global climate negotiations and sustainable development.

Key findings



Leadership in Climate-SDG Synergies

Synergies between climate action and sustainable development are increasingly recognized, with sustainable development being explicitly referenced in COP decisions and other intergovernmental climate processes. This highlights the critical role played by UN DESA and UNFCCC in fostering collaboration and advancing the integration of climate goals with the 2030 Agenda. At COP29, with a key focus on the upcoming NDC 3.0 due in 2025 and ahead of COP30, discussions on integrating SDGs into national climate plans further underscored the department's leadership role in knowledge-sharing, building stakeholder capacity and raising political awareness toward driving synergistic global action.



Expert Group's pivotal role

The Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies, through its annual dialogues and informed by its two Global Reports has played a key role in elevating the importance and understanding of synergies throughout the year, alongside COP engagements. The upcoming 6th Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies underscores a continued commitment to deepening understanding of synergistic climate and SDG action, informing intergovernmental deliberations and contributing to integrated national policymaking.



SDG Pavilion as a central feature

The SDG Pavilion has reaffirmed its status as the leading annual multi-stakeholder platform for advancing discussions on synergies. Interest in the space continues to grow—receiving 300 applications for just over 50 slots this year. By showcasing an ever-increasing number of events from Member States, partners in the UN system and other stakeholders including youth groups and Indigenous organizations at the Pavilion thematically linked to climate-SDG synergies, UN DESA is able to drive dialogue, build partnerships, and promote inclusivity toward accelerating the achievement of global goals. This momentum must continue to be built on through future editions of the SDG Pavilion.

Challenges and Opportunities

The shifting global landscape increasingly positions climate change as a driver for sustainable development, expanding its focus beyond environmental concerns. Thematic issues aligned with the SDGs, traditionally outside the scope of climate negotiations, are gaining prominence. While this creates opportunities for deeper engagement, it also raises questions about the implications for the post-2030 development agenda.





Recommendations and Next Steps

Strengthen Multistakeholder Partnerships

- Broaden the coalition of partners advocating for synergies between climate action and the SDGs to bring more perspectives.
- Bolster existing and new partnerships by securing in-kind support, including technical, communications, logistical, and financial contributions.
- Building on this year's successful collaboration with UNFF Secretariat on the special Forest Pavilion featured at the SDG Pavilion, explore opportunities for co-ownership of the SDG Pavilion and co-hosting official side events.

Expand Outreach through Media Partnerships

- Develop partnerships with external platforms to increase global streaming of events and engage partners worldwide.
- Collaborate with media organizations, such as the SDG Media Compact, to boost event visibility.
- Utilize media platforms to reach wider audiences and promote SDG Pavilion activities effectively.

Pursue Strategic Resource Mobilization

- Prioritize resource mobilization for scaling up Climate and SDG synergies.
- Explore innovative funding mechanisms to sustain and expand initiatives.

As the landscape of climate negotiations and sustainable development continues to evolve, these recommendations and next steps provide a strategic framework for UN DESA. Strengthening partnerships, enhancing media engagement, empowering divisions, and mobilizing resources effectively will enable UN DESA to expand its impact, advancing a future where climate action and sustainable development are seamlessly integrated to drive global progress. This collaborative approach addresses the challenges of the present while laying the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient future for generations ahead.

Annex 1.

SDG Pavilion Programme Highlights

Monday, 11 November 2024

SDG Pavilion Inauguration: Aligning Global Climate Action with the 2030 Agenda Lead Organizer: UN DESA

"Amid converging crises, integrated solutions are crucial for our success," said Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, at the opening of the SDG Pavilion at COP29. "We can multiply our impact by aligning climate action with the SDGs. This approach is gaining momentum." Mr. Li noted that the 100+ events planned at the SDG Pavilion aim to further align global climate action with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and he urged participants to work together to harness these transformative synergies. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Bridging G20 and COPs: Advancing the Global Financing Agenda

Lead Organizer: Igarapé Institute Organizing Partners: AYA Institute

In the face of multiple planetary crises, global governance must evolve to address urgent challenges effectively. The event discussed how G20 and COP processes can build synergies to advance a global financing agenda that accelerates climate action, protects biodiversity, and promotes sustainable development. Speakers highlighted moments for aligning global efforts, presenting actionable recommendations. Discussions ranged from the innovation of the G20 Task Force for the Global Mobilization against Climate Change, bridging finance and sherpa tracks, to stakeholder engagement, harmonizing biodiversity and climate goals, and introducing progressive levies. Giovanna Kuele of Igarapé Institute summarized the key takeaway as the need for a "whole-of-society" approach to interconnected global challenges. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Implementing a Clean Energy Transition for International Aviation in Support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Lead Organizer: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The event highlighted ICAO's ongoing efforts towards implementing a clean energy transition for international aviation, in support of the SDGs. ICAO showcased its work towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and cleaner energy technologies, making significant progress in reducing aviation's climate impact. The session emphasized the importance of global cooperation to ensure that no country is left behind in the clean energy transition, supporting capacity-building initiatives for all nations. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



"ICAO's work towards net-zero aviation by 2050 ensures a sustainable future for global aviation, where every nation plays its part."



Financing Sustainable Energy Future: Joining Forces to Catalyze Private Investment for Accelerating a Just Energy Transition

Lead Organizer: UNDP/UNCDF

This event aimed to address the urgent need to align global financial flows with the SDGs, with a particular focus on supporting sustainable energy transitions in developing countries. The session highlighted the unique challenges faced by these nations, such as reliance on imported fossil fuels and limited financial resources for green energy investments. Key discussions focused on innovative financing solutions and the crucial role of collaboration between governments, financial institutions, and the private sector to catalyze investment. The event also showcased how UNDP and UNCDF can support countries in unlocking energy finance for a just transition. For more information, please consult the event Concept Note here and watch the recording here.





Climate-SDG Connections in 2025: A look ahead

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Speaking at a fireside chat at the SDG Pavilion, Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, discussed how climate action can help break the cycle of climate-induced conflict around the world, saying that we must prioritize climate action as a matter of both environmental sustainability and global security. He also provided a vision of how the work that happens at COP29 in Azerbaijan will affect three major UN conferences in 2025: the third UN Ocean Conference, the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), and second World Summit on Social Development. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Enabling the Future: Financing Small Modular Reactors for the Energy Transition

Lead Organization: Clean Air Task Force (CATF)

Organizing Partners: EFI Foundation (EFIF), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Nuclear

Threat Initiative (NTI)

The event underscored nuclear energy's role in the global energy transition, emphasizing its alignment with SDGs for equitable access, economic growth, and emissions reduction. Key insights included the IAEA's report on financing nuclear energy projects and EFIF's upcoming SMR bankability report. Discussions highlighted the necessity of securing a social license to operate, which is crucial in financing and scaling nuclear energy, especially in emerging countries. Experts explored public-private funding, risk-sharing, and workforce development to enhance nuclear energy's viability as a low-carbon technology essential for net-zero goals, providing pathways to attract private capital and support international climate commitments. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Tuesday, 12 November 2024

Building a Resilient Future: Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Finance in Small Island Developing States

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Organizing Partners: Ireland, Palau, UN-OHRLLS

Organized under the auspices of the SIDS Partnerships Framework and led by the Co-Chairs of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, Ireland and Palau, the SDG Pavilion hosted its third event on Day 2 of COP29: "Building a Resilient Future: Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Finance in Small Island Developing States – A SIDS Side Event." The event aimed to identify collaborative opportunities for scaling up climate finance for SIDS in the context of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the ABAS. It also highlighted partnerships that have effectively supported climate action in SIDS, sharing both challenges and opportunities in their implementation. Additionally, the event sought to gather insights on how to strengthen the SIDS Partnership Framework, as called for by paragraph 37 of the ABAS. This paragraph requests the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with States and the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, to present recommendations for enhancing both the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SIDS Global Business Network, including its Forum.

The event featured opening remarks from Madam Rabab Fatima, USG for OHRLLS, and Dr. Sinead Walsh, Climate Director at Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs (Co-Chair). Among the distinguished audience was Ambassador Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru Fatumanava of Samoa, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The panel discussion included a presentation on "Partnerships to Advance Climate Finance" by Dr. Pradip Kurukulasuriya, Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), followed by a presentation from Mr. Ramraj Narasimhan, Senior Director of Programme Management & Technical Support at the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, on "The Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), Winner of the UN SIDS Partnerships Award 2024, Environmental Category." The event was moderated by Nr. Sai S. Navoti, Chief of the SIDS Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) at UN DESA. Ms. Tisha Francis, Head of the SIDS Sub-Programme at OHRLLS, led the interactive discussion. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.











Renewable Energy for Rural Revitalization

Lead Organizer: The Research Center for Energy Transition and Social Development, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University

Organizing Partners: Global Environmental Institute, SinoCarbon Innovation & Investment Co., Ltd., Shanxi Coshare Innovation Institute of Energy & Environment

The "Renewable Energy for Rural Revitalization" workshop focuses on the crucial role of renewable energy in advancing rural development. It aims to share successful case studies and encourage green, sustainable growth in rural areas. The event brought together experts, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse fields to explore innovative renewable energy technologies, their application in rural settings, and the challenges and opportunities encountered in rural revitalization efforts. For more information, please watch the recording here.







Innovation for Climate and SDG Action: Fireside Chat with Bertrand Piccard

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Renowned explorer and innovator Bertrand Piccard, chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation, spoke to UN DESA about new partnerships for climate and SDG action, including with the European Investment Bank. He also shared news about the Climate Impulse – a hydrogen-powered airplane he is building that will travel the world and show that science, technology and innovation should and must be utilized in the fight against climate change. Watch the interview here!



ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders as Agents of Change – the Role of Youth Action in the SDGs

Lead Organizer: Cambridge Zero, University of Cambridge

Organizing Partners: Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, ClimaTalk, ActNowFilm

The panel highlighted the crucial role of data in empowering developing countries, especially the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to achieve the SDGs. Experts discussed how access to high-quality data is essential for tracking progress, especially for SIDS, who face challenges such as climate change, inequality, and geographic isolation. They emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, leveraging geospatial and Earth observation technologies, and innovative financing models to overcome barriers and build resilient, sustainable and a comprehensive digital information ecosystem. For more information, please consult the event webpage <u>here</u> and watch the recording <u>here</u>.





The Crucial Role of Data in Empowering Sustainable Development and Achieving the SDGs

Lead Organizer: PVBLIC Foundation Organizing Partners: Republic of Panama

The panel highlighted the crucial role of data in empowering developing countries, especially the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to achieve the SDGs. Experts discussed how access to high-quality data is essential for tracking progress, especially for SIDS, who face challenges such as climate change, inequality, and geographic isolation. They emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, leveraging geospatial and Earth observation technologies, and innovative financing models to overcome barriers and build resilient, sustainable and a comprehensive digital information ecosystem. For more information, please watch the recording <a href="https://example.com/here-new/peace-new/





Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Transformative Integrated Ocean Governance and the UNFCCC

Lead Organizer: Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner Organizing Partners: Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner

The event highlighted the Pacific's leadership in integrated ocean governance, showcasing innovative initiatives like the Niue Ocean Wide Initiative and the COSIS co-chaired initiative by Tuvalu, which aim to provide tangible solutions for ocean protection. The Pacific's regional collaboration is crucial for addressing both ocean and climate issues, with an emphasis on integrating women's perspectives, traditional knowledge, and better funding for science. Finance is key to ensuring effective implementation, and the UNFCCC must more prominently incorporate ocean-based solutions to combat climate change. "Ocean is in our DNA. We save the Pacific, we save the world," stated Minister Mona Ainu'u of Niue. For more information, please watch the recording here.





The Role of STI - Roadmap from the Summit of the Future to COP30

Lead Organizer: G-STIC

Organizing Partners: G-STIC; VITO; TERI; FIOCRUZ; GIEC; CSIR

How can we endorse recommitment to the SDGs with STI support? Science and technology should support and inclusive and democratic transformation, said panelists, who stressed the necessity to look at the local context and challenges to flow into decision-making and level the playing field by ensuring capacity to build knowledge within governments and institutions. RTIs should be at the basis of informed decision-making and fora like G-STIC are essential for knowledge-sharing and raising collective voices. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



"We need to democratize technology and best practices for an equitable and climate resilient future," highlighted Dr. Anshuman, Director, Water Resources TERI.



Establishing a Policy Dialogue: Financing Mechanisms for Managed Phaseout of Coal and More

Lead Organizer: Sida

Organizing Partners: Sida and Swedish Energy Agency

The session, chaired by Moica Gullberg at Sida, focused on the financing mechanisms necessary for the managed phase-out of coal in high-emitting countries and the challenges they face in transitioning to cleaner energy. Key speakers included Elia Trippel from the OECD, who discussed guidelines for credible coal policies and transition support, and Julia Skorupska from the Powering Past Coal Alliance, who shared actionable recommendations from the Coal Transition Commission to drive the global coal-to-clean energy transition, emphasizing government leadership, finance, and project pipelines.

Barry Gardiner, UK MP, highlighted the UK's successful 146-year coal dependence transition, stressing the importance of including the social dimension. Charles Cormier from the World Bank pointed out energy security concerns in rapidly developing regions, while Nelson Banda from Zambia discussed the need for coal investments due to drought-related hydropower shortages. South Africa's Priscilla from Eskom emphasized the need for innovative financing mechanisms, blended solutions, and social considerations in the transition. The group agreed on the importance of expanding partnerships to share lessons and refine financing strategies for a just and effective coal phase-out.







The Future Thanks You: The Trusted Messengers of Climate Storytelling

Lead Organizer: Purpose Organizing Partners: UNDGC

The Future Thanks You: The Trusted Messengers of Climate Storytelling Lead Organizer: Purpose Organizing Partners: UNDGC How can we endorse recommitment to the SDGs with STI support? Science and technology should support and inclusive and democratic transformation, said panelists, who stressed the necessity to look at the local context and challenges to flow into decision-making and level the playing field by ensuring capacity to build knowledge within governments and institutions. RTIs should be at the basis of informed decision-making and fora like G-STIC are essential for knowledge-sharing and raising collective voices. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here and watch the recording here.

"When you're sick of saying it, they are hearing it for the first time, just keep talking" -Eileen O'Connor, Senior VP of Comms, Policy, Advocacy at Rockefeller Foundation

"Everybody can be a trusted messenger for their community - for friends and family. Talk about it, every place is a place to talk about climate change and environment" - Gustavo Figueiroa, Youth leader in climate activism and a Verified Champion





"Solar +" to Achieve Energy Leapfrog development in Global South

Lead Organizer: Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)
Organizing Partners: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; ClimateWorks Foundation;
Global Solar Council

The event explored the transformative potential of Solar PV systems in driving low-carbon development across the Global South, highlighting successful "Solar+" case studies and fostering collaboration among local stakeholders. Solar PV was showcased as a clean, cost-effective energy solution, offering a unique opportunity for Global South countries to leapfrog traditional energy systems. Its adaptability, ranging from small household applications to large-scale power stations, enables scalable deployment in diverse settings, maximizing energy access in both urban and remote areas. The event emphasized the critical role of industrial cooperation, strong policy support, and local capacity building in ensuring the long-term success of Solar PV initiatives, ultimately supporting sustainable economic growth and energy transformation in the region. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Transformational Adaptation: Building Resilience and Accelerating Action Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Stocktake

Lead Organizer: Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

The session on Transformational Adaptation at COP29 explored how adaptation strategies can accelerate progress toward the SDGs and contribute to the global stocktake on adaptation. Moderated by Kaveh Guilanpour, the session featured experts from various sectors, including H.E. Hajja Naseem former state minister of climate of the Maldives, Srilata Kammila from the UNDP, Amanda McKee from the NDC Partnership, Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio from the UN Foundation, and Adelle Thomas from the IPCC. Panelists emphasized the need for transformational adaptation to address the intensifying impacts of climate change, with a focus on building resilience to underlying risks and vulnerabilities.

The session highlighted successful adaptation examples, such as Malawi's livelihood diversification and India's hydroponic farming, and stressed the importance of aligning adaptation efforts with NDCs. Experts also underscored the need for systemic change, integrating equity, inclusion, and sustainable development into adaptation strategies while avoiding maladaptation. The discussions called for raising ambition, accelerating action, and ensuring that adaptation measures are both effective and equitable to meet the 2030 SDG deadline and tackle long-term climate challenges. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



Forests for Climate Action: Introducing the Forest Pavilion at the SDG Pavilion Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Forest finance was in focus on the social media stage at the SDG Pavilion on Wednesday as Juliette Biao, Director of the UN Forum on Forests secretariat and Thomas Clark, General Counsel for the Asian Development Bank, shared their views on how we can solve the forest finance puzzle in support of the Paris Agreement. The ADB, one of the key partners of the special Forest Pavilion at the SDG Pavilion, is working to showcase how investment in forests is smart business sense. For more information, please watch the recording <a href="heterogeneering-neerin



Thursday, 14 November 2024

Bridging Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge in SDGs and Climate Action Synergies

Lead Organizer: Carleton University Organizing Partners: University of Calgary

Weaving Indigenous Science, Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge with western science can enhance SDG and climate action synergies. However, too often these perspectives are obscured through laws, institutions, and decision-making approaches that increase inequities, hinder Indigenous stewardship of land and resources, and undermine preservation of language. To realize this potential, Indigenous Peoples and their Knowledge need to be positioned as equal to western perspectives. For more information, please consult the event webpage <a href="https://example.com/here-needed-com/her



Leadership

"We need Indigenous authors to bring Indigenous Science into the scientific assessments."

-Dr. Myrle Ballard, Canada Research Chair in Weaving Indigenous Science and Sustainability Science, University of Calgary



Lead Organizer: Greening the Islands Foundation; UN DESA; Global Renewables Alliance

"We heard enough pledges; now it's time for action."
- Mr. Sione Akauola, Chief Executive Officer, Meteorology,
Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate
Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Tonga





Policy Coherence and Synergies in Action in Small Island Developing States

Lead Organizer: UNOHRLLS

Organizing Partners: UNDRR OACPS

The side event highlighted ways to strengthen inter-institutional and cross-sectoral coordination through a comprehensive risk management (CRM) approach. It heard challenges and concrete solutions to achieve coherence and synergies between climate change action, including CCA, and DRR measures in planning and implementation. During the discussion the importance of a coherent policy basis for implementation, including through harnessing emerging mechanisms for technical assistance and funding was highlighted. Lessons were shared across all three SIDS regions, including from regional institutions and the UN Resident Coordinator system, with particular focus on the AIS region which has unique coordination challenges. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Unlocking Capital for Net-Zero: Insights and Experiences from Sustainable Finance Hubs

Lead Organizer: Green Finance Forum of 60 (GF60), UN ESCAP

Organizing Partners: ClimateWorks Foundation, Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), UN DESA

The event, co-hosted by GF60 and UN ESCAP, focused on sustainable finance hubs and their role in driving climate-friendly solutions. The event highlighted both the opportunities and challenges that cities like Shanghai face in establishing world-class green finance centers aligned with 1.5°C net-zero targets. Through a fireside chat with green finance policy experts, the session explored innovations, best practices, and partnerships essential for connecting global and regional finance hubs to support climate action and sustainable development. The event aimed to foster collaboration and policy insights for unlocking capital to achieve net-zero goals. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Voices for Change: A Climate Justice Anthem Launch

Lead Organizer: Spring of the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (SASAL)

Organizing Partners: Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), Pastoral Women Council (PWC)

"The side event "Voices for Change: A Climate Justice Anthem Launch" successfully premiered a traditional song created by pastoralist communities to highlight their struggles against the climate crisis. The song, blending cultural expression with advocacy, called for recognition and compensation for the losses pastoralists have endured due to climate impacts like droughts and water scarcity. The event featured a live performance, a call to action for governments and international bodies, and media coverage to amplify the message. It raised awareness, mobilized support for compensation, and empowered pastoralist communities in their fight for climate justice.





Fireside Chat with Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator for Azerbaijan Lead Organizer: UN DESA

As United Nations Resident Coordinator of COP29 host country Azerbaijan, Vladanka Andreeva leads a UN country team of 18 agencies supporting the Government achieve its sustainable development priorities. Ms. Andreeva spoke with UN DESA about how the UN country team in Azerbaijan supports the national government advance climate action and prepare for COP29. For more information, please watch the recording here.



Friday, 15 November 2024

Addressing the Water-Energy Nexus in Climate Adaptation Strategies to Build Resilient Societies

Lead Organizer: UN DESA - SWESN

Addressing the water-energy nexus within climate adaptation strategies is essential for building resilient societies. This event provided a valuable platform to explore how integrated and innovative sustainable water and energy solutions can advance climate adaptation goals while supporting the development of climate-resilient societies and economies. Participants engaged in discussions on the critical interconnections between water and energy in the context of climate change adaptation and had the opportunity to learn from best practices, innovative approaches, and policy frameworks. These insights highlighted strategies for sustainably managing water and energy resources, enhancing resilience to climate impacts, and fostering sustainable development. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



Operationalizing Multi-Scale Policy Coherence for Climate Action-An Interactive Reflection

Lead Organizer: UNU-Institute for the Advanced Study for Sustainability

Organizing Partners: UNU-MERIT; UNU-CRIS

In a highly interactive conversation, diverse actors, including youth, academia, policy organizations, and local communities, shared perspectives on operationalizing policy coherence. Using fishbowl methodology, speakers and audience members delved into challenges and opportunities related to institutional reform, equity, and maintaining focus on goals. Two key messages emerged: 1) Acknowledging and harmonizing diverse values is essential for advancing well-being and socio-ecological resilience. 2) There is no single path to achieving SDGs; integrating various approaches to decision-making is crucial for more inclusive and equitable policymaking, as well as access to appropriate resources (finance, technology, etc). For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here and watch the recording here.





Unleashing Renewable Energy for Ambitious NDCs: Progress, Feasibility, Digitalization, and Finance

Lead Organizer: UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

Moderated by Sara Traerup from the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, the event highlighted the critical role of renewable energy technologies in meeting global climate goals, including tripling renewable capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030. Drawing on the 2024 Climate Technology Progress Report, the event explored key themes such as technology adoption, sustainable finance, feasibility, and the transformative role of digital technologies. Speakers emphasized the need to adopt and diffuse climate technologies by strengthening institutional capacity and developing supportive policies. These efforts are essential to advancing ambitious NDCs, inclusive policy frameworks, and approaches that address local contexts and climate justice, driving progress on SDG7 and the Paris Agreement goals. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.







Fireside Chat with Katja Iversen of the Museum of the UN

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Katja Iversen, CEO of the Museum of the United Nations, known as UN Live, spoke to UN DESA about how the "borderless" museum is bringing engaging new audiences around the world with the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 13 for Climate Action, through partnerships with cultural influencers and media companies. She highlighted the Sounds Right project as a way that UN Live is working with the music industry and streaming platforms to provide users with songs inspired by nature provide nature with some of the royalties. For more information, please watch the recording <a href="https://example.com/here-new-mor



Saturday, 16 November 2024

Intergenerational Dialogue for Shaping Future Climate Landscapes

Lead Organizer: The Keeling Society, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Organizing Partners: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

This youth-led event featured a 60-minute discussion on the critical role of cross-generational collaboration in addressing climate challenges. With WMO Secretary-General Prof. Celeste Saulo, UNFCCC's Youssef Nassef, and other key experts, the panel explored solutions and best practices on key topics, including delivering meaningful CO2 emissions reductions, creating a global climate risk network, aligning carbon pricing, and prioritizing nature-based solutions. Moderated by youth leaders, the event aimed to empower the next generation with the tools for science, policy, and climate action, while driving actionable strategies for a sustainable future in line with SDGs 13 and 17. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.







Fireside chat with Members of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Atig Zaman and Nida Farid, two members of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET) contributing to the UN Secretary-General's goal to build a coalition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, discussed their new technical paper on "Energy Rating Labels and Potential for Energy Savings Across the Global South." They offered suggestions for implementing more ambitious minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and energy labelling practices. They also debunked several myths about energy efficiency and standards, stating that improved energy efficiency is good business sense. For more information, please watch the recording here.



Innovation and Informality: Locally-led Climate Action in Cities

Lead Organizer: Cities Alliance/UNOPS

Organizing Partners: Slum Dwellers International

"Innovation and Informality: Locally-led Climate Action in Cities," explored the crucial role informal communities play in climate resilience. The session underscored the value of locally-led initiatives and highlighted innovative approaches to climate action emerging from communities in India, Kenya, Zambia and Fiji. Speakers discussed the intersection of climate resilience and social equity, and how informal communities and youth champions are essential players in the fight against climate change. The discussion also included reflections on the role of researchers, funders and international organizations in spotlighting the work of local actors in cities and ensuring increased finance reaches these communities. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Protecting Animals is Essential to Combating the Climate and Biodiversity Crises

Lead Organizer: World Animal Protection Organizing Partners: World Animal Protection

Drawing on World Animal Protection's briefing paper, Towards Equitable, Humane and Sustainable Food Systems, farming groups from Asia, Latin America, and Africa stressed the urgency of moving away from industrial animal agriculture. The panel called for a shift towards biodiversity-friendly practices, which would yield benefits for nature, humanity, and the planet. The discussion also drew attention to the pressing need to strengthen governance in food systems, with a particular focus on countering the growing influence of large agribusinesses in policy circles and ensuring that financial mechanisms support practices aligned with the sustainable development goals. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.







Fireside Chat with Bérangère Boëll, UN Resident Coordinator in the United Arab Emirates

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

As United Nations Resident Coordinator in the United Arab Emirates, Bérangère Boëll leads a team of 32 agencies working on sustainable development and climate action in the region. She spoke to UN DESA about how the UN supports the UAE in their climate ambitions, efforts related to the Global Digital Compact, and offered a look ahead to the 2026 UN Water Conference to be hosted in the country.



Getting the Most from Water - Hydropower and the Water-Energy-Climate Nexus

Lead Organizer: International Hydropower Association

The event, hosted by the International Hydropower Association (IHA) and moderated by its CEO, Eddie Rich, featured a panel of high-level speakers, including Eva Kremere, Technical Expert at UNIDO; Flavia Teixeira, Environmental, CSR & Energy Transition Manager at Engie Brazil; and Hon. Jamshed Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan. The discussion focused on the opportunities and policy challenges involved in ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes for water, energy, and climate. It also explored how these issues intersect with several SDGs, including SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



Monday, 18 November 2024



Closing the Ambition Gap: Fostering Synergies Between Climate Action and SDGs Lead Organizer: UN DESA

The event focused on the urgent need to integrate climate action with the SDGs. With most SDGs off-track, discussions explored synergistic solutions to accelerate progress. Members of the Climate and SDG Synergy Expert Group presented findings from the 2024 Climate and SDG Synergy report, and offered perspectives and concrete recommendations for aligning climate and development policies and actions. The panel of experts, including contributing experts to the Report, discussed key topics such as financing, sectoral strategies, multistakeholder engagement, and the role of upcoming NDCs in driving integrated solutions. The event emphasized the importance of political commitment and collaboration to bridge the ambition gap and highlighted the need for coherent actions that support both climate and broader development goals. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.



Ensuring Universal Energy Access and Just Energy Transition: From the Summit of the Future to the SDG7 review at HLPF 2026

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Organizing Partners: UN-Energy & SDG7 TAG

The event Ensuring Universal Energy Access and Just Energy Transition: From the Summit of the Future to the SDG7 Review at HLPF 2026, convened by UN DESA in collaboration with UN-Energy and the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (TAG), highlighted the urgency of achieving SDG7 targets, including universal energy access, renewable energy integration, clean cooking solutions, and energy efficiency. Discussions centered on strategies to accelerate progress for the 2026 SDG7 review, tackle energy poverty, and promote a just energy transition. Building on commitments from the Pact of the Future, the event emphasized actionable pathways and aligning energy policies with global sustainability goals. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Tackling Methane Emissions and the Waste Crisis Through Data, Evidence-based Policy and Finance

Lead Organizer: UN Office for Sustainable Development of UN DESA Organizing Partners: Green Growth Knowledge Partnership co-hosted by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar

The event marked the launch of the Waste Policy Support System, led by UNOSD and GGKP, in partnership with GGGI and supported by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea as well as the report "The Waste Crisis: Accelerating National to Local Policy Action - Evidence-based strategies for sustainable solutions". The event featured a keynote speech from H.E. Mr. Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar and an expert panel. The discussion highlighted innovative finance mechanisms, key issues around data, and on-going international collaboration and platforms to strengthen waste management in countries with severe capacity restraints. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Preparing for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026-2035

Lead Organizer: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
Organizing Partners: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035 will be an opportunity to raise awareness of transport's crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action and to gather and rally new solutions, resources and partnerships to advance sustainable transport globally. UN DESA, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions and in consultation with relevant stakeholders has been tasked with developing an Implementation Plan for the UN Decade. The event provided key partners an opportunity to share their views and ideas on how the UN Decade can best ignite concrete action by all key sectors and with all relevant stakeholders. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Unlocking the Potential of Sustainable Urban Transport for More Climate Ambition

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Organizing Partners: UN Habitat, World Bank, UITP

Urban transport faces climate change challenges but also offers opportunities for transformation. Cities play a key role in shifting to low-carbon transport, though many lack technical and financial resources for this transition. Prioritizing public transport, active mobility, and ridesharing, integrated with land-use planning, can reduce emissions and improve safety, health, and air quality. Strong leadership, advocacy for sustainable transport, and inclusion of vulnerable groups are essential. Collaboration across sectors and levels of government is needed, with significant investment in infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport. Data-driven policies and better accessibility indicators are crucial, along with greater integration of multimodal transport in climate strategies and NDCs. For more information, please watch the recording here.









Fireside Chat with Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Lead Organizer: UN DESA

Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, spoke with UN DESA about the need to align ocean and climate finance for the long term, particularly for small island developing States. He also shared the latest details about preparations for the third UN Ocean Conference, happening in France in June 2025. For more information, watch the recording here.



Effective Transport Strategies for Boosting the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Lead Organizer: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Organizing Partners: UNECE, International Transport Forum, SLOCAT Partnership

The High-Level Policy Dialogue, moderated by Dmitry Mariyasin (UNECE) included transport ministers from Fiji (H.E. Ro Filipe Qaraniqio Tuisawau), Lithuania (H.E. Agné Vaiciukevičiūtė), and the Seychelles (H.E. Patrick André) who shared insights on integrating bold transport strategies into NDCs. This dialogue sets the stage for the panel discussion, moderated by Wei-Shiuen Ng (ESCAP). Panelists included George Tavo (Fiji), Jason Hill (U.S.), Alice Yiu (SLOCAT), and Olivia Wessendorff (ITF-OECD), who shared strategies for advancing transport decarbonization and resilience, tailored policies and innovative financing. Discussions underscored the importance of ambitious NDCs 3.0 in achieving climate goals and sustainable transport development. For more information, watch the recording here.





Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Local Solutions to Interconnected Crises: Community-centered Approach for transformative Change and Sustainable Development

Lead Organizer: UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program

Organizing Partners: The International Climate Initiative (IKI), Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany

At this interactive joint event, the donors (GEF, IKI, UNDP), government representatives (Egypt, Belize) and local partners (Zimbabwe, Kenya) reflected on the importance of an inclusive community-focused approach for addressing interconnected global challenges and achievement of SDGs. With active participation of the audience, they discussed the approaches and instruments available for bringing local good practices to scale, strengthening technical and institutional capacities of partner organizations, government support and other ways to support local communities and civil society as key agents of change in advancing climate and sustainable development goals together. For more information, please watch the recording here.





The Gold Standard: Youth Inclusive NDCs

Lead Organizer: Care About Climate

Organizing Partners: We Are Family Foundation

The event emphasized the importance of including youth in climate decision-making to achieve more ambitious and future-focused outcomes. It addressed the need for governments to adopt youth-inclusive NDCs, promoting intergenerational climate action. Through discussions with young leaders and governments, the event called for gender-responsive, human rights-centered climate policies that empower youth. This event facilitated dialogues between young leaders and countries at the forefront of integrating youth-inclusive clauses into their updated NDCs, laying the foundation to ensure that all future NDCs prioritize intergenerational justice and collaboration. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Thursday, 21 November 2024

Youth-Leadership in SDGs: Talk Story for Climate Action

Lead Organizer: Peace Boat US

Organizing Partners: Peace Boat, Care about Climate, Blue Planet Alliance, Global Kids

This session focused on youth empowerment to showcase storytelling as a powerful capacity-building tool in addressing the climate crisis. Through engaging narratives and compelling examples, youth leaders from Care about Climate, Peace Boat, Global Kids and EcoVybz shared their personal stories of the impacts of climate change on local communities, as well as innovative solutions being implemented around the world. Highlighting Peace Boat's "Youth for the SDGs" scholarship program for the UN Ocean Decade, Khadija Stewart shared her experience onboard and encouraged youth at COP29 to work together to build effective networks and find creative solutions for ocean and climate action. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording <a hr





Towards a People-Positive Energy Transition

Lead Organizer: Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

Organizing Partners: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables (GINGR)

The GINGR event on a People-Positive Energy Transition to highlight the urgency of a just energy transition, and to discuss possible solutions was a resounding success. This workshop gathered various perspectives from a very diverse audience that will ultimately help shape the GINGR framework, with a focus on ensuring tangible benefits for communities. Antonella Battaglini, the CEO of the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI), led a lively discussion with participants from different backgrounds. Together with Rachel Asante-Owusu from IUCN, discussed the different views on what People-Positive means in different contexts, mainly in the Global South, but also in the Northern Hemisphere. *For more information, please watch the recording here.*





Igniting the Power of Transformative Partnerships for Inner and Outer **Transformation**

Lead Organizer: Brahma Kumaris

Organizing Partners: Brahma Kumaris, Commonland Foundation, Ecosystem Restoration Communities, Research

Institute for Sustainability, Lund University Sweden

The event focused on the importance of integrating inner transformation and diverse worldviews into sustainability efforts, particularly in climate policy. Modern environmental approaches often neglect traditional knowledge and relational perspectives, which are crucial for addressing climate change and societal crises. Speakers from business, science, faith, and activism shared insights on how to incorporate these dimensions into decision-making processes. The discussion aimed to explore how policies could be restructured to include these perspectives, with the goal of producing a recommendation paper to guide future sustainability practices and transformative partnerships. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Young Changemakers: Empowering Future Leaders for a Sustainable World

Lead Organizer: Joining Forces Alliance

Organizing Partners: ChildFund, Plan, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision

The event featured an intergenerational dialogue exploring the crucial role of children and youth in driving sustainable development and addressing global challenges within the context of climate change, aiming to inspire and empower young people to become active agents of change. Bringing together young people from various countries and experienced professionals from diverse fields, the event fostered a rich discussion that sought to amplify youth perspectives, inspire innovative solutions, foster intergenerational collaboration, and showcase successful youth-led initiatives, towards ensuring a more sustainable and equitable world. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Friday, 22 November 2024

Advancing Climate and Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from Kyrgyzstan

Lead Organizer: University of Central Asia

This session, hosted by the University of Central Asia, examined pressing climate and development challenges in Kyrgyzstan, including its SDG 2030 progress, glacier retreat, and gendered impacts of climate change. Dr. Gulnara Dzhunushalieva highlighted Kyrgyzstan's achievements in SDG indicators, emphasizing the need for robust data systems to guide sustainable development. Dr. Sanjar Sadyrov discussed glacier retreat and its implications for water security, warning of shifts in water availability critical for agriculture and hydropower. Dr. Azamat Azarov shared insights into gendered vulnerabilities in rural mountain regions, revealing disparities in how men and women experience and adapt to climate impacts. For more information, please watch the recording here.



Strengthening Civil Society led Collaborative Climate Action Worldwide

Lead Organizer: Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan)

Organizing Partners: Plana (Indonesia), Hanns Seidel Foundation (Jordan), United Nations Association of Mongolia (Mongolia), Environment & Climate Research Center (Ethiopia), ESEF-University Mohammed Premier (Morocco)

The side event highlighted the contributions which can be made by civil society actors worldwide to avert the imminent climate collapse, and explore opportunities for national, regional and international collaboration between NGOs, academia, and the private sector while streamlining the perspectives of youth. Experts and activists from Africa, the Middle East and North Asia presented their initiatives, and pinpointed ways for increased collaboration across borders through their collaboration with international actors, such as the Hanns Seidel Foundation. In the subsequent panel discussion, they stressed the need for increased cooperation across sectors, seeking for innovative approaches for obtaining input both from local as well as international actors.. For more information, please watch the recording here.





Shaping a Global Resilience Action Agenda: A Focus on Human Settlements

Lead Organizer: Race to Resilience

Organizing Partners: Build Change, Climate Centre for Cities, other RtR partners

Race to Resilience hosted an event showcasing how their partners are driving locally-led adaptation, building on the global resilience efforts and advancing the Sharm Adaptation Agenda targets on human settlements and critical infrastructure. Emphasizing the importance of resilient infrastructure in vulnerable regions, including emphasis on water systems, housing, and early warning systems, discussions delved into innovative governance models and financing strategies to empower communities, and the role of local actors in building resilience. The event also put a spotlight on RTR partner Build Change's recent campaign to make housing its own SDG to prioritize the impact of housing to strengthen climate and social development outcomes. For more information, please consult the event webpage here and watch the recording here.





Annex 2.

Main Partners

We extend our heart felt gratitude to our esteemed partners, whose names will be listed in the subsequent pages. Special appreciation is reserved for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for their enduring collaboration. We also thank the Department for Global Communications (DGC), Government of the Netherlands, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), ClimateWorks Foundation, Hivos, Energia, ASAZGUA, and UNALA for their generous support provided to the SDG Pavilion at COP29, which played a pivotal role in the enabling the success of the Pavilion.



United Nations Climate Change





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PURPOSE





























































































































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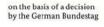










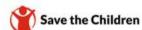














Terre des Hommes International Federation



We are thankful to all our partners and guests for their continued support in our efforts to contribute to climate action and the SDGs in synergy.



Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) United Nations

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