

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Incheon, Republic of Korea

2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement
– Integrating SDG Implementation and Climate Action

7 - 10 May, 2024, Incheon, Republic of Korea



SUBSTANTIVE REPORT

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Speakers for the 2024 ETC included country representatives, UN staff, members of the NGO and research institutions. Their insightful analyses, observations and country cases added depth and breadth to the course and this Report. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged by alphabetical order of their home country and institutional affiliation:

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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2024 EXECUTIVE TRAINING COURSE FOR POLICYMAKERS ON THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS (7-10 May 2024)

SUBSTANTIVE REPORT

“We have started 2023 down the barrel of a confluence of challenges unlike any other in our lifetimes. Wars grind on. The climate crisis burns on. Extreme wealth and extreme poverty rage on. Epic geopolitical divisions are undermining global solidarity and trust. This path is a dead end. We need a course correction....”

“Climate action is the 21st century’s greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals.”

(Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 06 February 2023)¹

1. Introduction

The Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs took place while the 2030 Agenda was in its ninth year of implementation and is witnessing significant gaps and challenges in achieving most of the SDGs. Seen from the 2023 IPCC Report, “AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023” challenges also exist in tackling climate change caused by a rise of temperature and CO₂ emissions at record levels. Many countries are also not on track to meet their NDC targets. The Climate Action Tracker, an independent scientific analysis tool, classifies most of the world's largest emitters' efforts to reduce their CO₂ emission as insufficient. Only a few countries' efforts are rated as compatible with the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement, adopted on December 12, 2015, is an international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to combat climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement requires countries to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) outlining their climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reflect each country's highest possible ambition to reduce their national GHG emissions, considering their national

¹ Secretary-General's briefing to the General Assembly on Priorities for 2023. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2023-02-06/secretary-generals-briefing-the-general-assembly-priorities-for-2023>

circumstances and capabilities. Countries are required to update and enhance their NDCs every five years to show progress and increased ambition over time.

The Paris Agreement is significant for its universal and legally binding nature, uniting nearly all nations in a collective effort to address climate change and transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. Aligning objectives of the Paris Agreement with the overall framework outlined under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can help drive substantial and efficient progress by aiming at policy coherence, maximizing impact, resource efficiencies, and holistic development. For example, energy transition as part of the NDCs/SDC alignment can ensure that the burden of energy transition will not fall on the most vulnerable and marginalized citizens nor communities. In other words, such alignment should ensure fair, transparent and inclusive trade-offs and benefits sharing.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental). The interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance in ensuring that the aims of 2030 Agenda are achieved. Accordingly, the integrated and interlinked nature of the SDGs needs to inform and guide their mainstreaming into national planning frameworks, in the form of national development plans or sustainable development strategies. The transformational vision of the 2030 Agenda depends on such an integrated approach, which involves identifying possible synergies and trade-offs between SDGs and their associated targets, as well as developing context specific integrated approaches to ensure effective implementation.”²

It is in this context that the policy integration and alignment between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda are taking place. A whole system approach needs to be adopted by the countries when preparing their national development plan and sustainable development strategies including accelerated climate actions to combat climate change and its impacts through binding national commitments.

2. Policy Demands

Urgent actions on the 2030 Agenda and climate change

As noted by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, the challenge of reaching these ambitious SDG goals has been exacerbated by the pandemic, rising living costs, armed conflicts, and natural disasters, which have erased progress on many goals and has resulted in increased poverty levels (Figure 1). SDG 13 is not on track to meet its targets and needs accelerated efforts.

Data gaps on climate change (see Figure 1) persisted despite efforts by the international organisations, scientific communities and government authorities to collect timely data. Nevertheless, since 2016, there has been a significant accumulation of knowledge and evidence concerning the SDGs. National and local governments have demonstrated their ambition and commitment by formulating strategies and action plans. Additionally, there is a much-improved understanding of the synergies and interconnectedness among the goals, with governments and stakeholders now better equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate trade-offs

² <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/national-sustainable-development-strategies>, p. XVIII

and recognize co-benefits in the pursuit of the SDGs. Figure 2 gives a mapping of the progress towards SDGs Goals on selected targets. SDG Indicator 13.2.2 on “Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions” was found in the GSDR 2023 as “far from target” and the future trend indicated deterioration.

Progress assessment for the 17 SDGs based on assessed targets 2023, or latest data. The figure illustrates the percentage of progress of the targets that can be evaluated under each of the goals.

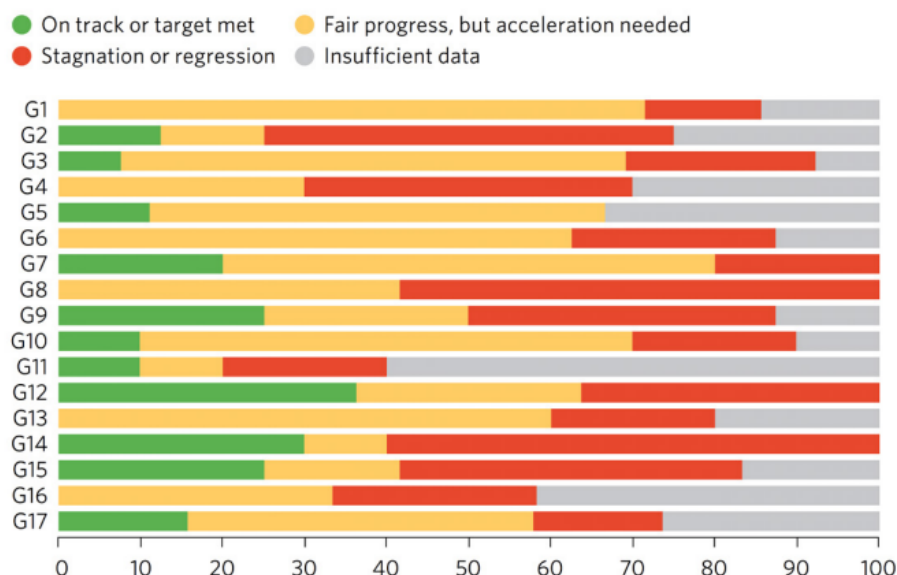


Figure 1: Progress assessment for the 17 SDGs based on assessed targets 2023 (Source: UN Sustainable Development Report: Special Edition 2023)³

³ Independent Group of Scientists, 2023, Global Sustainable Development Report 2023. TIMES OF CRISIS, TIMES OF CHANGE: SCIENCE FOR ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20-110923_1.pdf



GOAL	INDICATOR	DISTANCE FROM TARGET (2023)*	TREND OF SDG PROGRESS (2023)*	CHANGE IN TREND OF SDG PROGRESS BETWEEN 2020 AND 2022*
1	1.1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty		Limited or no progress	Backward
	1.3.1 Implement social protection systems		Fair progress but acceleration needed	N/A
2	2.1.1 Achieve food security		Deterioration	None
	2.2.1 End malnutrition (stunting)		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
3	3.1.1 Increase skilled birth attendance		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Backward
	3.2.1 End preventable deaths under 5		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Backward
	3.3.1 End malaria epidemic		Limited or no progress	None
	3.6.1 Increase vaccine coverage		Deterioration	Backward
4	4.1.1 Ensure primary education completion		Limited or no progress	Backward
5	5.2.1 Eliminate child marriage		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
	5.5.1 Increase women in political positions		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
6	6.1.1 Universal safe drinking water		Limited or no progress	None
	6.2.1 Universal safe sanitation and hygiene		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
7	7.1.1 Universal access to electricity		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Backward
	7.2.1 Improve energy efficiency		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
8	8.1.1 Sustainable economic growth		Deterioration	Backward
	8.5.1 Achieve full employment		Limited or no progress	None
9	9.2.1 Sustainable and inclusive industrialization		Limited or no progress	None
	9.5.1 Increase research and development spending		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Forward
	9.c.1 Increase access to mobile networks		Substantial progress/on track	None
10	10.4.2 Reduce inequality within countries		Fair progress but acceleration needed	N/A
11	11.1.1 Ensure safe and affordable housing		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Forward
12	12.2.2 Reduce domestic material consumption		Limited or no progress	N/A
13	12.c.1 Remove fossil fuel subsidies		Deterioration	Backward
	13.3.2 Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions		Deterioration	None
14	14.4.1 Ensure sustainable fish stocks		Deterioration	N/A
	14.5.1 Conserve marine key biodiversity areas		Limited or no progress	N/A
15	15.1.2 Conserve terrestrial key biodiversity areas		Limited or no progress	None
	15.4.1 Conserve mountain key biodiversity areas		Limited or no progress	N/A
	15.5.1 Prevent extinction of species		Deterioration	None
16	16.1.1 Reduce homicide rates		Limited or no progress	Backward
	16.2.2 Reduce unsentenced detainees		Deterioration	None
	16.a.1 Increase national human rights institutions		Fair progress but acceleration needed	None
17	17.2.1 Implement all development assistance commitments		Fair progress but acceleration needed	Forward
	17.8.1 Increase internet use		Substantial progress/on track	None
	17.18.2 Enhance statistical capacity		Limited or no progress	None

Figure 2: Current State of Progress toward SDGs on Selected Targets
(Source: UN Sustainable Development Report: Special Edition 2023)⁴

Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement– Integrating SDG Implementation and Climate Action

Research has highlighted the co-benefits of tackling climate change alongside progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme for the 2024 High-Level Political Forum underscored the imperative to “Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions.” The HLPF conducted an in-depth review of pivotal SDGs, including SDG 13 (climate action).

Aligning efforts under the 2030 Agenda with the objectives of the Paris Agreement can drive substantial and efficient progress across both fronts. The Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28 underlined that despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement. The GST further emphasized that finance, capacity-building and technology transfer are critical enablers of climate action and underlined that just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes, with tailored approaches addressing different contexts. The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), due in 2025, will be a critical moment for enhancing climate commitments and improving Parties’ approach to the climate crisis.

Science has informed the policy makers about entry points to achieve the synergies between Climate Actions and SDGs⁵ and vice versa.⁶ A vast pool of existing evidence underscored that the Paris goals and the SDGs are mutually reinforcing and one cannot be achieved without the other. For instance, the expected near-term climate actions have more synergies than trade-offs with SDGs. Climate actions consist of two types of actions, namely, mitigation and adaptation and take place in six different sectors, i.e., energy systems; urban and infrastructure; land system; ocean ecosystems; society, livelihoods, and economies; and industry. The total policy portfolio of climate actions consists of many options that could generate a large number of most positive intersectoral chain reactions through synergies (see Figure 3). However, some policy options concurrent generate synergy in some SDG goals and at the same time leading to negative impact in others.

The greatest number of synergies of climate actions is in the SDG 3 (Health and Wellbeing) and followed by other areas such as SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) and SDG 8 (Economic Growth and Decent Work). In comparison, climate actions cause the least spillover effects on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). These assessments were supported by a good level of data and evidence. Countries need to take this analysis into

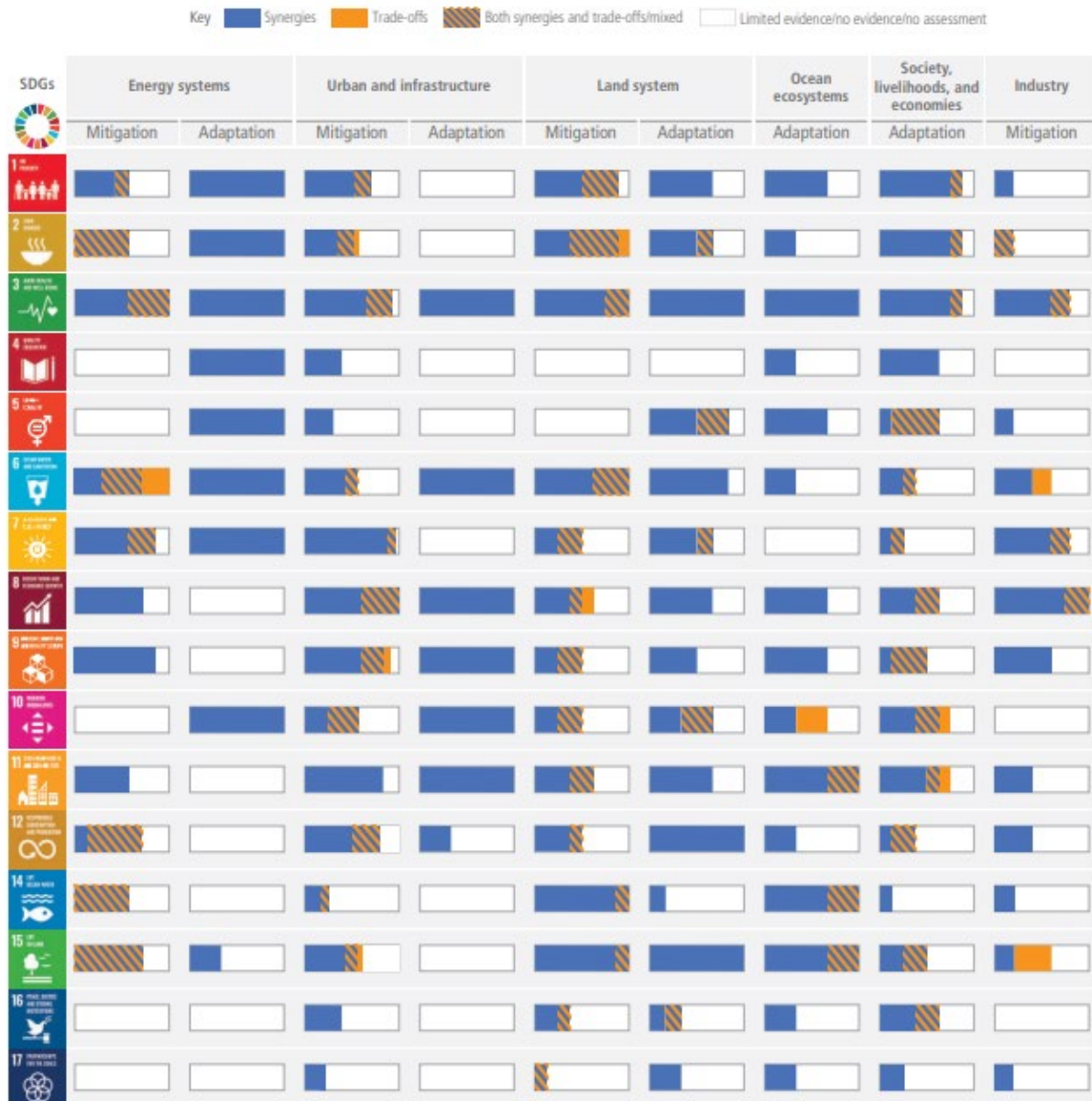
⁴ https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20110923_1.pdf

⁵ UN, 2023. Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together. Report on Strengthening the Evidence Base (1st edition) DESA. <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/UN%20Climate%20SDG%20Synergies%20Report-091223B.pdf>

⁶ Saner & Yiu, 2023, UNEP, “Science and the Environment – a necessary part of the ship to save the planet?” In Strandenaes, J.-G. & Alvarez, I. (eds.) *The People’s Environment Narrative (PEN): 50 years with UNDP and civil society. Toward Stockholm +50 and Beyond*, Kent, U.K., Stakeholder Forum for A Sustainable Future. p.395-403. https://towardstockholm50.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/PEN_Extended-Version_oct2023.pdf

considerations when planning their Nationally Determined Contributions in terms of adaptation and mitigation actions as part of their national development plan.

In the Figure 3, the white spots indicated existing data gaps that did not support any comparable assessment. The length of each bar represents the total number of mitigation or adaptation options under each system/sector. As the number of adaptation and mitigation options vary across system/sector, they have been normalized to 100% so that bars are comparable across mitigation, adaptation, system/sector, and SDGs.



Source: IPCC Synthesis Report 2023.

Figure 3: Mapping the synergies and trade-offs of Climate Actions across SDGs
(Source: IPCC Synthesis Report 2023 as presented in the UN Climate SDG Synergies Report, p.4)

3. Global Monitoring and Reviews

The overarching themes of the SDGs under an in-depth review in 2024 during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) are the central pillars of course design, presentations and discussion during the 4-day ETC hosted by the UNOSD. The overarching theme of the 2024 HLPF was “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises” with the subtitle “effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. Of the five themes of the 2024 HLPF review, SDG 13 (Climate Action) aims to combat climate change and its impacts. This includes strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to cope with climate-related hazards, integrate climate change measures into national policies, improve education and awareness, and mobilize financial resources to mitigate climate change.

Countries’ Voluntary National Reports (VNRs), presented during each annual HLPF, represent countries’ vital process to review and assess the progress made regarding its achievement of the SDGs. The task of advancing the SDGs has become even more challenging in light of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, large negative impacts of global polycrises such as wars and civil strikes and increasing severity of climate catastrophes, and competing demands for development finances. All these factors exacerbate the vulnerability to climate change and unusual weather events in many countries. Most of the developing countries and low-income countries are already confronted with inadequate budgets and infrastructural and institutional deficiencies. Negative global events also threaten the livelihoods and food security of a growing number of people, particularly of the children facing extreme poverty, older persons and other marginalized groups without social protection which is a common phenomenon in many countries.

VNR as a systemic review process provides opportunities for countries to identify “hotspots”, “easy wins”, “innovative” practices and opportunities to amplify effective policies based on verifiable results. Policy makers, who participate in the national development planning and prepare their VNR and review their NDCs, need to adopt an entrepreneurial posture to unblock the sustainable development process and reduce GHG emissions by using the SDGs as a roadmap for upgrading, transforming and reducing negative spillover effects. Integrating the NDCs and SDGs into national planning would help reduce potential resource waste due to duplication, or unintended negative impacts on interconnected aspects of the total ecosystem and intensify the inherent co-benefits resulting from policy coherence and policy synergy.

Greater partnership and stakeholder engagements may help reduce the fragmentation of the policy making process and increase permeability of system boundaries, through dialogue and improved transparency, which can promote greater accountability of the public institutions and strengthen their performance.

Major Considerations of Climate Actions and NDCs in light of The SDGs

The Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28 underlined that despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals. The GST further emphasized that finance, capacity-building and technology transfer are critical enablers of climate action and underlined that just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes, with tailored approaches addressing different contexts. The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), due in 2025, will be a critical moment for enhancing climate commitments and improving Parties' approach to the climate crisis.

Today, many countries have aligned their national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals⁷, however, national plans are not necessarily aligned with climate action and NDC commitments.⁸ More action is needed on the alignment between NDCs and national development plans to harness the potential opportunities to accelerate progress on climate action. With research undertaken by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate showing that such alignment can lead to US\$26 trillion in economic gains by 2030, produce over 65 million new green jobs, and prevent around 700,000 premature deaths compared to business as usual, low-income and lower-middle income countries are particularly well placed to benefit using low carbon and climate-resilient approaches to meeting their development needs such as through building renewable energy infrastructure, switching to climate-smart agriculture or accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions in land use practices can lead to myriad improvements in health, environmental and livelihood outcomes. UN DESA along with UNFCCC has strengthened the global dialogue on climate and SDG synergies, particularly through the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy with the publication of global reports and findings on progress for integrating climate and SDGs at national level⁹.

Currently only 23 of the 173 NDCs explicitly refer to the SDGs, the majority of countries that do so are from the Global South, thereby giving a rich range of potential case studies for other low-income and lower-middle income countries to learn from. Kenya and Mexico are two of the countries that have pursued this approach. Kenya conducted an impact assessment of the National Climate Change Action Plan on the SDGs as well as aligning planning cycles of its NDC, National Development Plan and national SDG action plans. Mexico has analysed how existing NDCs impact the implementation of the SDGs, with all 169 SDG targets being evaluated regarding their potential connection to mitigation and adaptation activities. However, even if most NDCs could benefit from more explicit alignment with SDG targets, research has shown that climate action and the 2030 Agenda are strongly connected and that this connection is increasing over time.

⁷ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/VNR%202022%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>

⁸ <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida62090en-integrating-climate-action-into-national-development-planning.pdf>

⁹ <https://sdgs.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies>

4. 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

With an aim to build capacity of public servants in developing countries to achieve the SDGs, the Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development regularly takes place in Incheon, Korea, where around 70 participants gather every year.

Objectives of the Course

To address the intent of alignment and of synergy between different international treaties and instruments, this year's Executive Training Course centred on the theme of aligning VNRs and NDCs in order to ensure that Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can avoid duplicating efforts and siloed approaches that led to negative spillovers and suboptimal use of already stretched resources. During the ETC training, participants examined the integrated development of VNRs and NDCs, explored the interlinkages between them, and learned to make the connections explicit and manifested in their national sustainability planning.

The course was structured around ensuring accelerated actions for the alignment of NDCs and SDG 13 and the whole of the 2030 Agenda. Emphasizing the importance of policy coherence and a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the sessions and interactive learning exercises were built upon each other to equip participants with practical yet transformative policy options for the green transition and climate actions.

Specific Training Objectives

The key course objectives of the ETC were further broken down into the following four training objectives to guide the design and implementation of each session of the ETC.

1. Raising awareness on the current state and core issues concerning SDG implementation and the Climate-SDG synergies;
2. Sharing knowledge and country experience in advancing SDGs and mainstreaming climate change and NDCs in national planning and SDG reviews;
3. Identifying co-benefits and trade-offs between the SDG and the Paris Agreement (with a focus on NDCs) and selecting entry points for realizing coherent implementation;
4. Raising awareness and sharing experiences on green financing, data infrastructure and stakeholder engagement for aligning VNR and NDC.

Process Objectives

The process objectives were identified earlier on as:

1. to ensure deeper learning through experiential methodology;
2. to ensure high involvement of all participants for knowledge sharing and reflection;
3. to brainstorm and stimulate innovative thinking.

Within the time constraints, the flow of each module was designed to provide essential information for policy making. Limited time was allocated for Q&As. A recap session was given by the moderator (consultant) at the beginning of each day to highlight key learning points of the modules given during the previous day.

Structure of the Course

The ETC 2024 was structured around the knowing-doing-validating cycle of a learning context.

Introductory speeches were given by Mr. Juwang Zhu, Acting Director, Division of Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and by Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD. Mr. Sang-hyup Kim, Chair of the Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, Republic of Korea, subsequently gave an inspiring keynote on “Climate Change and the Global Green Transition: Korea and the World”.

Ms. Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer and the programme manager of this year’s ETC gave a short overview of the course and outlined the ensuing sessions of the 2024 ETC for the policy makers.

Red Thread going through the whole workshop. While each module was designed as a stand-alone training component, the first and last sessions formed the “bookends” of the whole training course. The sessions fed into the overall theme of the ETC 2024 and followed the logic and sequencing (red thread) adopted for the planning of a synergistic alignment between SDGs and Paris Agreement and were translated into group activities. This seamless transition from “hearing & learning” to “doing & discussing” helped transfer classroom knowledge acquisition to application and practice at the workplace (Level three effectiveness of the Kirkpatrick Model, a globally recognized method of evaluating the results of training and learning programs). Such course structure also reinforced the probability of achieving institutional levels of learning outcomes, i.e., greater alignment of the VNRs and NDCs.

5. Training Content

This report is structured in three parts. Part One summarizes the key points of the thematic sessions, while Part Two focuses on the interactive group work based on the UN ESCAP Methodology of Integration of the climate actions and SDGs into National Planning.

Part One: Thematic Sessions

Keynote Speech:

Keynote Address: Climate Change and the Global Green Transition: Korea and the World

Speaker: Mr. Sang-hyup Kim, Chair of the Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, Republic of Korea

Mr. Sang-hyup Kim gave an inspiring talk on the central role of climate action for the future of mankind (see Figure 4). He pointed to the climate issue as a “hyperobject” whose dimensions in space and time are massive in relation to human life e.g. a black hole, the Amazon forest, an oilfield, and

especially climate.¹⁰ It is therefore hard for many to grasp the meaning and to engage with the climate risks in its interconnected cause and effect relations. Yet climate change according to WEF (2024)¹¹ is the most significant risk now facing mankind.

"Climate Action is not just one goal of the SDGs. It would serve most of the goals."
 (Ban Ki-Moon, 8th Head of the UN)

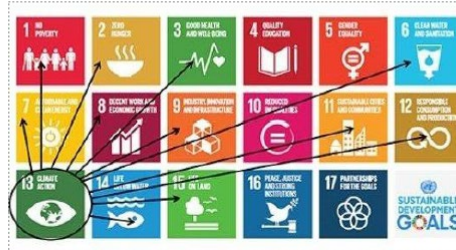


Figure 4: SDG 13 and its linkage to other SDG Goals (Source: S.H. Kim, 2024)

Four of nine planetary boundaries, defined as “a safe operating space for humanity”¹², are falling into high-risk areas, i.e., (since 2015), climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, and biogeochemical flows [and by 2023 novel entities and freshwater change ocean acidification are also observed as also surpassed the threshold of resilience (Figure 5 & Annex 2)].¹³ Mr. Kim warned that planetary boundaries were in danger and would lead to climate collapse if no urgent actions were taken.

The psychological distance to the subject of climate change experienced by many, called “hyperobject phenomenon”, should not be the excuse collectively to continue acting in a manner that exacerbates the planetary crisis. A different mindset and choices are needed to bring our common existence back from the brink. He called on all to move away from “BAU” (“business as usual”) and shift to a green paradigm of “BAW” (“business as wanted”). Carbon neutrality and eventually “carbon zero” must be the business goal of all forms of organisations. Corporations, including SMEs, and communities all need to act responsibly to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and carbons in order to achieve the zero-emission target in the context of just transition and economic prosperity.

¹⁰ A term coined by Timothy Morton, 2013, in his book “Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Econology after the End of the World”, see <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/acref/9780198794790.001.0001/acref-9780198794790-e-771#:text=An%20object%20or%20event%20whose,an%20oilfield%2C%20and%20especially%20climate>.

¹¹ World Economic Forum, 2024, “Global Risk Report 2024” <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/>

¹² Boundaries, defined by scientists of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, as interrelated processes within the complex biophysical Earth system. This means that a global focus on climate change alone is not sufficient for increased sustainability. Instead, understanding the interplay of boundaries, especially climate, and loss of biodiversity, is key in science and practice. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

¹³ Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2024, Planetary boundaries. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

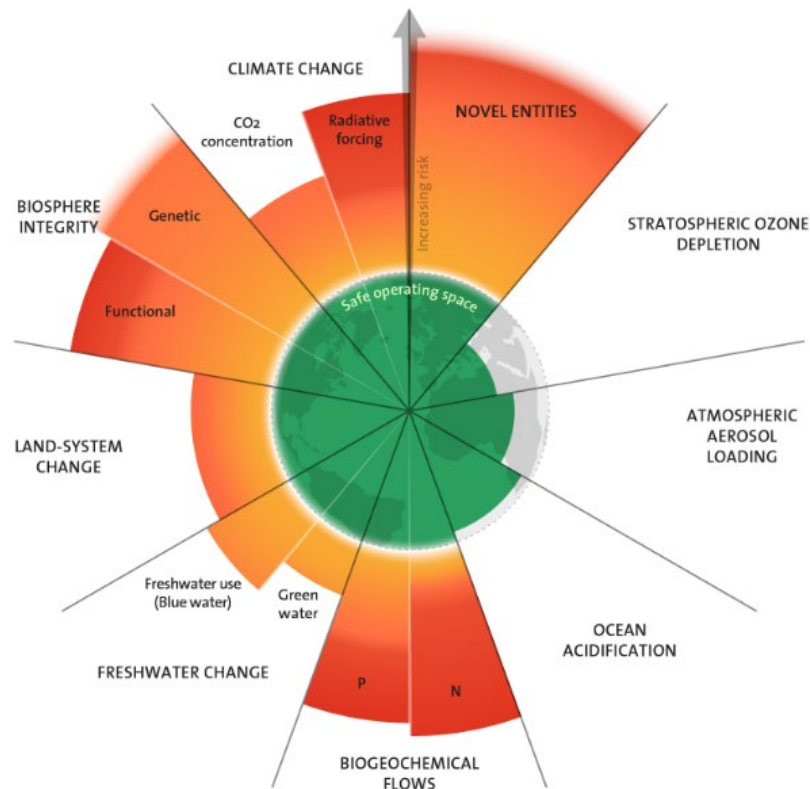


Figure 5: The 2023 update on the Planetary boundaries, based on analysis in Richardson et al 2023. (Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0. Credit: "Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre).

Mr. Sang-hyup Kim told the choice that the government of Korea made by taking a green growth strategy in early 2000 to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and to achieve a 40% emission reduction target by 2030 compared to the 2018 emission level. Korea reaped the benefits already in 2008 when facing the financial crisis. He observed that political stability is necessary for a successful shift towards a green economy. The Korean way includes:

- Identification of green technologies essential for green economy (innovation)
- Mobilisation of private investment and partnering for blended finance (PPP based financing)
- Creation of financing mechanisms to give back (Engage with the world).

He observed that a wide gap exists for climate financing. Yet ample financial resources also exist. By 2030, according to McKinsey & Company, eleven high potential green markets will amount to US\$12 trillion¹⁴. There is a mismatch of supply and demand, according to Mr. Kim. He also mentioned that AI has become a new emerging climate solution. During COP 28, UNFCCC launched the "AI4ClimateAction Initiative"¹⁵ aiming to explore the role of artificial intelligence (AI) as a technological tool for advancing and scaling up transformative climate solutions for mitigation and

¹⁴ Bland, R., Granskog, A. & Nauc  r, T., June 14, 2022. "Accelerating toward net zero: The green business building opportunity", in McKinsey Sustainability, <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/accelerating-toward-net-zero-the-green-business-building-opportunity>

¹⁵ Technology Mechanism Initiative on Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action, 2023, https://unfccc.int/ttclear/artificial_intelligence



adaptation action in developing countries with a focus on least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

The Republic of Korea has further demonstrated its commitment to green growth through the establishment of two international organizations in Korea: Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) & Global Climate Fund (GCF). GGGI is a treaty-based international, intergovernmental organization created in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development dedicated to supporting strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.¹⁶ GCF is the world's largest climate fund to accelerate transformative climate action in developing countries through a country-owned partnership approach and use of flexible financing solutions and climate investment experiences¹⁷.

“Ultimately, it is people that matter in the end”, he said. No one should be left behind. People-centered clean transition is in need, including the empowerment of the next generation. He concluded by saying, “We need to integrate top down and bottom-up governance as strongly as possible. This is true and applicable for all countries!”.

Session 1: Overview of the SDGs and Climate Action Progress 2030 Agenda

► The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals – Progress update

Speaker: Mr. Joop Theunissen, Deputy Chief, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UNDESA (online)

Mr. Joop Theunissen UNDESA, reminded the audience that regular follow up and reviews of the SDGs progress are clearly stipulated in the UN GA Resolution 70 titled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1, 25 September 2015). Para. 72 and Para. 79 of the Resolution 70 deals with the commitment to “engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of this Agenda over the next 15 years”. Follow-up and Review shall take place at national (para. 79), regional (para. 80) and global (para. 84) levels.

Underpinning the monitoring and reporting of SDGs progress, a follow-up and review process at all levels are guided by the following principles (excerpt from A/RES/70/1, Para. 74):

1. Voluntary and universal: including developed and developing countries
2. State-led: country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels
3. Platform for partnerships: through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders
4. Facilitating learning experience: including successes, challenges and lessons learned
5. National circumstances: reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners
6. Open, inclusive and transparent: facilitates communication with all stakeholders

¹⁶ <https://gggi.org/>

¹⁷ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>

A quick update was also given by Mr. Theunissen on the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) that would take place in July 2024 under the theme: "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions". Specific SDGs under review this year included: Goal 1 (Poverty), Goal 2 (No Hunger), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). VNR reports, however, should cover all of the SDGs. It was noted that SDG 13 was also reviewed in 2021.

After July 2024, a total number of 389 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) will have been presented during the HLPF by 188 countries and the EU. South Sudan and Yemen will present their VNRs for the first time while Haiti, Myanmar, and the USA so far have not presented a VNR.¹⁸ An overview of the 37 VNR presentations in 2024 is presented in Table 1.



Table 1: An overview of the 37 VNR to be presented in 2024.

What do the VNR reports actually say? Mr. Theunissen drew from the 2023 VNR Synthesis Report¹⁹ four meta conclusions, namely,

1. Governments adapted existing institutional and coordination frameworks. Many created new mechanisms to elevate the SDGs to the highest levels of the government.
2. More countries included statistical annexes in their reports, or provided narrative based on data.
3. Many VNR reports focused on national efforts to overcome setbacks from covid-19, conflict and climate change.

¹⁸ IISD, 26 June 2024, VNR Main Messages for 37 Countries Published Ahead of HLPF 2024. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/vnr-main-messages-for-37-countries-published-ahead-of-hlpf-2024/>

¹⁹ https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/2023_VNR_Synthesis_Report.pdf

4. Many examples of stakeholders were given who implemented inclusive and homegrown solutions at local levels.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 (Special edition)²⁰ also pointed out that Target 13.3 on global climate change education has so far not kept up with youth demand.

To conclude, Mr. Theunissen reminded the participants that there were guidelines and resources to be used when preparing the country's VNR reports (Figure 6 and 7). Of this battery of references, Secretary General's updated "Voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs at the HLPF"²¹ set the baseline for the VNR reporting.

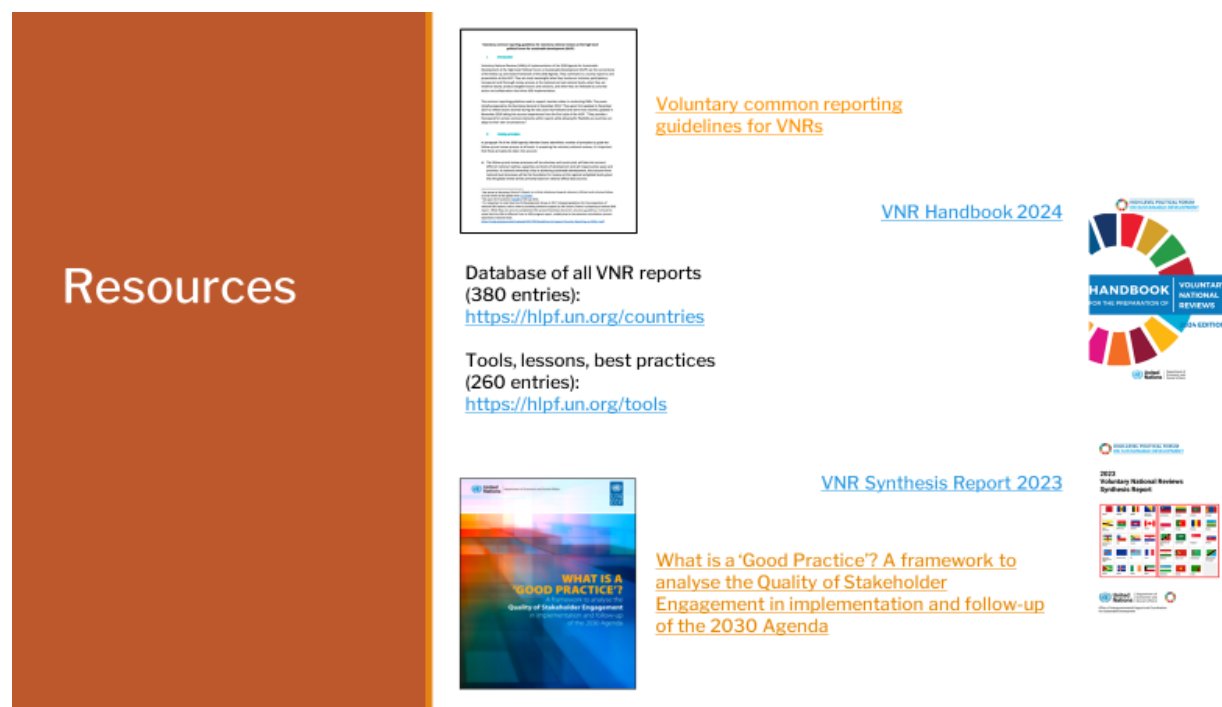


Figure 6: List of key resources for preparing the VNRs

²⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>

²¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27171SG_Guidelines_2021.final.pdf

SDG Reporting outputs

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>

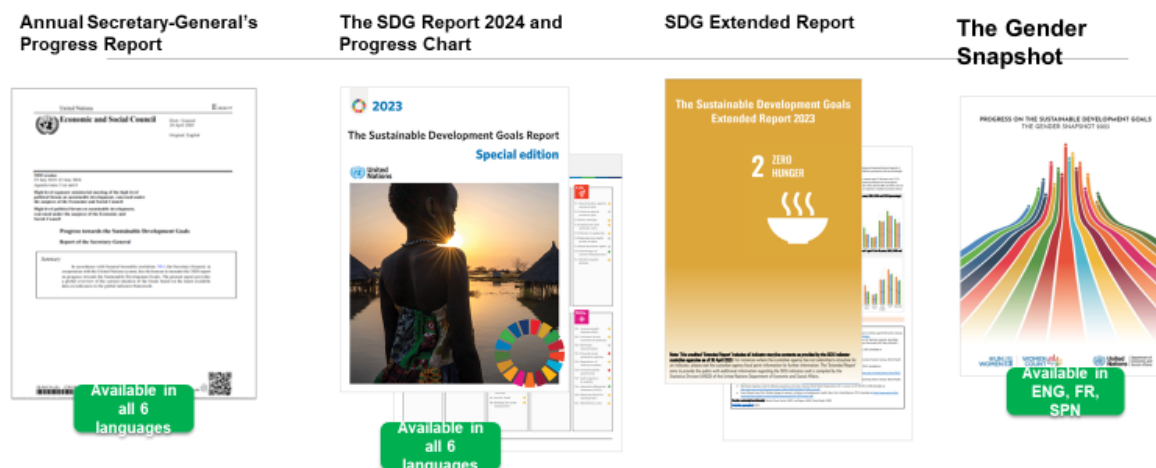


Figure 7: SDG Reporting Outputs (Source: UN Statistical Commission, 2023)

► The Paris Agreement and its role in achieving the SDGs – Global Stocktake (GST1)

Speaker: Ms. Julie Amoroso-Garbin, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Julie Amoroso-Garbin reminded the audience of the commitment made on 12th December 2015 to limit global warming to well below 1.5 degree Celsius and the call for increasing capacities in the Paris Agreement as well as the findings from the first Global Stocktake Report.

The overarching goal of the Paris Agreement, signed on 12th December, aims to:

- 1) Limit the global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and strive for 1.5°C.
- 2) Increase countries' ability to deal with climate change's impacts and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development,
- 3) Make finance flows consistent with low greenhouse emissions and climate-resilient development pathways (Article 2).

It was adopted by 196 countries and entered into force in November 2016. Key elements of the Paris Agreement consist of requirements which focus on:

- 1) Temperature goals of limiting the global rise to as close as possible to 1.5°C.
- 2) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). All Parties are required to put forward their *best* efforts, in a nationally determined manner, to enhance action on climate change: mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.
- 3) Enhanced transparency framework and accountability which requires that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and implementation efforts.

- 4) A global stocktake conducted every five years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the agreement's purpose and inform further individual actions by Parties.
- 5) Enhanced provision of support mechanisms including finance, technology and capacity building.
- 6) Strengthening adaptation and loss and damage to support the vulnerable countries to cope with climate change effects.
- 7) Facilitating voluntary cooperation among countries in implementing their NDCs, which can include the use of market-based mechanisms like carbon trading.
- 8) Establishing mechanisms to support sustainable development and environmental integrity.

Ms. Amoroso-Garbin commented on the interactions between the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. She noted that the Paris Agreement as a crucial roadmap for climate actions and plays a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience. This role is pivotal for achieving the SDGs. Of these two international instruments, some notable linkages exist:

- 1) Implementation of the Paris Agreement is directly linked to SDG 13 (Climate Action). It aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, and strive for a maximum level of 1.5°C. Such an objective is necessary to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change and consequent effects on all other SDGs.
- 2) The Paris Agreement recognizes the fundamental goal of ensuring food security and ending hunger (linked to SDG 2). It acknowledges the vulnerability of food production systems to climate change and the need for adaptation measures.
- 3) Adaptation and mitigation actions under the Paris Agreement, such as innovative and sustainable water management, support SDGs related to water (SDG 6), life on land (SDG 15), and partnerships (SDG 17).
- 4) The Paris Agreement provides a framework for countries to mobilize finance, technology, and capacity-building support for developing countries, enabling them to take climate action and achieve the SDGs.
- 5) The transparency and review mechanisms in the Paris Agreement help ensure that countries continuously upgrade their climate commitments, aligning themselves with the SDG principle of progressive improvement.

The Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement was a critical turning point when it came to efforts to address climate change. According to the Paris Agreement, Parties shall periodically take stock of its implementation to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. The global stocktake enables countries and other stakeholders to take inventory, to see where they're collectively making progress toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement – and where they are not. It entails looking at everything related to where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to agree on solutions pathways to safeguard the future. Decision 19/CMA.1²² outlines the modalities for undertaking the global stocktake. Parties agreed to undertake the first global stocktake in 2023,

²² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17_adv.pdf

which affirmed that the world was not on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and the window for meaningful change quickly closing²³.

The global stocktake of 2023 will inform the next round of climate action plans under the Paris Agreement (Nationally determined contributions, or “NDCs”) to be put forward by 2025. The key findings & conclusions included the following:

- 1) **Temperature and Emissions Trends:** Global temperatures are projected to rise by 2.4-2.6°C by the end of the century, a reduction from previous estimates of 3.7-4.8°C. Despite this improvement, current climate commitments are insufficient to meet the 1.5°C target. More ambitious and urgent actions to close the emissions gap, particularly by phasing out unabated fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energy.
- 2) **Mitigation Efforts:** They are necessary for system-wide transformations across various sectors, including energy, transport, industry, and agriculture. This includes tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, as well as transitioning away from fossil fuels by 2050. It also stresses the importance of preserving nature, ending deforestation, and adopting sustainable agricultural practices to enhance resilience and reduce emissions.
- 3) **Adaptation and Resilience:** Adaptation plans and support are found to be poorly implemented and unevenly distributed. The report calls for increased support for vulnerable communities to enhance their resilience against climate impacts. It also underscores the need for better adaptation strategies and more equitable distribution of resources to effectively address climate risks.
- 4) **Financial Flows:** The global stocktake identified a significant gap in climate finance, stressing the need to mobilize trillions of dollars to support a zero-carbon, climate-resilient future. This includes reorienting global finance towards sustainable development and ensuring that financial flows are consistent with low-emission pathways.
- 5) **Equity and Just Transitions:** Equity and justice are central themes in the report, which highlights the need for climate actions to be fair and inclusive. This includes ensuring that transitions to low-carbon economies do not disproportionately impact vulnerable populations. The report emphasizes the importance of tailored approaches to local contexts and the need for international cooperation to support developing countries.

These findings collectively underscore the urgency of accelerating climate actions and enhancing global cooperation to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement and mitigate the impacts of climate change effectively. The final phase of the global stocktake, which took place at COP28 in Dubai,

²³ <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake/about-the-global-stocktake/why-the-global-stocktake-is-important-for-climate-action-this-decade>

focused on translating technical findings into political commitments. Countries discussed the findings and identified opportunities and challenges for future climate actions²⁴²⁵²⁶.

Final words on the financing for climate actions. The financing gap has grown even though progress has been made in terms of financial flows. Ms. Amoroso-Garbin summarized the current financing challenge in Figure 8 below:

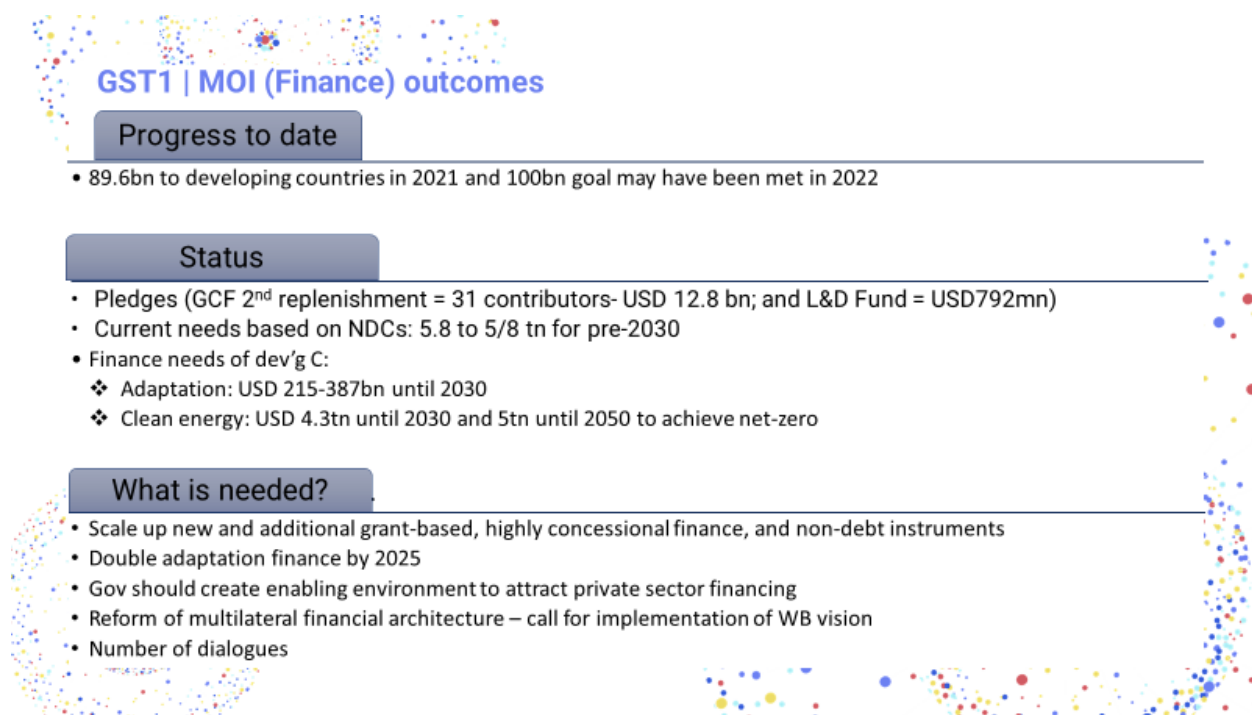


Figure 8: Global Stocktake on Means of Implementation

► Global Progress on Climate and SDG Synergies

Speaker: Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG, UNDESA (online)

Ms. Bahareh Seyedi reported on the key findings of the first “Global Progress on Climate and SDG Synergies”. A set of analysis and joint actions focused on tackling climate and SDG action together (See Figure 9).

²⁴ UNFCCC, 2023, “First Global Stocktake High-level Committee Summary of High-level events”, at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GST_HLE%20branded%20V2.pdf

²⁵ World Resources Institute, 2023, “Navigating the Paris Rulebook: Global Stocktake Deep Dive”, at [https://www.wri.org/paris-rulebook/paris-rulebook-global-stocktake-deeper-dive#:~:text=The%20global%20stocktake%20is%20to%20consider%20the%20state%20of%20greenhouse,36\)](https://www.wri.org/paris-rulebook/paris-rulebook-global-stocktake-deeper-dive#:~:text=The%20global%20stocktake%20is%20to%20consider%20the%20state%20of%20greenhouse,36)).

²⁶ Umweltbundesamt, 2024, “The Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement”, 15 May. at <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/climate-energy/the-global-stocktake-under-the-paris-agreement#modalities-of-the-global-stocktake>

Increasing recognition of climate and SDG synergies



Figure 9: Reporting and Action Plans to Advocate “Climate & SDG Action Together”.
(Source: Presentation from Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, DSDG of UNDESA, 2024)

Ms. Seyedi reported on the work by the Independent Group of Experts to prepare the first global report addressing solutions of climate and sustainable development challenges synergistically²⁷. Pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas by reducing financial gaps, achieving targets faster by integrating social dimensions which enhances chances of reaching climate targets, facilitating long term visions and the just transition.

Evidence shows synergies between climate action and 80% of 2030 Agenda targets. Significant overlaps found between NDC climate activities and SDGs 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17. Overlaps between SDGs and NDC climate activities are more pronounced for low income and lower middle-income countries (see Figure 10).

²⁷ UNDESA, 2023, “Expert Group to Prepare Report Analysing Climate and SDG Synergies, Aiming to Maximize Action Impact” 15 May. at <https://sdgs.un.org/blog/expert-group-prepare-report-analysing-climate-and-sdg-synergies-aiming-maximize-action-impact>

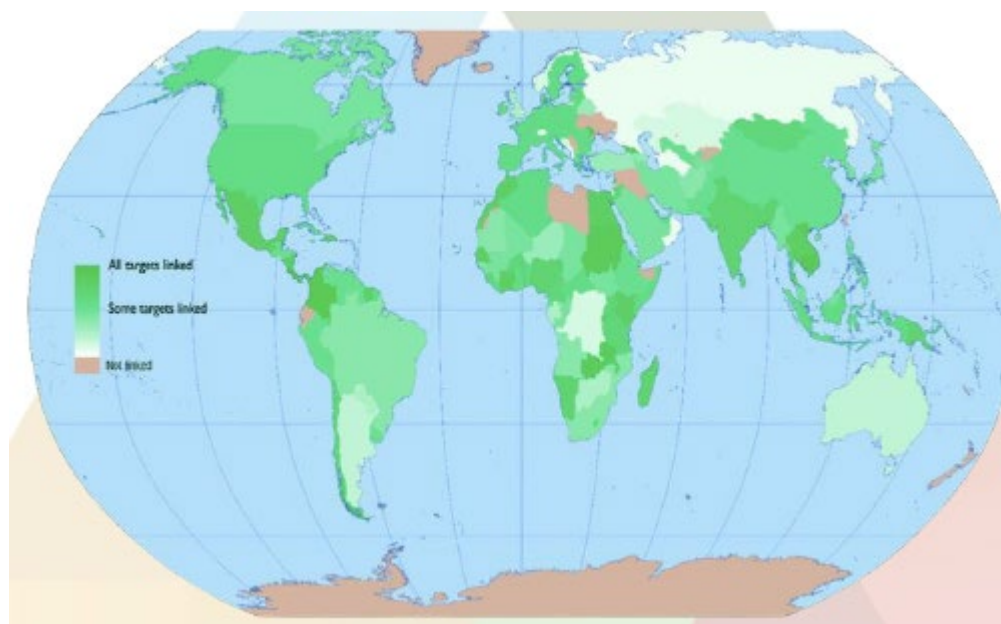


Figure 10: Linkages of SDGs with the countries' NDCs (up to May 2021

(Source: Climate Watch, <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ndcs-sdg?goal>)

Examples of synergistic policy actions were given in Figure 11 below.

Examples of synergistic policy action

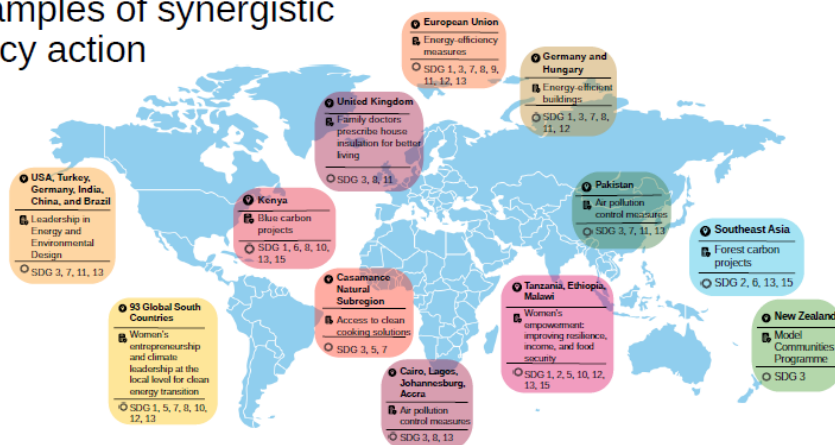


Figure 11: Examples of Synergistic Policy Actions (Source: UNDESA and UNFCCC, 2023)²⁸

Nevertheless, there are institutional barriers to such synergies such as difficult-to-access knowledge (poor science-policy interface), politicised planning and reporting, inadequate financial mechanisms for synergistic climate and SDG investment. It was also found that an evidence-based approach is necessary. Recommendations were made to address these barriers (see Table 2).

²⁸ UNDESA and UNFCCC, 2023, "Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together. REPORT ON STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE I FIRST EDITION. at <https://sdgs.un.org/synergy-solutions-world-crisis-tackling-climate-and-sdg-action-together>

Ten Recommendations

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>01 Enhance collective resilience against current and future global crises.</p> <p>02 Strengthen science-policy-society interaction to advance synergistic action.</p> <p>03 Promote institutional capacity building and cross-sectoral and international and national collaboration.</p> <p>04 Ensure policy coherence and coordination among policy makers across sectors and departments.</p> | <p>05 Develop a 'framework for action' that can help decision makers in public, private, and civil society sectors identify synergistic action for systems change.</p> <p>06 Use the 'framework for action' and to other means to ensure a just transition.</p> <p>07 Address the large investment gaps in the climate and development agendas to enhance the necessary synergies.</p> | <p>08 Utilize COP 28 in Dubai to initiate and accelerate synergistic action on climate and SDGs.</p> <p>09 Prioritize the role of synergies in the work of the UN and international financial institutions, including an improved system for sharing information to help countries in their reporting responsibilities.</p> <p>10 Treat cities, sites of major population growth and expansion of economic activities, as an opportunity for focusing on climate and development synergies.</p> |
|--|---|--|

Table 2: Recommended actions to overcome barriers in achieving climate and SDG policy synergies (Source: UNDESA and UNFCCC, 2023)²⁹

Session 2: Overview of SDGs in National Planning and SDG Review - VNRs - Purpose, Process, and Importance

► A Regional Snapshot from Latin America and the Caribbean

Speaker: Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Social Affairs Officer, Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC

Mr. Abdulkadri reported on the national ownership of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Countries that resulted in the establishment of institutional frameworks for SDG implementation, alignment of the SDGs with their national development plans, and active preparation of VNRs and VLRs. Established institutional frameworks are either formal organs or ad hoc mechanisms. The formal organs tend to be either a unit of the Presidency, Ministry, Department or Government Agency. A detailed mapping indicating the types of institutional frameworks established by LAC countries is presented in Figure 12.

²⁹ Ditto



Figure 12: Mapping the institutional framework established in LAC countries
 (Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2023,
 "Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration
 (LC/FDS.6/3/Rev.1), Santiago, page 44."³⁰

Significantly, many LAC countries such as Aruba, Brazil, Curacao, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, implemented MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support) methodology to align SDGs with national development plans, strategies and policies right at the beginning of the SDG implementation (see Table 3).

³⁰ <https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f2ef47b4-55cb-4e08-a6a2-8bfc50ffb209/content>

Subregion	Country	Instrument	Time frame
Central America	Guatemala	K'atun National Development Plan: Our Guatemala 2032	Long-term
	Panama	"Panama 2030" National Strategic State Vision Plan	Long-term
The Caribbean	Cuba	2030 National Economic and Social Development Plan	Long-term
	Dominica	National Resilience Development Strategy: Dominica 2030	Long-term
	Jamaica	Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2021–2024	Medium-term
	Grenada	National Sustainable Development Plan 2020–2035	Long-term
	Dominican Republic	National Multi-year Public Sector Plan 2021–2024	Medium-term
	Saint Lucia	Medium-Term Development Strategy 2020–2023	Medium-term
	Trinidad and Tobago	Vision 2030: National Development Strategy 2016–2030	Long-term
South America	Ecuador	Opportunity Creation Plan 2021–2025	Medium-term
	Paraguay	Paraguay National Development Plan 2030	Long-term
	Suriname	Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026	Medium-term

Table 3: Mapping of LAC countries in mainstreaming SDGs into the national development plan and policies (Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2023, Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration (LC/FDS.6/3/Rev.1), Santiago, page 48)³¹

Table 4 provided a country example of how such integration of SDGs and the national development plan could look like.

³¹ ditto



TABLE 3.9: ALIGNMENT OF NSDP 2020-2035 TO RELEVANT SDGS

National Goals Identified in National Sustainable Development Plan	National Outcomes Identified in National Sustainable Development Plan	SDG Alignment	Number of Strategic Actions set out in the National Sustainable Development Plan
<i>High Human and Social Development: Putting People at the Center of Sustainable Development and Transformation</i>	A Healthy Population		32
	Educated, Productive, Highly-Skilled, Trained, and Conscious Citizens		39
	A Resilient, Inclusive, Gender-Sensitive, and Peaceful Society		35
<i>Vibrant, Dynamic, Competitive Economy with Supporting Climate-and-Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure</i>	Broad-based, Inclusive, and Sustainable Economic Growth and Transformation		46
	Competitive Business Environment		16
	Modern Climate-and-Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure		16
<i>Environmental Sustainability and Security</i>	Climate Resilience and Hazard Risk Reduction		24
	Energy Security and Efficiency		9

Table 4: Summary of Alignment of the Goals and Outcomes of the NSDP 2020-2035 with Relevant SDGs, Grenada (Source: National Plan Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic, and Physical Development, Grenada, 2019: National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035, page 99)

Mr. Abdulkadri concluded by saying that VNR process provides incentives for countries to accelerate SDG implementation.

► **A Regional Snapshot from ESCAP**

Speaker: Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, Section on Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP

Ms. Juliet Braslow presented Regional Snapshots of ESCAP countries on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Through various institutional support provided by ESCAP, countries of this region mainstreamed and embedded SDGs into national development plans and strategies at medium- and long-term time horizons. Actions taken spanned policy integration, institutional frameworks, data enhancement, and targeted interventions. For accountability and holistic development planning, institutional mechanisms and governance structures were established including thematic and SDG budget tagging. Data availability was also expanded on SDG indicators to

effectively support an evidence-based decision-making process. Based on national priority relevant targets were selected and prioritized.

Concerning SDG monitoring and review, a whole continuum was unfolded from national to sub-regional to regional and global. Peer review was one of the mechanisms for regional review process. Nearly all countries in the region prepared a VNR and a growing number of voluntary local reviews. In 2024. A total of 10 countries will present their VNRs during the HLPF (See Table 5)

2 nd time (5)	3 rd Time (4)	4 th Time (1)
Micronesia (Federated States of) Palau Samoa Solomon Islands Vanuatu	Armenia Georgia Lao P.D.R. Nepal	Azerbaijan

Table 5: Mapping of the VNR reporting by ESCAP Countries in 2024

ESCAP provides technical support to countries for SDG policy analysis and VNR preparation process. For these ends, various tools for policy analysis have been developed, which include conducting SDG Progress Assessment, measuring inequality and vulnerability, examining social protection, determining SDG impact as well as estimate socio-economic and environmental effects of national policies. Specific methodologies and tools are available for adoption.

Session 3: Overview of the Nationally Determined Contributions

► Overview of NDC progress, with a focus on the region, the NDC 3.0

Speaker: Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Juhi Bansal highlighted the anchoring mindset of the Paris Agreement in reaching the long-term objectives through increasing ambition over time. Therefore, climate actions are built on aggregate and individual progression or ambition of each subsequent NDCs. There is a mandatory cycle of NDCs submission. First submission was due by 2020 with 2030 targets. Thereafter, enhanced ambition will be submitted every 5 years. Next NDCs are due in 2025.

Two feedback mechanisms exist, one is global stocktake, the other enhanced transparency framework (ETF)³². The ETF under the Paris Agreement builds on the current, solid measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system under the Convention, which for developed countries is the

³²UNFCCC, 2021, Operationalization of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, Version 2 updated on 10 December, at https://unfccc.int/FAQ-moving-towards-the-ETF?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-uK0BhCOARIsANQtgGPi2JHhRAKyOPpSUTAFseRu4y-PeWXVU82MXW2pS0ltj-gX2LmUC0IaAqBvEALw_wcB

greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and the International Assessment and Review (IAR); and for developing countries is the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA).³³

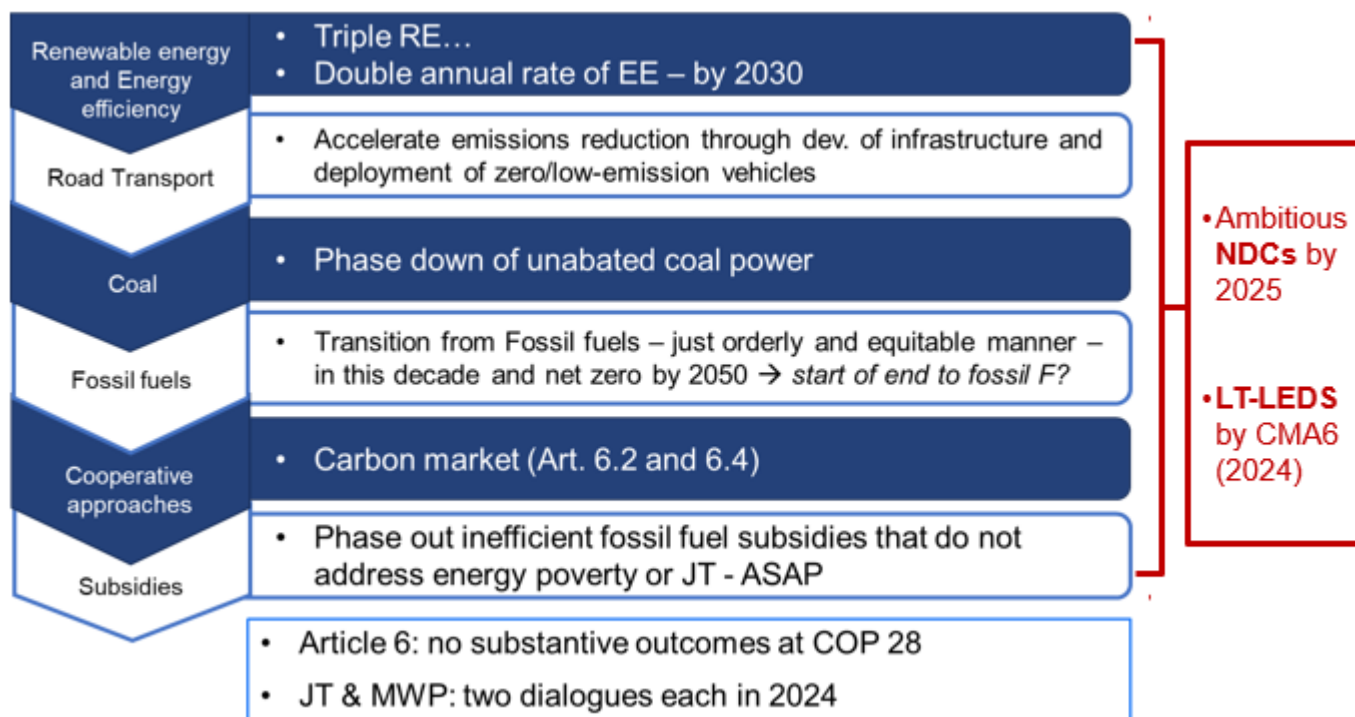
Ms Bansal reviewed the process of preparing for the 2025 NDC report. The 2025 NDCs are to present national plans with a time horizon of 2035 and are to be submitted in advance of COP30. The NDCs 3.0 were informed by the outcome of the first global stocktake which concluded at COP28 at the end of 2023. When comparing with 2022 NDC synthesis report,³⁴ one of the key findings was the almost stagnant ambition for 2030 – projected aggregate emission level for 2030 estimated this time is only 0.8 Gt (~2%) lower. All estimates based on the latest available NDCs indicate an even stronger possibility of global emissions peaking before 2030 taking into consideration the available means of implementation.

To mitigate this dangerous outcome, the first global stocktake report recommended accelerated mitigation efforts by 1) peaking global emissions by 2025, 2) reducing GHGs by 43% then 60% by 2035 relative to the 2019 level, and reaching net-zero by 2050, 3) enhancing international cooperation and enabling or stimulating ambitious NDCs of major polluting countries. One of the stocktake's recommended pathways to bring down the global emissions through energy sources and consumption. This pathway leads from switching to renewables and improving energy efficiency to investing in transport infrastructure and deploying zero or low emission vehicles, phasing down the use of coal, fossil fuels, adopting cooperative mechanisms and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies (See Figure 13).

³³UNFCCC, 2021, Preparing for the Enhanced Transparency Framework. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/preparing-for-the-ETF>

³⁴UNFCCC, 2022, "2022 NDC Synthesis Report" https://unfccc.int/ndc-synthesis-report-2022?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwnei0BhB-EiwAA2xuBsOgcxj7T07hIQpp1NvDxk76RUw0myEdtGgo1rfrPIFo0QRuEKrVOBoCX38QAvD_BwE

Figure 13: Mitigation Pathways Recommended in the first Global Stocktake Report (2023)



(Source: IGES, RCC Asia and the Pacific, in the presentation of Bansal, J. during UNOSD ETC 2024)

► Current state of NDC 3.0 preparations: Experience from The Philippines

Speaker: Ms. Raquel Smith Cordero Ortega, Division Chief, Climate Change Mainstreaming and Integration Division, Climate Change Service of Philippines

Ms. Smith Cordero Ortega presented the Philippines' experience of updating its NDC and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She explained the five step process that the Philippines undertook to complete INDC Submission process by initiating a roundtable discussion with the political constituents, i.e., government agencies, Congress, Senate, and the Office of the President, before launching the technical process and stakeholder consultation.

She detailed the main features of the Philippine INDC and cautioned that the attainment of 70% of emissions by 2030 would be conditioned on the provision of the means of implementation that the country would receive concerning finance, capacity building and technology transfer. Mention was made of the national concerns regarding accession to the Paris Agreement. One was related to the right to industrialise (climate justice), and the other to compensation for climate damages in vulnerable countries (compensation, loss & damage).

The Philippines first NDC was submitted on 15 April 2021 which targeted its peaking year in 2030 and covered the following sectors: agriculture, waste, industry, transportation and energy. The commitments entailed a total GHG reduction of 990 MtCO₂e at the estimated investment of US\$72 billion (see Figure 14 for details).

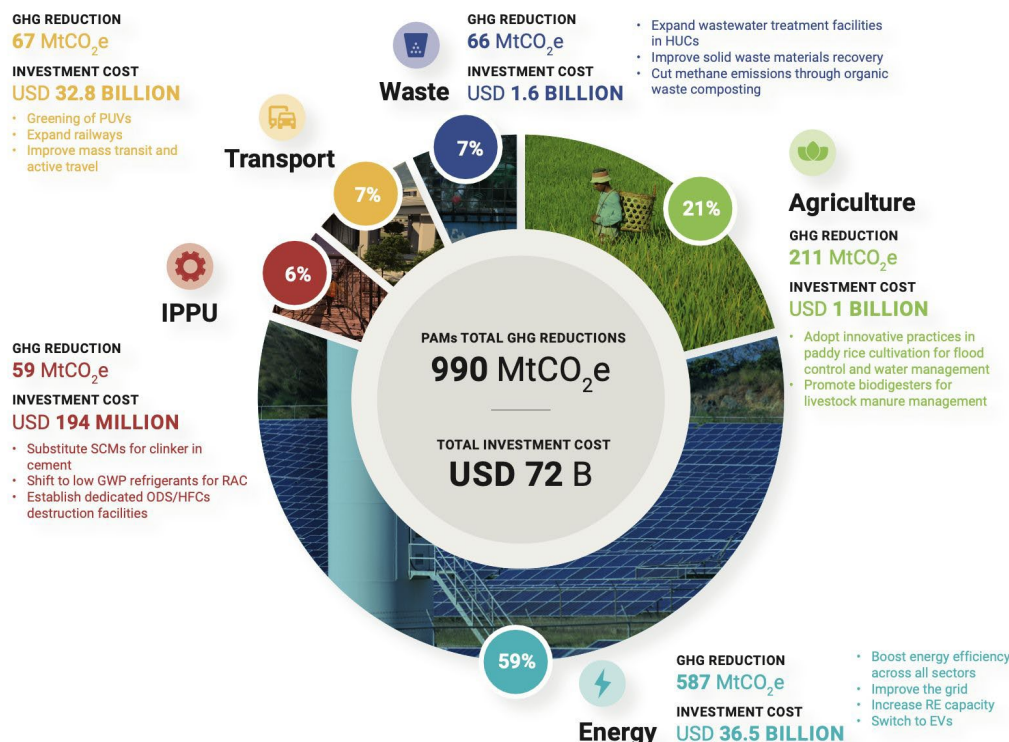


Figure 14: Commitments and Cost of NDC Policies and Measures (PAMs)
 (Source: NDC submission, Climate Change Service of Philippines, 2021)

The “Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan” and the “National Adaptation Plan” of the Philippines, said Ms. Smith Cordero Ortega, would serve as the mitigation and adaptation blueprint for the Philippines to increase its resilience to climate impacts and to optimize opportunities to transition to a low-carbon development pathway. There are six pillars to the NDC implementation roadmap:

1. Deliver mitigation actions
2. Advance international cooperation
3. Develop market-based actions,
4. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity,
5. Cascading subnational actions, and
6. Engaging the private sector

To conclude, Ms. Smith Cordero Ortega presented the NAP strategic framework of the Philippines in building resilience to minimize climate related losses and damages alongside building adaptive capacities by 2050 and mentioned its use of Green Procurement to promote the transition.

Session 4: Identifying co-benefits and trade-offs between the SDG and Paris Agreement (with a focus on NDC)

- Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into Climate Policies to Enhance Synergies and Manage Trade-offs

Speaker: Ms. Xin Zhou, Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) (virtual)

After giving a summary of the SDGs and the crosscutting nature of Goal 13 on Climate Action, Ms Zhou delved into the challenges confronting policy integration and the lack of scientific knowledge in this domain. The methodology to conduct SDG interlinkages analysis and related tools were presented. This analytical and visualisation tool (V4.0) covers 27 countries including 22 countries in Asia and 5 countries in Africa.

Since the launch in 2017, the tool has been accessed 130,000 times to date from 192 countries. More than three quarters of the access came from outside of Japan with US, Indonesia, Denmark, India and UK as its top five non-Japanese users according to the webpage of SDG Interlinkages Analysis & Visualisation Tool (V4.0).

Results of this advanced analytic tool, the interlinkages and trade-offs between Climate Action (SDG 13) and the rest of the SDG goals could be seen in Figure 15 and Figure 16 respectively.

Figure 15: SDG interlinkages Analysis: Synergies between Climate Action and SDGs
(Source: Zhou, et al., 2022, <https://www.climatechange.ai/papers/aaaifss2022/23>)

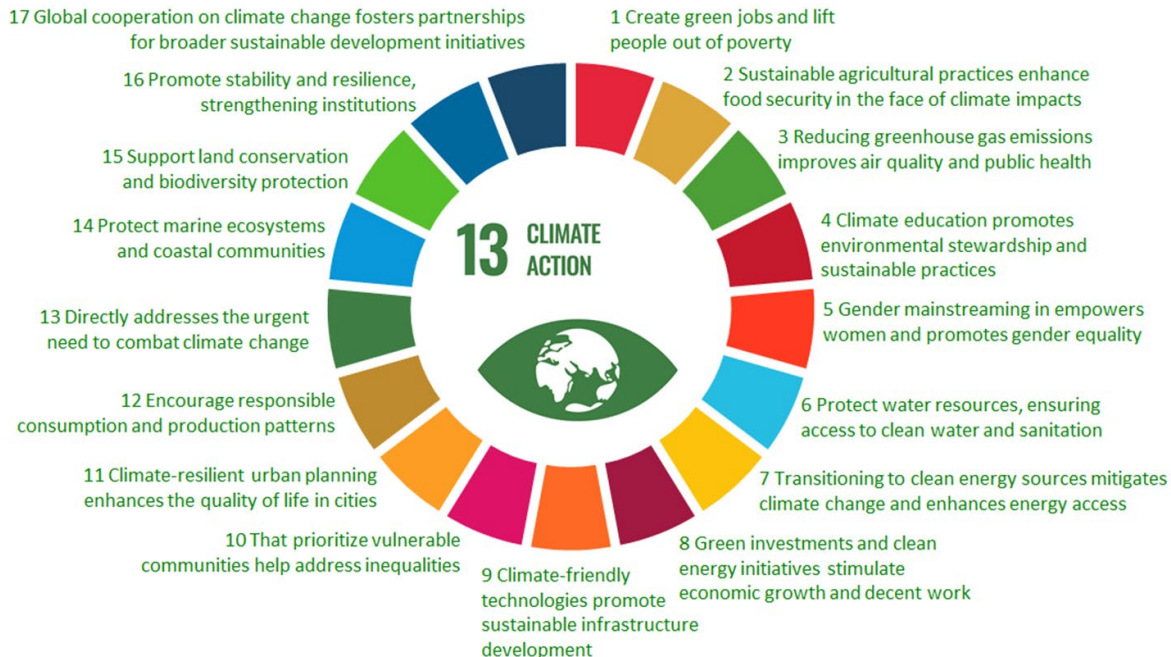
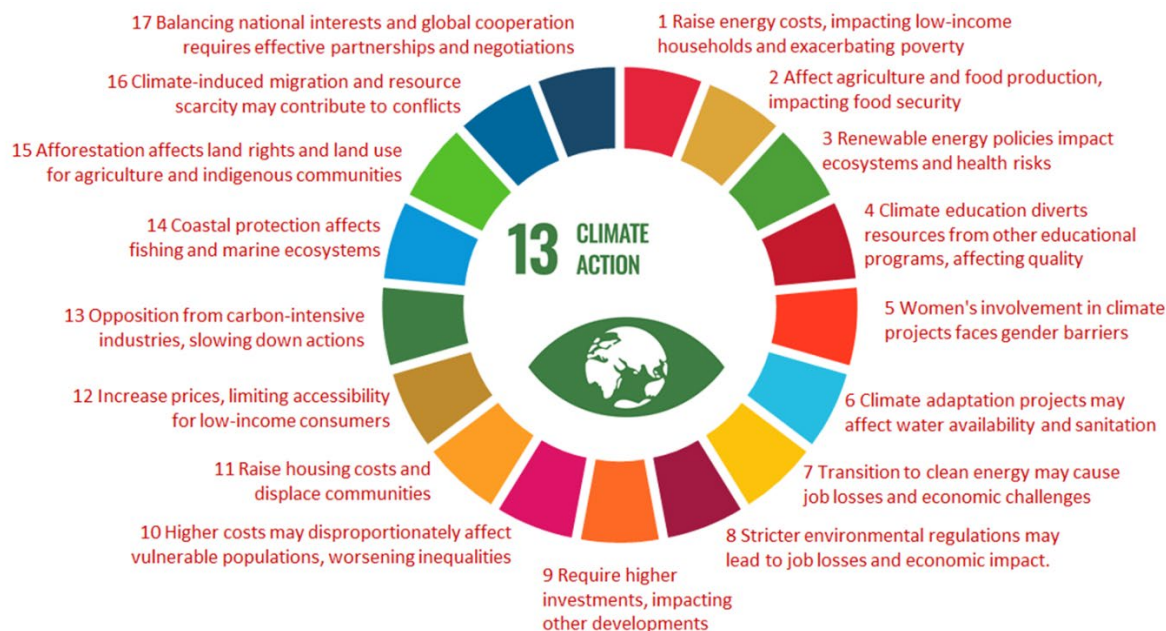


Figure 16: SDG interlinkages Analysis: Trade-offs between Climate Action and SDGs
(Source: Zhou, et al., 2022, <https://www.climatechange.ai/papers/aaaifss2022/23>)



When analysing the NDCs of the G20 countries, Ms. Zhou identified the existing policy gaps in SDG integration stipulated in NDCs. These gaps were particularly pronounced concerning the social dimension of the SDGs, i.e., SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 10 (inequality) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) (see Figure 17). A policy brief has been published that advocates the need to put social well-being at the core of G7 climate strategy as the entry point of policy integration.³⁵

³⁵ Zhou, X., Eric Zusman, E., Moinuddin, M., et al., 2023. "Putting Societal Well-being at the Core of Climate Strategies" <https://www.think7.org/publication/putting-societal-well-being-at-the-core-of-g7-climate-strategies-entry-points-and-enabling-reforms/>.

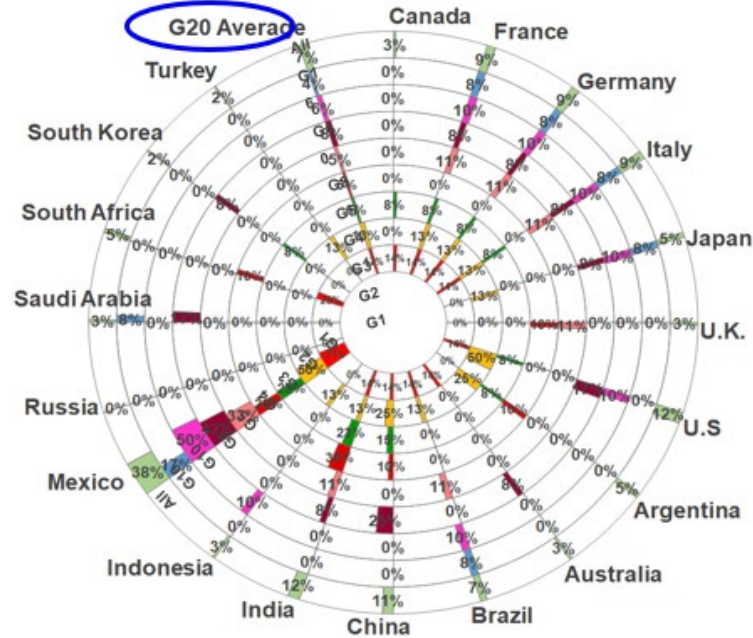


Figure 17: Level of SDG Integration in the NDCs of G20 countries
(Source: Compiled by Zhou and Moinuddin, 2023)

► Strategies for identifying and implementing synergies between SDGs, climate action and domestic priorities

Speaker: Mr Adis Dzebo, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Dr Dzebo highlighted the significance of the third-generation NDCs. They would be the litmus test of the Paris Agreement ‘ratchet’ mechanism of increasing ambition. There seemed to be an interactional effect between the NDC and domestic policy. He reminded all that recent analysis from UNDP on the second generation of NDCs has shown that countries that had strong integration between the NDC and domestic policy also were the most ambitious in their implementation³⁶³⁷.

Dr Dzebo went on to point out three factors that contribute to the understanding and aligning synergies between climate change, sustainable development and domestic priorities. They are:

- 1) Nature of interactions: “combined or cooperative effects that occur when two or more actions interact in a way that produces a result greater than the sum of their individual contributions”³⁸
- 2) National contexts and constraints: while synergies are universal, how they get implemented and what outcomes they may lead to depend on the domestic context and domestic priorities.

³⁶ Nilsson. M. et. al. 2024, “Seeking Synergy Solutions: Policies that Support Both Climate and SDG Action”, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Partners. P.3. at

https://seors.unfccc.int/applications/seors/attachments/get_attachment?code=MYQBFMLIKI8W1TMFF4UWXWYD9650YHK3

³⁷ Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), SDG Synergies, at <https://www.sdg synergies.org/>

³⁸ UNDESA, 2023, “Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together”, p.18. at

https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/UN%20Climate%20SDG%20Synergies%20Report-091223B_1.pdf



- 3) Universality of policy processes: three components are involved, i.e., policy coordination, policy coherence and policy integration, moving from single policy instrument to integration of climate, SDGs and domestic priorities.

The quality of national policy processes (as mentioned above) and governance determine the synergies created between climate actions, SDGs and domestic priorities. Underlying these processes are the institutional and political drivers that often disrupt the implementation and/or diminishing or diverting from the intended outcomes. Figure 18 captured the politics of policy coherence.³⁹ An example from Australia was given to illustrate the political economy of the policy coherence.

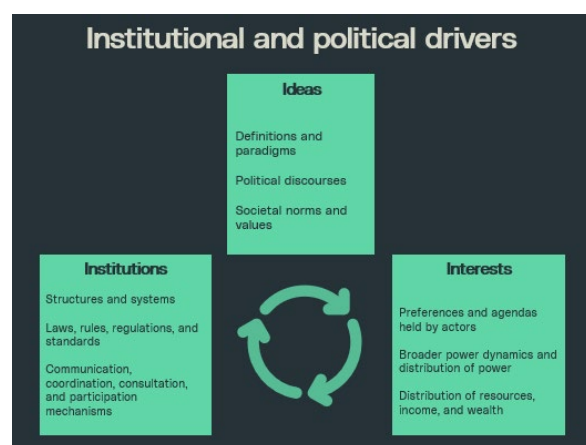


Figure 18: Politics of Policy Coherence

(Source: Politics of Policy Coherence – Shawoo et al., 2022)

Advice was given by Dr Dzebo on the enabling institutional environment to develop successful synergistic NDCs and avoid adverse consequences. These institutional enablers included:

- Identifying complementary roles and strengths
- Breaking down institutional silos
- Finding champions
- Ensuring meaningful participation along the whole policy process
- Alignment is only a starting point in achieving policy integration.

The institutional stakeholders to be taken into consideration consist of different level of governments and agencies, parliament, auditors, climate councils, courts, the public, media, scientific communities and international organisations (present in the countries or outside). Finally, for effective policy making, it is important to take into consideration the political elections. The right timing of such a political process has been proven critical for the policy success.

Lastly, Dr Dzebo advocated for the use more of cases that show how the existing plethora of SDG synergy tools, guidelines, and checklists were adapted to the national context with proven effectiveness. A gathering of actionable examples could help other countries with similar circumstances to improve their climate and SDG integration in domestic policy environment.

³⁹ Shawoo et al., 2022, "Political Drivers of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: An Analytical Framework", Environmental Policy and Governance, 33(3), at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/365063868_Political_drivers_of_policy_coherence_for_sustainable_development_An_analytical_framework

► **ESCAP Methodology for integration of the SDGs into National Planning**

Speaker: Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Ms Aneta Nikolova gave an extensive briefing on the ESCAP methodology,⁴⁰ launched in 2016, for integrating SDGs into national planning. This methodology was rooted in systems thinking⁴¹ approach and developed tools according to the system characteristics including feedback loops and causalities. This approach is of particular importance when dealing with the challenge of translating policy into implementation. The cause-and-effect concept in system thinking is about being able to understand the way things influence each other in a system (on agency, feedback loops, connections, and relationships). It is in this context, ESCAP developed its methodology for integrated policy analysis, which includes System Mapping and other tools. An interactive analytical tool was introduced (Figure 19) with multiple of use examples in the domain of water (SDG 6), human rights (SDG 10) and gender (SDG 5). A list of ESCAP knowledge products to support the attainment of policy integration was provided and available at the SDG Helpdesk of the UN ESCAP Knowledge Hub.

To conclude, Ms Nikolova proposed the following consideration as ways forward:

- Integrating SDG and NDC planning and processes should start from mapping the interlinkages at the target level
- Developing integrated institutional mechanisms supported by transformative stakeholder engagement
- Identifying sustainable and integrated financing, including for climate resilient development and infrastructure
- Scaling up the use of nature-based solutions, including green and blue infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas
- Adopting circular economy approaches to reduce waste and address pollution issues
- Transiting to low carbon green growth/new climate economy for sustainable development

Figure 19: Integration of the SDGs into National Planning
(Source: SDG Helpdesk – ESCAP) ⁴²

⁴⁰ ESCAP Methodology for Integration of the SDGs into National Planning, <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/knowledge-hub/thematic-area/integration-sdgs-national-planning>

⁴¹ System thinking considers the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. it is a holistic approach to analysis that focuses on the way that a system's constituent parts interrelate and how systems work over time and within the context of larger systems. <https://www.techtarget.com/searchcio/definition/systems-thinking>

⁴² SDG Helpdesk - ESCAP, Tools and Methodologies. <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/knowledge-hub/thematic-area/integration-sdgs-national-planning>



An experiential exercise followed this presentation. Participants were supported to engage in an in-depth conversation and made invisible linkages between SDGs and NDCs visible.

Session 6: Regional and Country Examples of SDG and NDC Alignment in Planning Processes

► Aligning SDGs and NDC in planning processes: a regional example from Africa

Speaker: Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, Inter-Regional Adviser, UN Economic Commission for Africa (virtual)

Mr Frank Rutabingwa gave an overview of policy alignment at the regional level and discussed the Africa specific approach of aligning country SDGs with the “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”. When mapping the two agendas, it became evident that SDGs and Agenda 2063 are different in scope. While SDGs cover social, environmental and economic dimensions, Agenda 2063 also includes political, cultural and other African priorities. Yet, overlapping and coherence exist especially in the areas of poverty eradication (SDG 1), ending hunger (SDG 2), combating climate change (SDG 13) and partnerships for implementation (SDG 17).

Mr Rutabingwa warned that climate change remains an existential threat to Africa. Africa has 17% of global population yet accounts for only 4% of CO₂ emissions; of which 3 countries - South Africa, Egypt and Algeria - accounted for 60% of the CO₂ emissions in 2022. Africa also suffers extensive climate-related loss and damage – losing on average 5% of GDP and some countries diverting up to 9% of the annual budgets to respond to climate change impact. US\$2.8 trillion is needed to implement Africa’s NDCs, but less than 2% of the US\$11.7 trillion global investments in clean energy over the last decade have been invested in Africa.

African countries urgently need to link SDGs and NDC in their country development planning process, because climate change impact has already manifested in many ways from food security, to employment, health, housing, safety and economic growth. Climate change also derailed economic progress and undermined the path to sustainable development. Direct economic loss as a share of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa has been on steady increase since 2017, from 0.56% in 2017 to 2.94% in 2022. Direct economic loss averages 1.73% of GDP during 2015-2022, a percentage that is six times higher than the global average (0.3%). The financial resources required for implementing Africa's NDCs is estimated to be US\$2.8 trillion.

These negative impacts would continue to exacerbate population displacement, mass migrations that could lead to instability and wars. Already prone to natural and man-made disasters, climate change undermines Africa's capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (the 2030 Agenda), Aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063 and honour their international commitments and obligations. Figure 20 projects key risks for Africa with increasing global warming.

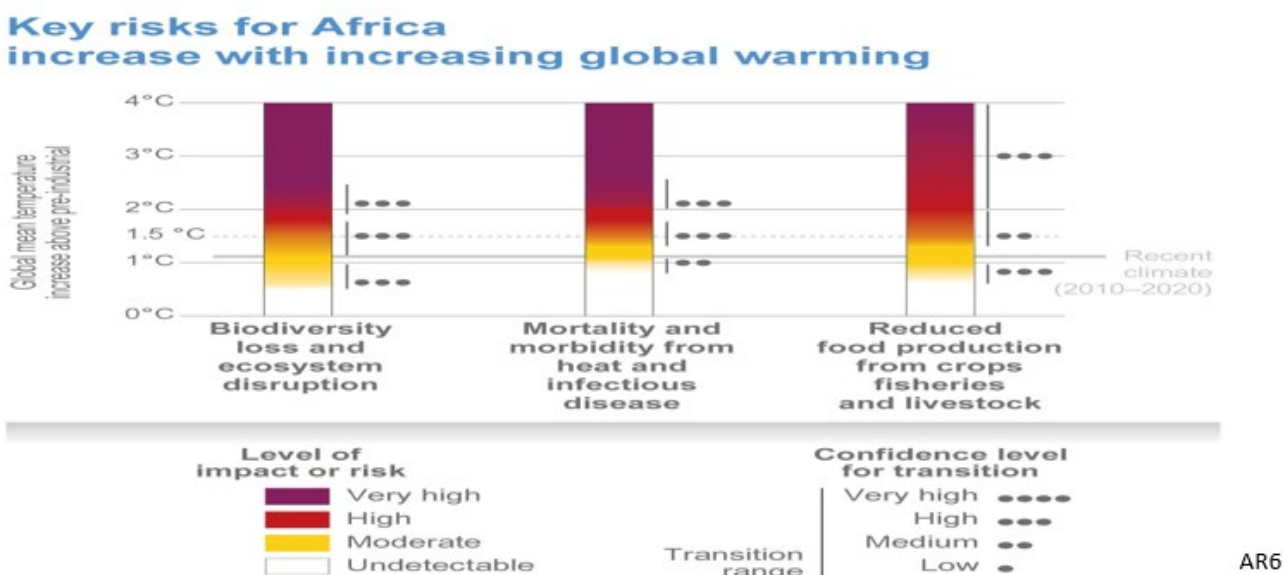


Figure 20: Increasing key risks for Africa with increasing global warming
(Source: The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of IPCC)⁴³

To date, 45 countries submitted revised NDCs. However, 2023 GST showed current efforts and plans are insufficient to put the world on track to achieve the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. According to Mr Rutabingwa, ECA would continue to support countries in the region to mainstream climate actions in development planning, in addition to preparing and strengthening VNRs and NDCs 3.0.

⁴³ IPCC, 2023, The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

► **Country Example of Mexico: Aligning SDGs and NDCs in national planning processes**

Speakers: **Ms. Ana Montano Medina**, General Director for Sustainable Development Actions Oversight, Secretariat of Economy and **Mr. José Abraham Ortíz Álvarez**, General Coordinator of Climate Change of Mexico, INECC, Mexico.

Two countries, Mexico and Kenya, were highlighted in the UN Synergy Report. Ms Ana Montano Medina and Mr Jose Abraham Ortiz Alvarez spoke of Mexico's experience in aligning SDGs and NDCs in the national planning processes (2019-2024). This national development plan applied a humanist model and put the poor first. The motto of Mexico's National Development (NDP) was "leaving no one behind, leaving no one out!" with concrete results of significant poverty alleviation.

The NDP contained three enabling axes for sustainable development, namely, environment for wellbeing, fight against corruption and triggering economic growth. The 2030 Agenda was institutionalised two bodies, the Executive Secretariat of the 2030 Agenda of the National Council and the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change⁴⁴. While the former is responsible for developing the sector programmes of the administration, overseeing federal expenditure projects and state development plans, the latter is in charge of creating general laws and regulations on climate change.

Mexico has presented its VNR report four times at the HLPF in 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2024. Its approach also evolved through a process of democratising the agenda, communicating with people about the sustainable development goals and reporting on these activities to the more recent VNR 2024⁴⁵ which adopted a qualitative approach of storytelling as means to humanising data and statistics and to highlight successful projects and initiatives. This method allowed deeper insights of the local contexts and diversity by giving the community a voice in addition to provide lessons for future efforts.

Results of alignment have been: 18 Sectoral Programmes contemplated sustainable development in work plans. 17 of these programmes sought to impact poverty reduction and 14, fight climate change. 516 (84%) out of the 616 budget programmes were aligned with at least one SDG goal.

Ms Montano Medina and Mr Ortíz Álvarez shared with the group three flagship sustainable development initiatives of the Mexico Government. They are: the sowing life programme (Sembrando Vida); public programmes and private initiatives on youth, training and professional integration (Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro or "Youth Building the Future"); and social and supportive economic initiatives. A brief summary of these flagship programmes and initiatives is presented below.

- Sowing Life Programme (Sembrando Vida⁴⁶) aims to contribute to the social well-being of farmers by promoting food self-sufficiency with actions that favour the reconstruction of the social fabric and the recovery of the environment, through the implementation of plots with

⁴⁴ National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INE), Mexico at <https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/organizations/917>

⁴⁵ Voluntary National Review, Mexico 2024, <https://www.economia.gob.mx/secna2030/infvol/INVMX2024English.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/acciones-y-programas/programa-sembrando-vida>

agroforestry production systems. The program sought to address two problems: rural poverty and environmental degradation.⁴⁷

- Youth Building the Future Programme (“Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro”) created in 2019 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, was to create the conditions for, at least 2.3 million young people who have not participated in the economic productive process of Mexican society, to do so in an active manner. The programme focuses on a model of social co-responsibility between public, private, and social sectors aimed at offering young people a space, support, and structured activities to develop or strengthen work habits and technical skills that promote social inclusion and increase their chances of future employability.⁴⁸

Social and supportive economic initiatives⁴⁹

The connection between NDCs, SDGs and National Development Plan was fully established in 2022 which committed Mexico in reaching a Total of 84 Mt CO₂ emission reduction through a host of economic activities (See Figure 21).



Figure 21: Policy Integration in Mexico (2022)
(Source: National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC))

⁴⁷ Ministry of Welfare, Mexico, 2020, Sowing Life Program, <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/acciones-y-programas/programa-sembrando-vida>

⁴⁸ Youth Building the Future Programme (“Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro”) at <https://www.socialprotection-toolbox.org/practice/mexicos-youth-building-future-programme>

⁴⁹ World Bank Group, 2018, “Increasing social prosperity and promoting inclusive sustainable growth in Mexico”, *Policy Brief*, 30 July. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2018/07/30/increasing-social-prosperity-and-promoting-inclusive-sustainable-growth-in-mexico>

► **Aligning SDGs and NDC in National Planning Processes in Kenya**

Speakers: **Ms. Ressa Kombi**, Senior Climate Change Officer, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry and **Mr. William Komu**, Chief Economist, The National Treasury Economic Planning, State Department for Economic Planning, Kenya

Ms Ressa Kombi spoke on behalf of Kenya and its experience in achieving policy alignment through the integration of Kenya vision 2030 and its NDCs by emphasising sustainable development in energy, agriculture, and forestry. Kenya submitted its updated NDC in December 2020. This updated NDC highlighted Kenya's commitment to make contribution in mitigation and in adaptation. By 2030, it intends to abate GHG emissions by 32% relative to the BAU scenario of 143 MtCO₂eq; and in line with its sustainable development agenda and national circumstances.

For the climate adaptation, Kenya aims to ensure an enhanced resilience to climate change towards the attainment of Vision 2030 by mainstreaming climate change adaptation into the Medium-Term Plans (MTPs) and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and implementing adaptation actions.

Kenya's Climate Change Act (2016) established institutional structures like the Climate Change Directorate for effective NDC implementation. A national Climate Fund was set up to mobilize financial resources. Innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds attracted private investments.

Kenya has also pioneered a climate change governance mechanism to increase finance for local climate action. The County Climate Change Fund (CCCCF) consists of climate legislation enacted by county governments and a county-controlled fund that finances climate projects identified and prioritised by local communities. Originally designed by a multi-stakeholder coalition with the aim to increase capacity for local development planning and climate change adaptation in some of Kenya's most vulnerable regions, the CCCCf evolved to encompass mitigation measures and effectively influenced national climate policy.

Figure 22 captured the strategy applied in Kenya for aligning SDGs and the NDCs in the national planning process.



How is Kenya aligning SDGs and the NDC in the national planning processes?

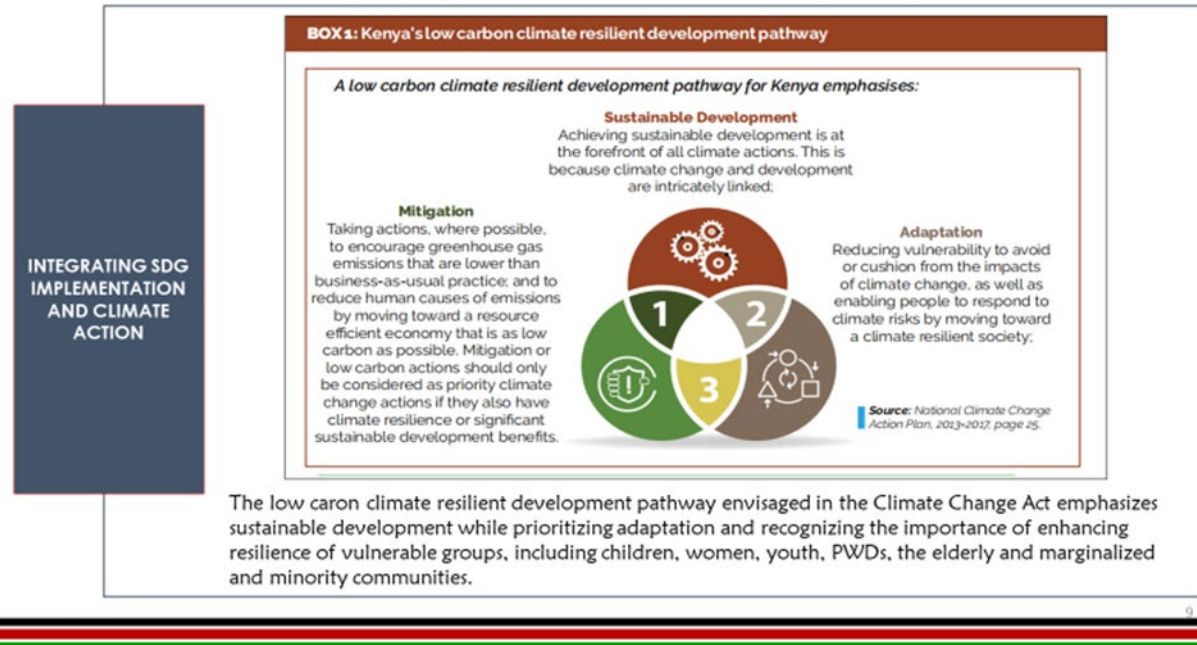


Figure 22 Strategy adopted in Kenya for aligning SDGs and the NDCs in the national planning process (Source: State Department for Economic Planning, Kenya, 2024)

Examples of the policy integration between national planning objectives with SDGs can be seen in Figure 23 below.



Figure 23: Policy integration between national planning objectives with SDGs (Source: State Department for Economic Planning, Kenya, 2024)

Session 9: Entry points for realizing coherent implementation of NDCs and SDGs

► Entry points for realizing coherent implementation of NDCs and SDGs: FINANCE

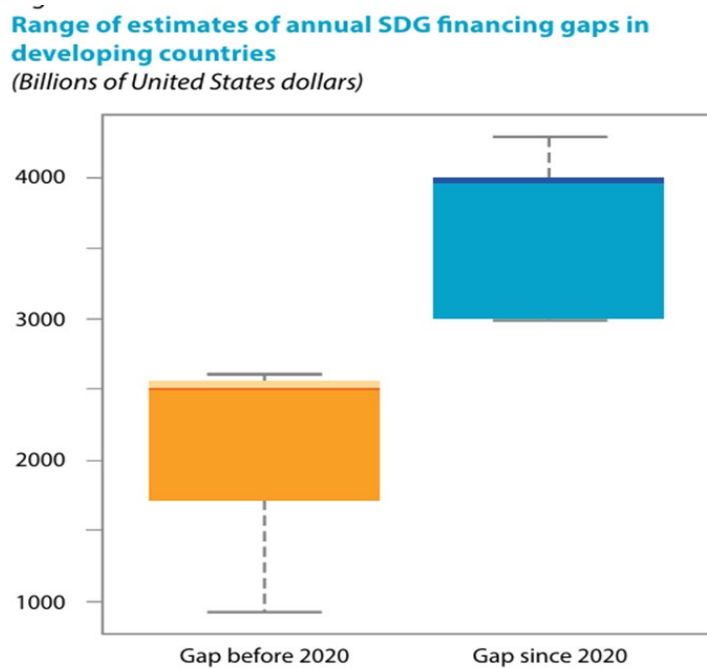
Speaker: Mr. Adrián Flores-Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership

Mr Flores-Aguilar introduced NDC Partnership. It was established as a global coalition which brings together developed and developing countries and institutions to deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.⁵⁰ It is important to note that NDC Partnership is a facilitator, not a financier nor a project implementer.

Mr Flores-Aguilar went on to discuss the SDG financing gaps that existed. This financing gap is one of the main contributors to the fact that around half of the 140 SDG targets for which sufficient data is available are deviating from the required path. According to the Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024⁵¹ there is around \$2.5 trillion to \$4 trillion annual shortfall (see Figure 24). LDCs and LICs face the most significant gaps, with estimates ranging between around 15 per cent and 30 per cent of their respective GDP.

The situation is particularly acute for local communities. Despite fundraising and project development efforts, local communities often receive only a fraction of the intended funds. Bridging this gap between fund allocation and local impact is crucial for effective climate action.

Figure 24: Range of estimates of annual SDG financing gaps
(Source: Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024)

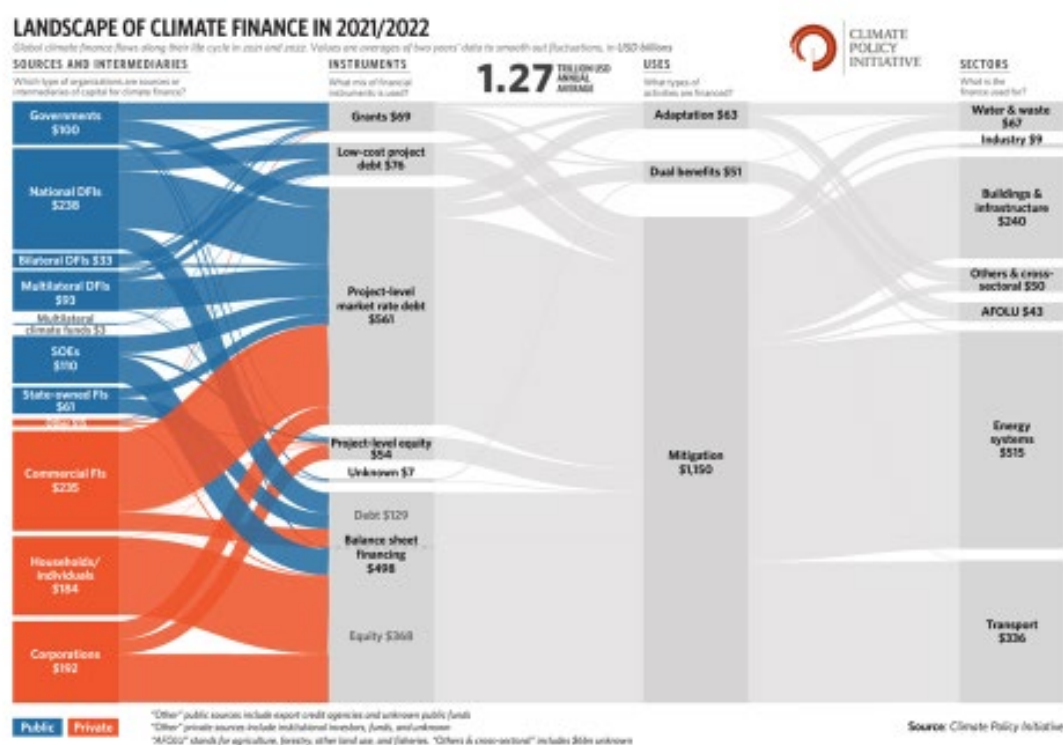


⁵⁰ NDC Partnership, <https://ndcpartnership.org/>

⁵¹ UN DESA FSDO, 2024, Financing For Sustainable Development Report 2024 <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/financing-sustainable-development-report-2024>

Mirroring the case of the SDG, finance is at the core of achieving climate targets. The Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023⁵² report estimated that by 2030 an average of global climate finance of US\$8.9 trillion are needed annually and US\$10 trillion from then on by 2050. The gaps in climate finance are particularly acute for adaptation efforts, especially in developing countries. Figure 25 presents the landscape of climate financing in 2021/2022. Private actors contributed 49% of the total climate financing. East Asia and the Pacific, the US and Canada, and Western Europe collectively accounted for 84% of total climate finance. China stood out for its significant domestic climate finance mobilization, surpassing all other countries combined, representing 51% of global domestic climate finance. Another point that stood out in this financing landscape was that out of the total financing of US\$1,264 billion, 91% or US\$1,150 billion went to climate mitigation projects, with another 4% for dual purpose projects. This investment trend was in no doubt favouring developed countries and leaving the vulnerable developing countries with only 63% of the global financing flow to deal with their climate vulnerability.

Figure 25: Understanding the Gaps
(Source: Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023)



Mr Flores-Aguilar warned about the debt risk and finance divide. The main financial instrument used by the countries is debt financing. Countries, particularly those reliant on debt instruments, depend

⁵² Buchner, B, Naran, B., Padmanabhi, R., Stout, S., Strinati, C., Wignarajah, D., Miao, G., Connolly, J. and Marini, N., 2023, "The Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023", Climate Policy Initiative, 2 Nov. <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-2023/>

on international cooperation. Otherwise, they run a high risk of insolvency due to endogenous or indigenous crises. Developing countries also face challenges in accessing both long-term and contingency financing, leading to a finance divide.

To scale the quantity and quality of climate finance, there is an urgent need to mobilize more domestic capital. Four pathways were suggested. They are:

- Reforming financial institutions such as multilateral development banks
- Bridging climate and development needs - Public subsidies and private investments in fossil fuels remain high, contradicting SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality.
- Mobilising domestic capital – through policy, regulatory, and tax frameworks (enabling environments) need to be aligned with SDGs and climate action to incentivize private investment.
- Acting to improve data - Creation/strengthening of capacities.

At the UNFCCC COP21 in 2015, Parties decided that a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance shall be set prior to 2025, from a floor of US\$100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.⁵³ International discussions around climate finance i.e., NCQG and around NDCs 3.0 must be leveraged to advance SDG achievement. The NDC update process⁵⁴, as well as current NDC Investment planning processes⁵⁵, can help advance the SDG agenda.

Five categories of finance requests were made, namely:

- a) Project preparation in developing bankable projects and pipelines (62%),
- b) Integrating NDCs into national planning budgets (19%),
- c) Project and program financing and resource mobilization (10%),
- d) Developing climate finance strategies and financial roadmaps (5%),
- e) Private sector engagement (4%) (see Figure 26).

For project preparation, 94% of the requests for help were related to project financing, construction and operation. To align SDGs and climate finance, a robust investment planning process can help identify and address systematic barriers and capacity gaps and develop enabling conditions for financier engagement.

⁵³ UNFCCC, New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. 2023. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC_NCQG2023_flyer_web.pdf

⁵⁴ UN Climate Action. All About the NDCs <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/all-about-ndcs>

⁵⁵ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & World Resources Institute (WRI). 2019, “Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans.” <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal/climate-toolbox/enhancing-ndcs-guide-strengthening-national-climate-plans>

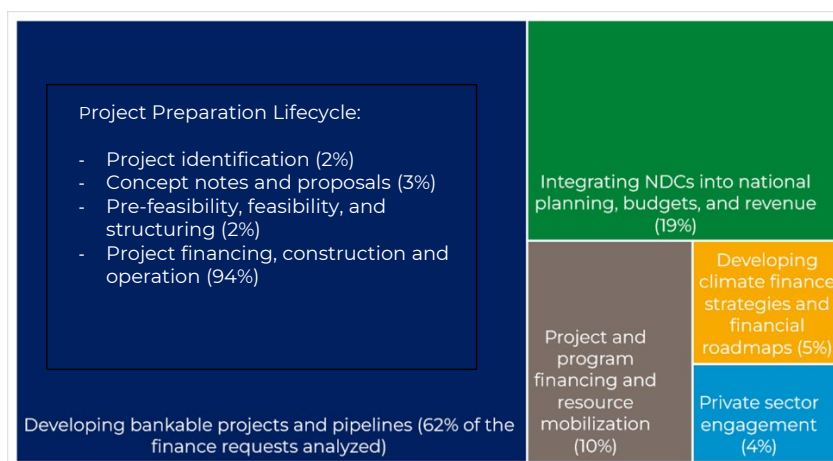


Figure 26: Categories of Finance Requests
(Source: NDC Partnership in the presentation of A. Flores-Aguilar, 2024)

Finally, Mr. Flores-Aguilar reminded all the cost of inaction could be high (see Figure 27).

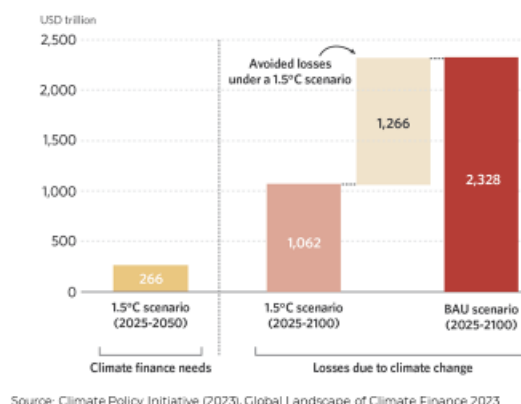


Figure 27: Estimated Costs of Inaction or BAU scenario compared to capping the temperature rise at 1.5 degree Celsius.

(Source: Climate Policy Initiative (2023) Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023)⁵⁶

► Knowledge and data as means for realising synergies

Speaker: Mr. Adis Dzebo, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

“Knowledge and data (K&D) play a crucial role in guiding practitioners to adopt synergistic approaches to climate and sustainable development actions by offering clarity on synergies, helping navigate policy landscapes, providing localized and contextualized strategies, facilitating knowledge sharing, demonstrating interactions between policies, engaging stakeholders, and translating national commitments to local actions, especially in cities”⁵⁷.

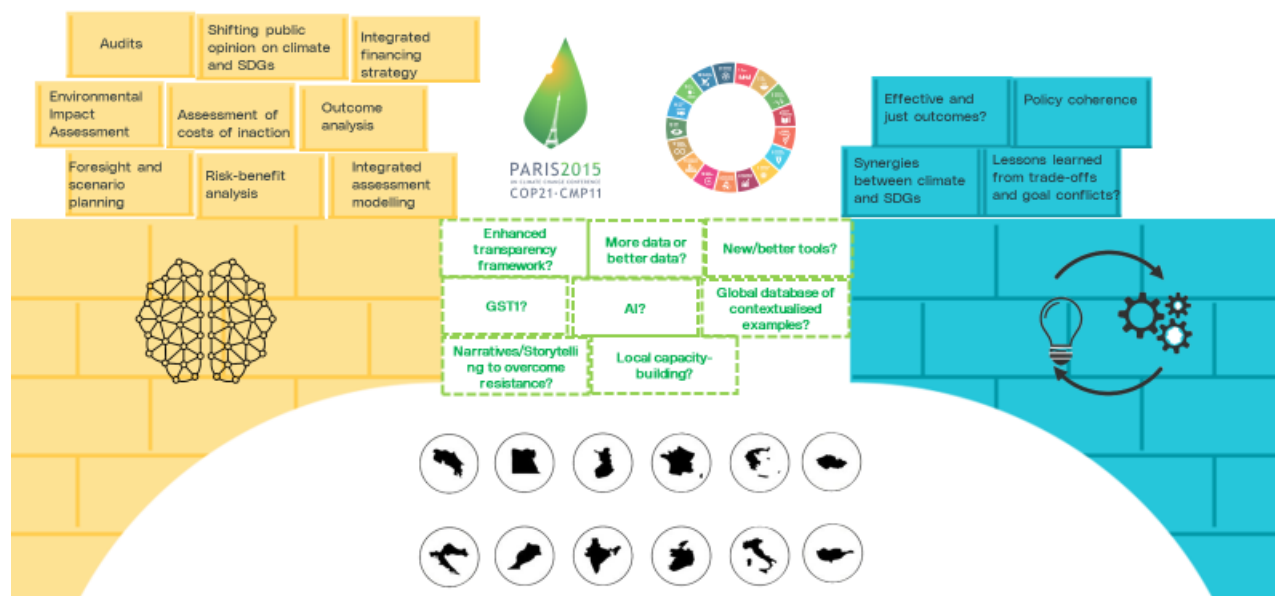
⁵⁶ ditto

⁵⁷ Echeverri, L.G., Bustamante, M. & Jun, M., Rafa, N., Rovenskaya, E., Fujino, J., Suzman, E., Creutzig, F. &

Barriers exist between scientific evidence and implementation of synergistic action. These barriers arose from multiple sources. Fragmentation of knowledge dissemination not reflecting the holistic nature of the climate challenges and interconnected developmental processes is a key barrier diminishing the quality of decision making. Proliferated tools for policy analysis and planning based on different theoretic models and data sources caused challenges of interoperability or comparability of the policy solutions. Scientific findings were not communicated in manners that are digestible to the policy makers. Coupled with methodological inaccessibility and silo orientation, both communities tended to delay adoption of cutting-edge policy thinking and future proof the national development planning.

The largest knowledge and data gaps that prevent synergistic action, according to Dr Dzebo, included risk-benefit analysis, assessment of costs of inaction (“BAU”), environment impact assessment, foresight and scenario planning etc. on the side of scientific inquiry; while on the side of the policy making, gaps tended to fall on policy (in)coherence, effective and just outcomes, lessons learned from trade-offs and goal conflicts. Dr Dzebo postulated eight possible bridges that could close the gap between scientific evidence and applied synergistic action. They were: Enhanced transparency framework, more data or better data, new or better tools, Global Stocktake 1, Artificial Intelligence, global database of contextualised examples, narratives and storytelling to overcome resistance and local capacity building to generate localised knowledge and data (see Figure 28).

Bridging the gap between scientific evidence and applied synergistic action



Oni, T., 2024. “Seeking Synergy Solutions Integrating Climate and SDG Knowledge and Data for Action”. Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy. at <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Thematic%20Report%20on%20Knowledge%20and%20Data-061024.pdf>

Figure 28: Bridging the gap between scientific evidence and applied synergistic actions
(Source: Adis Dzebo, 2024)

A global database is no penicillin, cautioned Dr Dzebo. There are limits to global indexes. Existing global aggregate indices do not consider major factors of all sustainability pillars, being biased toward some of them. None of the global indices can be deemed as an accurate measure to appraise the fulfilment of the SDGs. This means that about 60% of the measures set to monitor progress toward sustainable development are of little value as observed by Diaz-Sarachaga, Jato-Espino and Castro-Fresno in their publication entitled, “Is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index an adequate framework to measure the progress of the 2030 Agenda” (2018).⁵⁸

► Stakeholder engagement for aligning VNR and NDC

Speaker: Ms. Miki Fukuda, Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

Ms Fukuda addressed three essential questions. What is stakeholder engagement in VNRs? In NDCs? And what constitutes meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement?

In the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 on the 2030 Agenda, the Preamble highlights “a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.” There is a reference that all implementation and follow-up processes to be participatory and inclusive, including all levels and sectors of government, civil society and the private sector, members of parliament, and national human rights institutions, among others (A/RES/70/1 para 74 and 84).⁵⁹ Stakeholders were also recognized as valuable partners in implementing SDG Goals and raising public awareness (UN DESA, 2024, Page 4. 4.). SDG 16 offers key principles to guide meaningful participation and guidance on stakeholder engagement to achieve the SDGs is becoming increasingly available.⁶⁰

In the UNFCCC “NDC Synthesis Report 2023”, it was mentioned that of the 79% of the Parties that referred to formal arrangements in place for domestic stakeholder consultation, 93% indicated that they conducted consultations and engagement in an inclusive and participatory manner and 81% of those specifically referenced gender-sensitive consultations. In the First Global Stocktake Report, a strongly worded commitment to stakeholder participation was also present. It stated,

“Reaffirms that sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis must be founded on meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and governments, women, and youth and children, and notes that the global transition to low emissions and climate-resilient development provides

⁵⁸ Diaz-Sarachaga, Jato-Espino and Castro-Fresno (2018), “Is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index an adequate framework to measure the progress of the 2030 Agenda”. *Sustainable Development*. Vol. 26 (6), November/December. P. 663-671. at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/sd.1735>

⁵⁹ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

⁶⁰Stakeholder Engagement, <https://www.sdg16hub.org/landing-page/stakeholder-engagement#:~:text=A%20diverse%20group%20of%20stakeholders,its%20implementation%2C%20monitoring%20and%20reporting.>

opportunities and challenges for sustainable development and poverty eradication” (article 9, page 3)⁶¹

Stakeholders represent a diverse group of actors regarding public policies. Officially, there are Nine Major Groups of Stakeholders and other Stakeholders. There is a coordination mechanism with clear Terms of Reference to ensure meaningful participation of the stakeholders in the HLPF process.⁶² Similar domestic institutional arrangements should be considered.

Session 10: Financing the NDCs and SDGs

► Introduction to the Theme

Moderator: Raymond Saner, Director, Diplomacy Dialogue, CSEND and Titular Professor, Basle University

Prof Saner introduced this important topic of financing the NDCs and SDGs based on the analysis from the IMF Study of 2019 and warned that,

“Investments to achieve the SDGs are needed in education, health, roads, electricity, water and sanitation.....For emerging market economies the average additional spending required represents about 4 % of GDP. Raising this amount is a considerable task, but in most cases these countries can rely on their own resources to finance the SDG targets.

However, the challenge is much greater for low-income developing countries, where the average additional spending represents 15 % of their GDP!”^{63 64}

Obtaining funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)⁶⁵, Green Climate Fund (GCF)⁶⁶, Adaptation Fund (AF)⁶⁷ and other sources can be difficult due to competition and eligibility. There is often significant competition for funding, especially for popular sectors or themes. Developing and Least Developed countries may have to compete against other countries and organizations for limited resources. These funds typically have eligibility criteria that projects must meet to receive funding. While some funds prioritize projects from DCs and LDCs, meeting the specific criteria can still be a challenge. The presentation by Mr Flores-Aguilar has already highlighted the needed institutional capacities to prepare bankable projects for financing.

⁶¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on its fifth session, held in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 13 December 2023. FCCC/PA/ CMA/2023/16/Add.1, 15 March, 2024.

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_16a01_adv_0.pdf

⁶² Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGOS-CM) Terms of Reference. 2020. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/migrated/documents/27114MGoS_TOR18_Dec_2020.pdf

⁶³ Quote from CSEND (2014), Monitoring of SDG Implementation Infrastructure and Methodology: Proposal for Action, http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/Monitoring_SDG_Infrastructure_Methodology.pdf

⁶⁴ Vitor Gaspar et.al. 2019, Fiscal Policy and Development, Human, Social, and Physical Investment for the SDGs. *IMF Staff Discussion Note*. SDN/19/3. <https://doi.org/10.5089/9781484388914.006>

⁶⁵ <https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fiftrustee/fund-detail/gef>

⁶⁶ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>

⁶⁷ <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/>

The climate financing reached US\$1.3 trillion in 2021/22⁶⁸ nearly doubling the 2019/2020 levels⁶⁸. The increase was primarily driven by a significant increase in mitigation finance. In the meantime, development aid since the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted from grants to loans which has increased the debt burden of the developing countries. According to UNCTAD, the debt servicing costs has escalated compared to 2021. Collectively, the developing countries paid US\$847 billion in net interest on their debts, marking a 26% increase from 2021. Half of these countries now spend a minimum of 8% of their government revenues for debt servicing.⁶⁹ Specifically, 54 developing nations, nearly half of which are in Africa, dedicated at least 10% of their government funds to debt interest payments in 2023. Debt servicing has diverted already restricted resources further away from more mid-term and long-term investments needed to mitigate and adapt to the climate change impact in these countries.

Different classes of investors are active in the climate financing scene, from private sector organisation to governments and international organisations (Figure 29)⁷⁰. Additionally, the private foundations or philanthropic organisations often acting on behalf of private wealth, stand at US\$454.4 trillion by the end of 2022 and will reach US\$629 trillion by 2027 (UBS, 2024).⁷¹

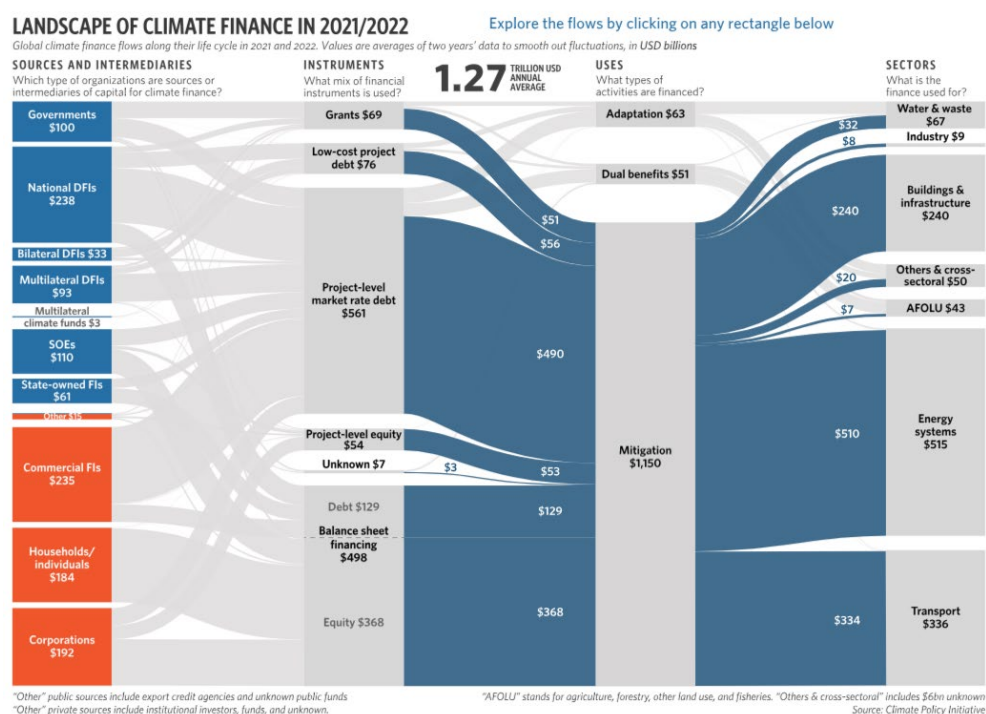


Figure 29: Landscape of climate finance in 2021/2022 (source: Climate Policy Institute, 2023)

In the context of avoiding further accumulation of debt by the developing countries, deeper engagement with the philanthropic organisations through Public-Private and Civil Society

⁶⁸ Buchner, B. et.al. 2023. Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023. Climate Policy Institute. <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-2023/>

⁶⁹ UNCTAD, 2024, "A world of debt 2024: A growing burden to global prosperity". https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osgttinf2024d1_en.pdf

⁷⁰ Global landscape of climate finance 2023, ditto.

⁷¹ UBS, 2024, Global Wealth Report 2024. <https://www.ubs.com/global/en/wealth-management/insights/global-wealth-report.html>

Partnerships (PPPPs) could be one viable option. After all, well-endowed philanthropic organisations have a financial capacity far beyond that of many developing country governments. PPPPs have also been included in the SDGs as Target 17.17, i.e., “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.” PPPPs as a financing vehicle are not without financial risks (see Figure 30).

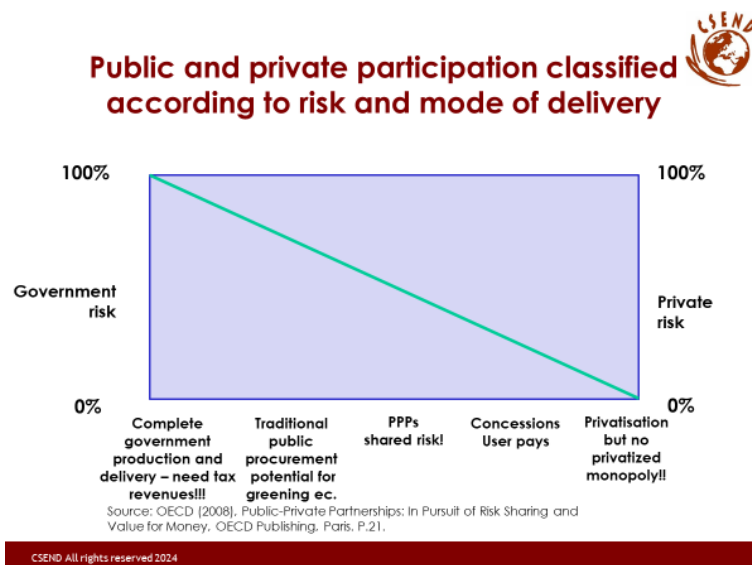


Figure 30: Public and private participation classified according to risk and mode of delivery (Source: OECD, 2008, Public-Private Partnerships: In Pursuit of Risk Sharing and Value for Money, P.21)⁷²

To mitigate the real risk of loading even more debt burden by the developing countries with relatively weak public institutions and high vulnerabilities, careful adherence to good governance standards should be a priority besides creating more enabling conditions for the private sectors and philanthropic organisations to participate in the implementation of the SDGs and NDCs. SDG 16 with its Target 16.5 on anti-corruption, Target 16.6 on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions on all levels and Target 16.7 on ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels must be the rule book in implementing Public-Private-People-Partnerships (PPPPs) and attracting climate and development financing. People in this context meaning civil society organisations such as cooperatives or local community organisation.

To ensure synergistic and relatively low-cost SDG-NDC activities, Prof Saner suggested that it would be useful to form a joint working group for funding and resource mobilisation consisting of the ministry in charge of SDGs implementation and the ministry in charge of the NDCs. The two parties should negotiate a joint strategy putting emphasis on synergistic and reasonably low-cost actions. As a second step, to meet with the Ministry of Finance to discuss whether the joint strategy and action plan can be financed by the national budget or needs external sourcing, for example, through domestic private sector support or favourable low interest loans at reasonable payback conditions from external sources.

⁷² OECD (2008), Public-Private Partnerships: In Pursuit of Risk Sharing and Value for Money, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264046733-en>.

Cooperatives can be a source for PPP projects for climate funding. Cooperatives by definition exercise shared decision making and tend to be more community based. Therefore, partnering with cooperatives can mediate the debt exposure and reduce credit risk induced default. Examples are Evergreened (Energy Transition)⁷³ in Germany, Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia (ALiSEA),⁷⁴ Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA)⁷⁵ and Ethiopian Coffee Cooperatives⁷⁶

► **Financing the NDCs & SDGs - Introducing the Climate Investment Planning & Mobilization Framework**

Speaker: Ms. Selina Wrighter, Head of Policy and Strategy, Green Climate Fund

As the world's largest climate fund, GCF accelerates transformative climate action in developing countries through a country-owned partnership approach and use of flexible financing solutions and climate investment expertise.⁷⁷ Ms Wrighter gave an overview of the GCF's activities and performance. At the time of the presentation, the total number of projects GCF was supporting was 253 in 128 developing countries (Figure 31), representing US\$53 billion mobilised. (Note: An updated figure of US\$58.3 billion is shown⁷⁸)

⁷³Energiewende (Energy Transition), a long-term energy and climate strategy to move Germany towards a climate-neutral energy system by 2045. It consists local energy coopeatives, municipal governments and private energy companies. <https://www.agora-energiawende.org/about-us/the-german-energiawende/q1-what-is-the-german-energiawende#:~:text=The%20German%20energy%20transition%2C%20known,neutral%20energy%20system%20by%202045>.

⁷⁴ ALiSEA's partners include agricultural cooperatives (people), national governments (public sector), and international development agencies. <https://ali-sea.org/>

⁷⁵ Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA). KTDA (cooperatives of a smallholder tea farmers) collaborates with the Kenyan government and private companies to enhance tea production and market access. <https://ktdateas.com/>

⁷⁶ Ethiopian Coffee Cooperatives, an entity made up of Sidama coffee cooperatives, Ethiopian government and international buyers. <https://www.sidamacoffee.com/>

⁷⁷A Unique Fund for Humanity's Greatest Challenge, 2024. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>

⁷⁸GCF Portfolio dashboard, accessed on 21 July, 2024 at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/dashboard>

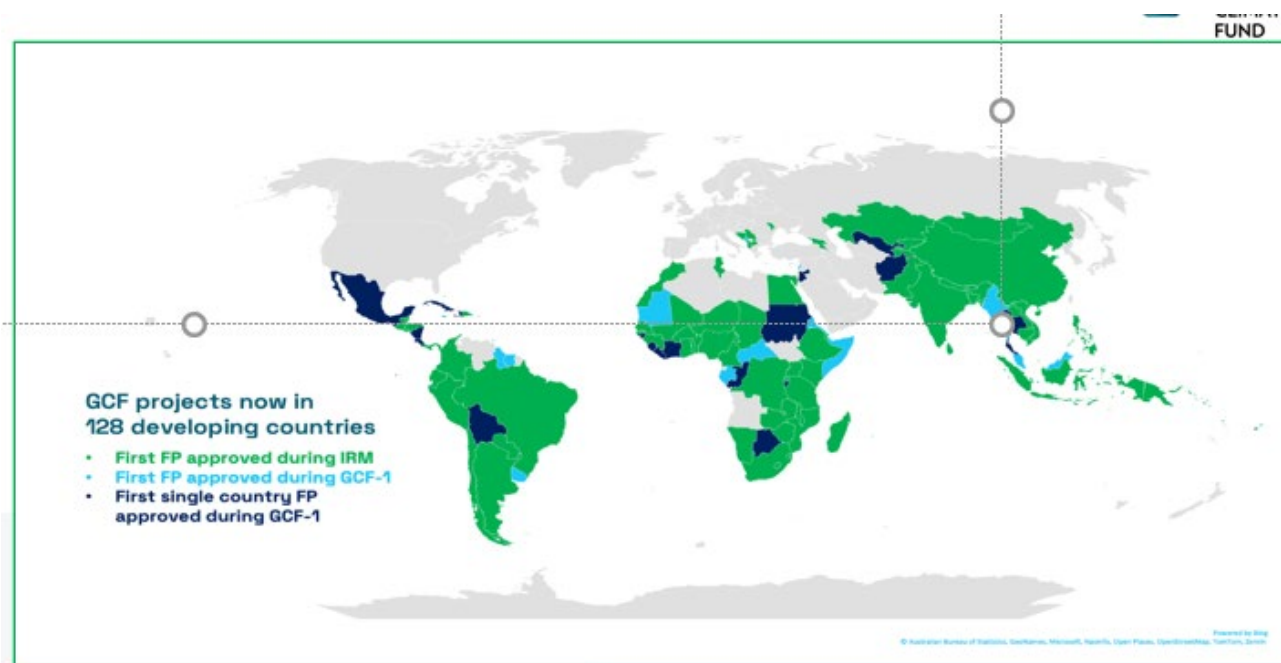


Figure 31: Geographic distribution of the GCF Project Portfolio around the world
(Source: Green Climate Fund, 2023)

The impetus for the GCF Strategic Plan 2024-2027⁷⁹, Ms Wrighter proclaimed, rest on three operating principles, i.e., latest science as presented in the IPCC reports; triggering growing ambition from a widening set of actors based on enhanced finance, greater coordination and complementarity; and lastly linked challenges by addressing development, energy, food, debt, biodiversity crises in conjunction with the climate fight. Consequently, GCF will be dedicated to realise NDCs, NAPs and long-term strategies and work to translate country priorities into climate projects and investment. It is envisioned that access to GCF would be made more predictable, faster, simpler, complementary to other financing. Partnerships and direct access will be made available to improve on efficiency of the processes. Finally, the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan emphasised the role of project financing for driving climate results to advance readiness, mitigation, adaptation and private sector participation.

GCF is positioned for scaling and market creation. Figure 32 captured the landscape and other actors in terms of risk-appetite and average ticket size. At the risk axis, it reflected the maturity of markets and asset classes. The average ticket size reflected the small-scale experimentation to scaling and market creation. GCF is positioned in medium to higher risk with the capital investment at the medium capitalisation. In other words, GCF will locate itself in the lower end of the fourth quadrum.

⁷⁹ GCF Strategic Plan 2024-2027, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/strategic-plan-green-climate-fund-2024-2027>

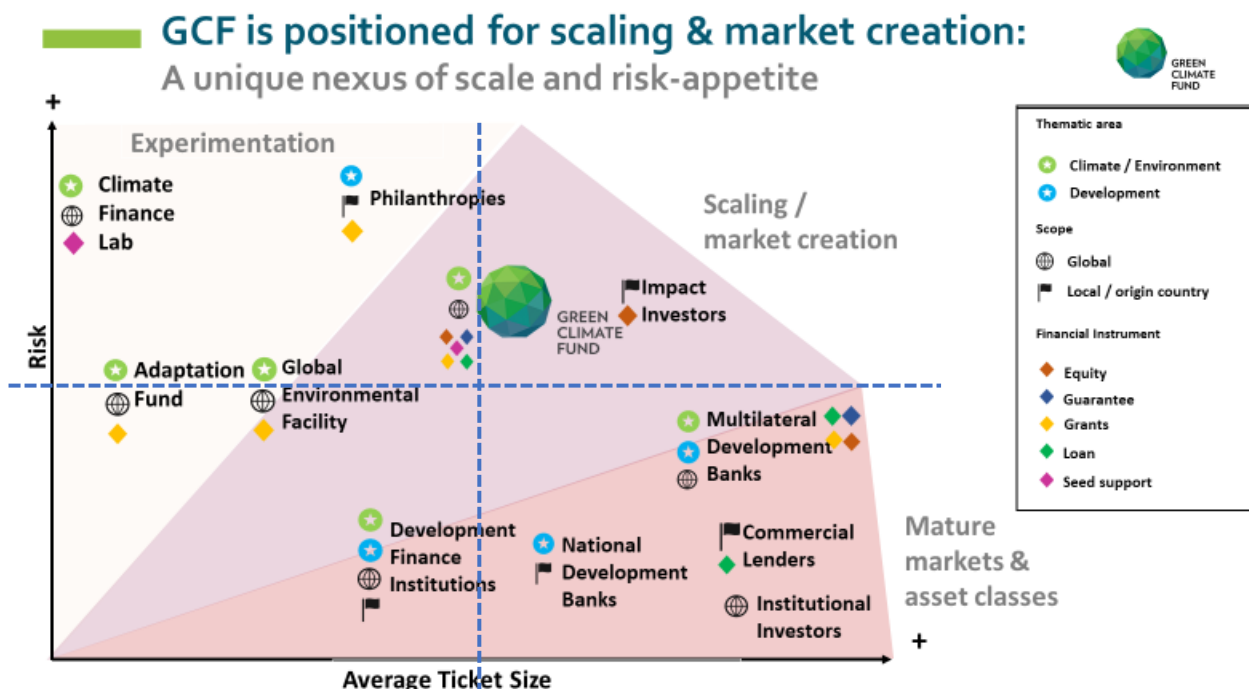


Figure 32: GCF's unique nexus of scale and risk-appetite
(Source: adopted from GCF Strategic Plan 2024-2027)

Moving from planning to action: The NDC partnership and the Green Climate Fund launch the Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework⁸⁰ This Framework was inspired by a shared vision: to find a common language for diverse actors across governments, development partners, the private sector, and the finance sector to communicate their priorities, needs, challenges and lessons learned, as the world collectively work towards planning and mobilizing finance for climate investments.

The Framework has been built with the understanding that investment planning is a dynamic and iterative process shaped by each country's unique context, ambition, and capability. Various countries and financiers may begin this process at different stages; therefore, the Framework outlines a general path through which investment planning and mobilization advances, allowing countries to better identify how to transform their priorities into investments, as well as the support they may need along the way.

The process from investment planning to financial mobilisation consists of six stages and three dimensions. The six stages include:

Stage 1: Investment planning and mobilization capacity (Countries have opportunities to engage in country platforms, engage inclusive stakeholders from various backgrounds.)

Stage 2: Investment needs identification and prioritization

⁸⁰ Green Climate Fund, 2023, Moving from planning to action: The NDC partnership and the Green Climate Fund launch the Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/moving-planning-action-ndc-partnership-and-green-climate-fund-launch-climate-investment>

Stage 3: Financing Strategy (opportunities include public-private sector financing pathways)

Stage 4: Programming with financial partners (opportunities include programming for multiple benefits)

Stage 5: Funding proposal development

Stage 6: Project implementation

The three dimensions detail components required for each stage of the planning-to-mobilisation process, and the expected outcomes for tracking and reporting. Last dimension addresses the support or enabling conditions needed for each stage to be implemented fully and well (see Figure 33).

GCF/NDC Partnership Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework

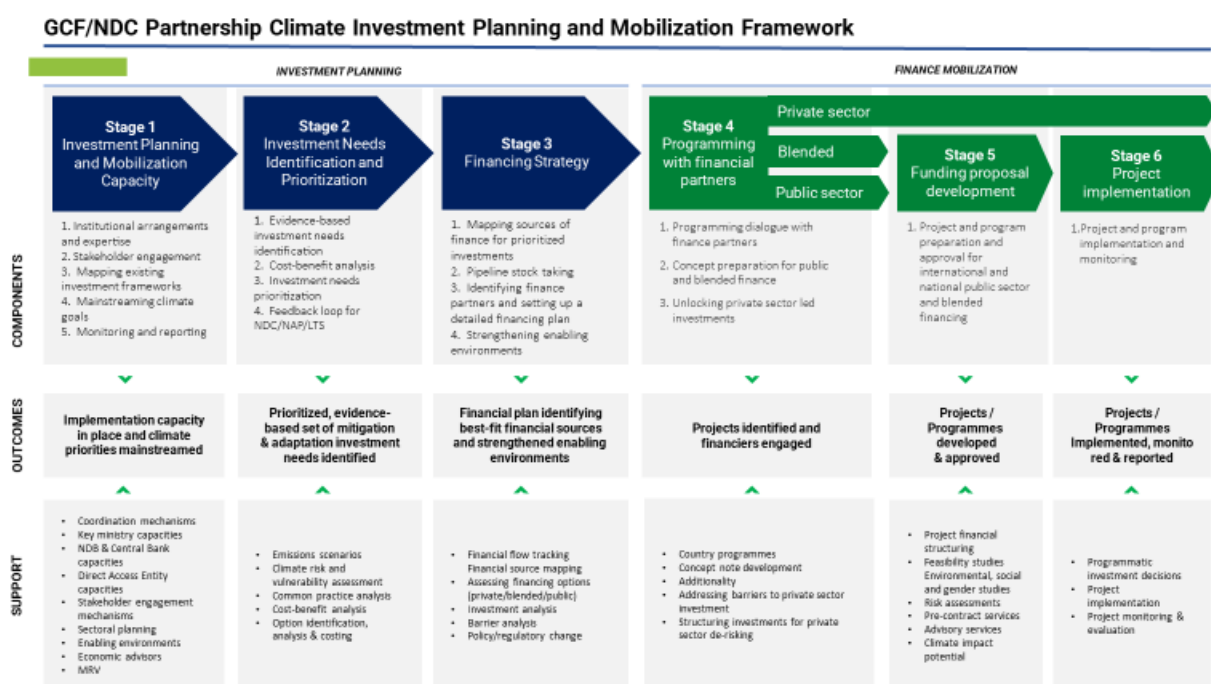


Figure 33: GCF/NDC Partnership Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework
(Source: GCF/NDC Partnership, 2023)

Session 11: Group discussion and Country presentations on financing

► Country Presentation: Fiji's Experience

Speakers: Ms. Deepitika Chand, Senior Climate Change Mitigation Officer, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Mr. Andrew Coriakula, Sustainable Development Specialist, Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance, Fiji

Fiji is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), but large ocean state with more than 330 islands spread across 18,275 square kilometres spanning across 1.3 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone. Population of Fiji is less than 900,000 people in total. Its economy is highly dependent on

tourism and suffers from high volatility of global economic trends especially the rising oil and food prices.

The GHG emission as of 2019 was 0.004% of the total global emissions. Fiji has initiated a great deal of climate legislation and policies, including INDC and NDC, NAPs, Fiji Climate Change Act 2021⁸¹, carbon market^{82 83}, Low Emission Development Strategy 2018-2050⁸⁴ and climate induced relocation⁸⁵⁸⁶.

Ms. Deepitika Chand and Mr. Andrew Coriakula shared a set of Fiji's climate finance policies and plans and highlighted the finance gaps identified during the Climate Finance Snapshot 2016-2019 period (see Table 6). The transport sector received most funding percentage wise in covering its estimated needs (68.75%), while electricity and disaster risk management received funding covering only 17.08% and 8% of estimated needs respectively.

⁸¹ The Fiji Government, 2021, Climate Change Act 2021, <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/#1700684836371-c6836875-0021>

⁸² Fiji's National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap. <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/?s=carbon+market+&id=1249>

⁸³ Carbon Market Institute. Fiji National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap, accessed 21.07.2024 <https://carbonmarketinstitute.org/international-markets-fiji/>

⁸⁴ Fiji's Low Emission Development Strategy 2018-2050, https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Brief__The_Fiji_Low_Emissions_Development_Strategy_Policy.pdf

⁸⁵ Regional Talanoa on Climate Induced Planned Relocation: Reflections, Insights, Stories. 2023. Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Fiji and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. <https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Report-Regional-Talanoa-05Oct.pdf>

⁸⁶ Paulo Baleinakorodawa & Volker Boege, 2024, "Climate change-induced community relocation in Fiji: Challenges and ways forward", Toda Peace Institute.at UNDDR PreventWeb. <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/climate-change-induced-community-relocation-fiji-challenges-and-ways-forward>



SECTOR	AVERAGE ANNUAL ALLOCATED* FUNDING (FJD PER YEAR)	PERCENT OF ESTIMATED ALLOCATIONS	AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE* (FJD PER YEAR)	PERCENT OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES*	TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL NEEDS** (FJD PER YEAR)	PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL ESTIMATED NEEDS**
Disaster Risk Managements	FJD 779,784,007	40.18%	FJD 197,340,721	25.24%	FJD 275,870,000	8.39%
Transport	FJD 636,150,348	32.78%	FJD 383,434,761	49.04%	FJD 2,259,277,427	68.75%
Water and Sanitation	FJD 173,185,475	8.92%	FJD 86,370,851	11.05%	FJD 162,650,000	4.95%
Electricity	FJD 88,417,134	4.56%	FJD 55,204,518	7.06%	FJD 561,663,741	17.09%
Agriculture	FJD 74,060,965	3.82%	FJD 32,681,315	4.18%	FJD 1,247,429	0.04%
Blue Economy	FJD 72,374,383	3.73%	FJD 7,784,803	0.99%	FJD 5,470,000	0.17%
Policy and Governance	FJD 56,899,171	3.09%	FJD 9,219,412	1.18%	FJD 500,000	0.02%
Housing	FJD 30,164,062	1.55%	FJD 5,590,975	0.72%	FJD 11,390,000	0.35%
Health	FJD 11,308,348	0.58%	FJD 0	0.00%	FJD 130,000	0.00%
Forests	FJD 10,138,681	0.52%	FJD 4,221,067	0.54%	FJD 7,789,663	0.24%
Migration/Relocation	FJD 5,261,998	0.27%	FJD 0	0.00%	FJD 0	0.00%
TOTAL	FJD 1,937,744,572	100.00%	FJD 781,848,423	100.00%	FJD 3,285,988,260	100%

Table 6: Summary of average annual investments and needs by sector in Fiji (2016*2019)
(Source: Climate Finance Snapshot 2016-2019)⁸⁷

While Fiji has received support from multiple donors, representing multilateral organisations, foundations and NGOs, bilateral donors and climate funds (an inventory is available in the presentation slides), challenges remain. These challenges are either institutional or operational. Lack of political will and change in government, coupled with brain drain and staff turnover, rendered the work of funding mobilisation ill-equipped. Ms. Chand and Mr. Coriakula also observed that technical assistance often did not go far enough to translate the National Climate Funds, NDC Investment Plan etc. into full project proposals for operationalisation.

► Country Presentation: Ghana's Experience

Speakers: **Mr. Stephen Ampem-Darko Ayiku**, Principal Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission and **Mr. Edward Bruce-Lyle**, Senior Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana

Ghana is using the existing decentralised planning system to implement the 2030 Agenda and all continental and global commitments (see Figure 34). Sources of funding included Asset Based Finance

⁸⁷ Fiji's Climate Finance Snapshot 2016-2019. <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Fiji-Climate-Finance-Snapshot-2016-2019.pdf>



Association (ABFA)⁸⁸, Debt finance, Inclusive Green Finance (IGF)⁸⁹, Statutory Sources and Government Sources.

Ghana is using the existing decentralized planning system to implement the 2030 Agenda and all continental and global commitments

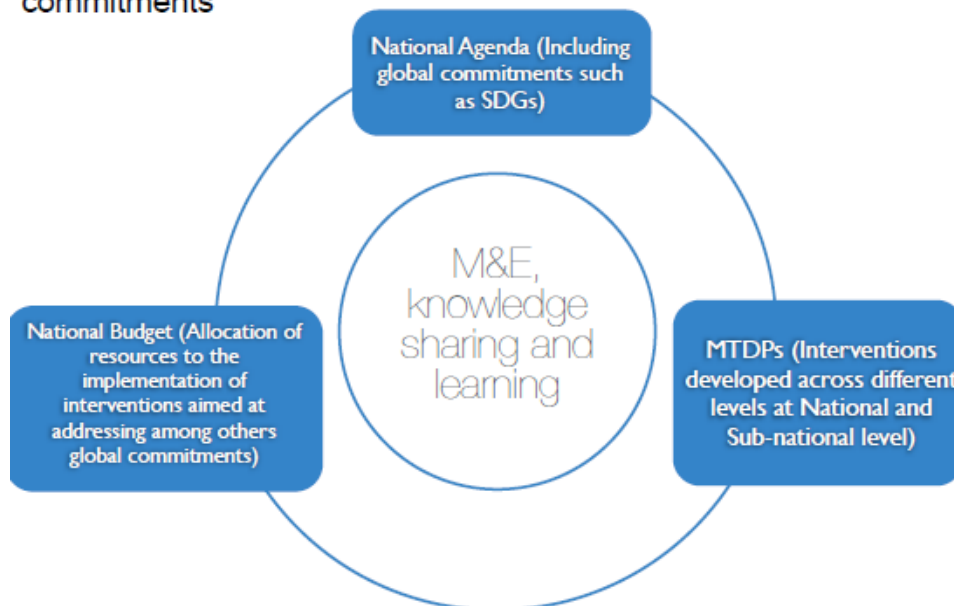


Figure 34: Ghana's Framework for Planning and Budgeting of National Agenda
(Source: adopted from Ayiku & Bruce-Lyle presentation, 2024)

Ghana has adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)⁹⁰ as the main framework for mobilization of domestic resources to finance the SDGs. Reforms have been undertaken to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation efforts and to Implement the tenets of the AAAA focus. Of such, protecting low-income earners and the poor is a national priority. It was also recognised the centrality of domestic productivity improvement. Initiatives were launched to create an enabling environment for domestic and international private business and investment. Some of the flagships were: "One

⁸⁸ Asset Based Finance Association (ABFA) represents the invoice finance (factoring and invoice discounting) and asset based lending industry in the UK and Ireland. The industry supports businesses in the real economy and has particular expertise in working with SMEs. <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/64283/html/>

⁸⁹ Inclusive Green Finance, Roadmap for Inclusive Green Finance Implementation: Building Blocks to Implement IGF Initiatives and Policies. Special Report. https://www.afi-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Roadmap-for-Inclusive-Green-Finance-Implementation_isbn.pdf

⁹⁰ Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), 2015, "establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities." <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35>



district, one factory initiative” (ID1F)⁹¹, Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund setup (GIIF)⁹², Youth Enterprise Support (YES)⁹³ and Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC)^{94, 95}. Accompanying policies and regulatory frameworks were also developed, i.e., Ghana Development Cooperation Policy (GDGP)^{96, 97}, Governance Framework for PPPs programme⁹⁸ and Integrated National and District Financing Frameworks.⁹⁹ It is significant to note that Mr Ayiku and Mr Bruce-Lyle also mentioned the government effort in strengthening the trade performance through “Enhancement of Ghana Exim Bank Capacity”^{100, 101} to support agriculture and Industrialization for export. This trade link with the domestic resource capacity to implement climate actions and SDGs has often been undervalued in the policy planning processes.

Other financing initiatives that were worth noting concerned with the INFF and Country Financing Roadmap (CFR)¹⁰². The Country Financing Roadmap (CFR) for SDGs initiative is part of the

⁹¹ “One district, one factory initiative” (ID1F) in Ghana, 2017, <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/ghana-one-district-one-factor-1d1f-initiative> and by the AfDB reporting: https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/05/session_iii-6_private_sector_perspective-1d1f_enable_youth-6_april.pdf

⁹² Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund setup (GIIF), <https://giif.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/GIIF-Investor-Presentation-Aug-2020-Final-compressed.pdf>

⁹³ Youth Enterprise Support (YES), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/658821597419558922/pdf/Youth-Employment-Programs-in-Ghana-Options-for-Effective-Policy-Making-and-Implementation.pdf>; George Owusu, Paul W. K. Yankson, & Robert Darko Osei, 2016, “Youth entrepreneurship in Ghana: Current trends and policies”, in Katherine V. Gough & Thilde Langevang (eds.) *Young Entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Chapter: 3. Routledge.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316386650_Youth_entrepreneurship_in_Ghana_Current_trends_and_policies

⁹⁴ Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) programme provides micro and small loans for start-ups and small businesses with fast, easy and accessible microcredit and small loans to grow and expand their businesses as well as to enhance job and wealth creation. www.masloc.gov.gh.

⁹⁵ A review of the MASLOC programme is available by Mohammed Sulemana, Moses Naiim Fuseini & Ibrahim Abu Abdulai. 2023. Effects of microfinance and small loans centre on poverty reduction in Wa West District, Ghana. *Heliyon*, Vol. 9(12), December. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844023098936>

⁹⁶ Ghana Development Cooperation Policy (GDGP), <https://www.usaid.gov/ghana/country-development-cooperation-strategy>

⁹⁷ A guidance Note (2022) Ghana's Development Co-operation Policies, Systems, Reports & Mechanisms by GPEDC. <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/ghanas-development-co-operation-policies-systems-reports-mechanisms>

⁹⁸ Ghana's National Policy on Public Private Partnerships (PPP): Private Partnership in Infrastructure and Services for Better Public Services Delivery. 2011. https://mofep.gov.gh/sites/default/files/reports/economic/ppp_policy.pdf; Ghana's Governance Framework for PPPs programme. Deborah Darko, Demi Zhu, Matthew Quayson, Md Altam Hossin, Osayuwamen Omoruyi, Albert Kweku Bediako. 2023. “A multicriteria decision framework for governance of PPP projects towards sustainable development”, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, Vol. 87 Part B, June. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0038012123000800>

⁹⁹ Integrated National and District Financing Frameworks, <https://mofep.gov.gh/sites/default/files/news/Ghana-Sustainable-Financing-Framework.pdf>; Implementation of INFF in Africa, 2021, Lessons from early INFF experiences: Partnerships prove a crucial ingredient for INFF success <https://inff.org/news/lessons-from-early-inff-experiences-partnerships-prove-a-crucial-ingredient-for-inff-success>

¹⁰⁰ Ghana Beyond Aid: The role of the Ghana EXIM Bank, accessed 22.07.2024. <https://www.eximbankghana.com/singleNews/Ghana%20Beyond%20Aid%3A%20The%20role%20of%20the%20Ghana%20EXIM%20Bank>

¹⁰¹ Ministry of Finance, 2021, Make Ghana's Export Expansion Agenda your Priority - Ken Ofori-Atta tells New Ghana Exim Bank Board, 20th August. <https://mofep.gov.gh/news-and-events/2021-08-20/make-ghana-export-expansion-agenda-your-priority-ken-ofori-atta-tells-new-ghana-exim-bank-board>

¹⁰² Ghana: Country Financing Roadmap for the SDGs. 2021. [https://inff.org/resource/ghana-country-financing-roadmap-for-the-sdgs#:~:text=The%20Country%20Financing%20Roadmap%20\(CFR,and%20findings%20of%20the%20CFR.](https://inff.org/resource/ghana-country-financing-roadmap-for-the-sdgs#:~:text=The%20Country%20Financing%20Roadmap%20(CFR,and%20findings%20of%20the%20CFR.)



Government of Ghana's efforts to identify, quantify and develop strategies to bridge the country's SDG financing gap. Since 2019 Ghana became an INFF pioneer country and benefitted from prioritising in sourcing and utilization of development resources through such a framework. To complement the deployment of innovative financing instrument, a SDGs budget tracking system was developed to monitor and report the national budget. This budget tracking system has enabled the government to prepare cost analysis, conduct programme-based monitoring of different funding sources by goals and targets and track budgetary allocation to SDGs targets at national and sub-national levels.

Challenges remain in executing SDGs/NDPs ranging from the prolonged COVID-19 effects, difficulties in land acquisition, infrastructure gaps, lack of data for investment decision and risk estimates. Domestic funds persist in first level risk aversion. Currency risk exposure disincentivises further domestic investment. Banks are reluctant in participating in funding SMEs due to small capital demands.

Climate financing in Ghana spanned 6 key sectors: energy, agriculture, forestry, waste, health, transport in its NDCs. To date, Ghana has been implementing 34 specific mitigation and adaptation actions despite its relatively small carbon footprint at the global scale.

Ghana's financial strategy and NDC goals focused on reducing emissions through initiatives such as scaling up renewable energy deployment. Sources of funding were a combination of international and domestic. The domestic funding reached approximately US\$6.3 billion and was split between national and subnational programmes and projects aligned with its decentralised planning system. Another US\$16.3 billion made up the rest of the NDC funding. Besides established green bonds and climate investment funds as vehicles for climate financing, PPPs have been fundamental in scaling up climate initiatives in Ghana, e.g., renewable energy. PPP facilitated the installation of solar power plants and small-scale wind projects. In the waste management sector, PPPs have developed infrastructure for recycling and waste-to-energy plants, reducing GHG and creating sustainable urban waste management solutions.

Challenges or barriers for funding mobilisation may be summarised into seven principal areas, according to Mr Ayiku and Mr Bruce-Lyle:

- 1) Not fulfilling the fiduciary requirements by funding source;
- 2) Delinked from climate rationale;
- 3) Failed to make a sound business case;
- 4) Lack of adequate historical scientific data;
- 5) Lack of co-financing by domestic sources;
- 6) Matching project design, project objectives and concept note with the appropriate fund; and
- 7) Lack of project preparation resources.

► Country Presentation: Uganda's Experience

Speakers: **Mr. Pascal Byarugaba**, Program M&E Specialist, Secretariat-Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda and **Mr. Francis Opolot**, Principal Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda

According to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Report 2023¹⁰³, Uganda is more than 50% on track to achieving SDGs by 2030. Among the 52 African countries, Uganda's overall score stands at 55.0 (higher than the regional average of 53.0). Additionally, Uganda ranks in the 6th position in Africa after Benin, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya regarding the Government's commitment in the coordination and implementation of SDGs. Uganda collected data on 119 SDG indicators in 2021, but was able to gradually increase the data points to 121 SDG indicators in 2022 and 135 in 2023 out of the 201 SDG Indicators applicable to Uganda.

A comprehensive institutional mechanism was set up to coordinate the SDG implementation. The Secretariat reports directly to the National SDG Taskforce under the supervision of the SDG Implementation Steering Committee and SDG Policy Co-ordination Committee with the oversight from the Cabinet office. Efforts were made to mainstream SDGs into NDPs with a planning horizon of 2050 and 2063. Figure 35 presents examples of embedding SDGs in different sectoral development of the NDPs.

Figure 35: Mainstreaming SDGs into NDPs
(Source: SDG Secretariat, Uganda)



To ensure planning and budget alignment, the Certificate of Compliance (CoC)¹⁰⁴ was established in the Financial Year of 2019/20 to meet the requirement mandated in the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA) 2015, Section 13 (6) and 13 (7). The CoC aimed at embedding the implementation of National Development Plans (NDPs) into the National Budget. Section 13(6)

¹⁰³ Sustainable Development Solutions Network report 2023, <https://www.unsdsn.org/resources/sustainable-development-report-2023/>

¹⁰⁴ Certificate of Compliance. https://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/certificate_of_compliance_of_the_ab_fy2019-20_to_dd_priorities_final_1.pdf

requires that the Annual Budget (AB) shall be consistent with the NDP, the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility (CFR)¹⁰⁵ and the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP)¹⁰⁶. These measures achieved transparency, accountability and policy integration in addition to the efficiency, effectiveness and Value for Money in public expenditure.

NDC has a costed implementation plan and a resource mobilization strategy. Many partners are on board including NDC Partnership, GGGI, UK's FCDO, GIZ, UNDP etc.

Private sector participation has been identified as a crucial partnership for SDGs. An SDG platform structure has been set up for this purpose (see Figure 36). In addition, Uganda tries to accelerate inclusive actions as well. Parish Development Model (PDM)¹⁰⁷ is a government-led initiative in Uganda aimed at transforming subsistence households into a money economy and lifting 17.5 million Ugandans in 3.5 million households out of poverty. The PDM initiative was launched on 26 February 2022 in the eastern district of Kibuku. PDM connects and delivers services to households that operate viable enterprises that can generate incomes and support savings.

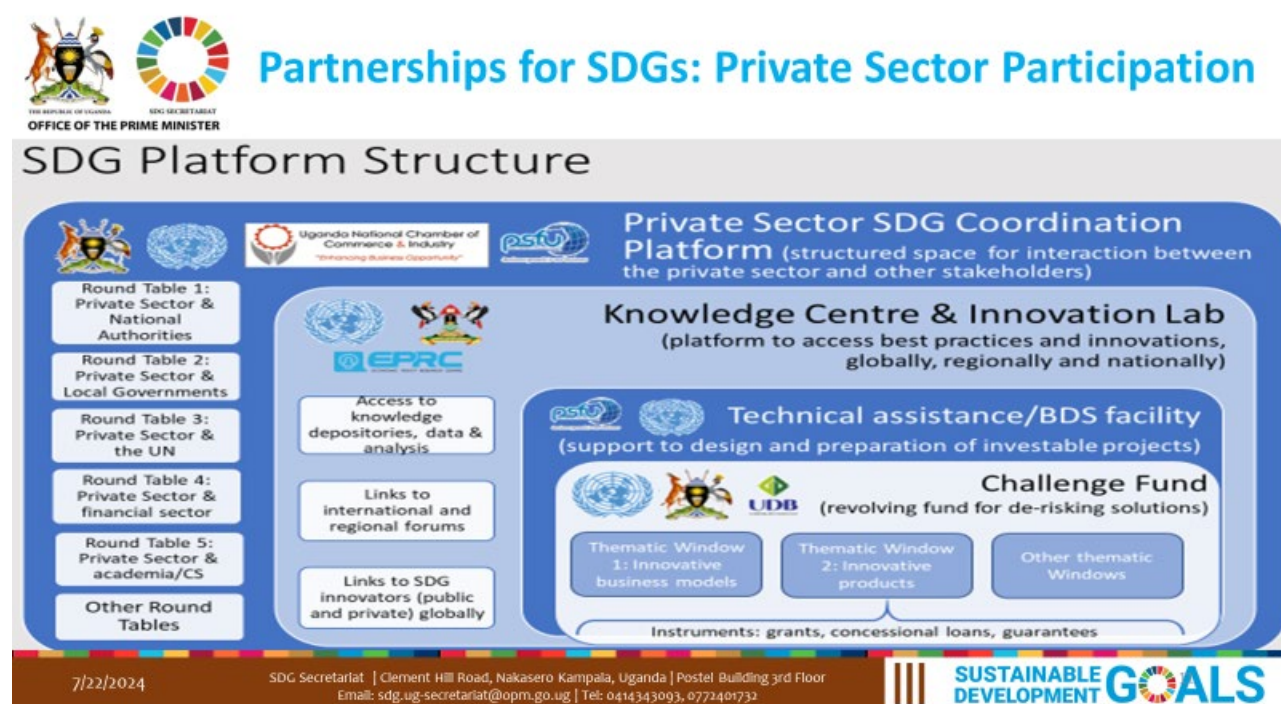


Figure 36: SDG Platform Structure for Private Sector Participation
(Source: SDG Secretariat, Uganda, 2024)

¹⁰⁵ Charter of Fiscal Responsibility UGANDA FY2016/17 – FY2020/21, 2016. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. <https://budget.finance.go.ug/sites/default/files/National%20Budget%20docs/Charter%20for%20Fiscal%20Responsibility.pdf> and 2021. <https://parliamentwatch.ug/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Charter-for-Fiscal-Responsibilities-FY-20212022-FY-20252026.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ National Budget Framework Paper, <https://budget.finance.go.ug/content/national-budget-framework-paper-14>

¹⁰⁷ The Parish Development Model [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish_Development_Model#:~:text=The%20Parish%20Development%20Model%20\(PDM,million%20households%20out%20of%20poverty.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish_Development_Model#:~:text=The%20Parish%20Development%20Model%20(PDM,million%20households%20out%20of%20poverty.)

Mr. Pascal Byarugaba and Mr. Francis Opolot reported on two pilot approaches in Uganda to take climate financing to the last mile of the communities. (Figure 37). By involving communities directly, climate actions become more relevant, accepted, and sustainable, addressing specific local challenges and leveraging indigenous knowledge and practices.




New Approaches, New Hope Ct'd

- Uganda is piloting two approaches that seek to take climate finance to the last mile communities.
- Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR).** The aim is to support a shift away from 'business-as-usual' approaches to a more effective and ambitious climate response. It shifts power to the local level, making communities the key agents in driving climate-resilient societies by strengthening local government planning and finance systems to deliver climate-resilient development. **12 Local Governments involved.**
- Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL).** Partners: UNCDF + EU and member states especially Sweden. Local governments are supported to develop climate change adaptation plans that meet their community's needs. Actions are financed through special grants, known as performance-based climate resilience grants (PBCRGs) and include technical support and capacity building measures. **8 Local Governments involved**

7/22/2024

SDG Secretariat | Clement Hill Road, Nakasero Kampala, Uganda | Postel Building 3rd Floor
Email: sdg-ug-secretariat@opm.go.ug | Tel: 0414343093, 0772401732



Figure 37: Pilot approaches in Uganda for climate financing (Source: SDG Secretariat, Uganda, 2024)

Session 12: Data Gaps and Information needed for VNRs and NDCs

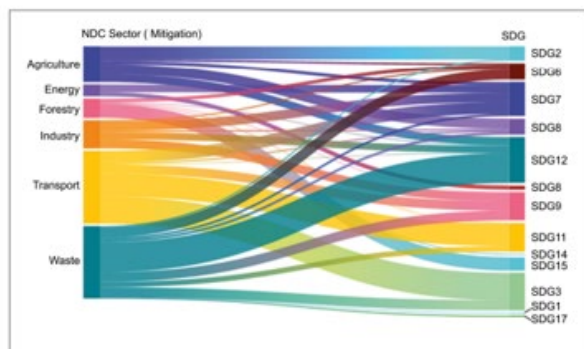
► Country Presentation: Sri Lanka Experience

Speakers: **Mr. Chaminda Udakumbura**, Director (Operations), Sustainable Development Council and **Ms. Pelellagama Kapuge Sithila Subhodini**, Additional Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

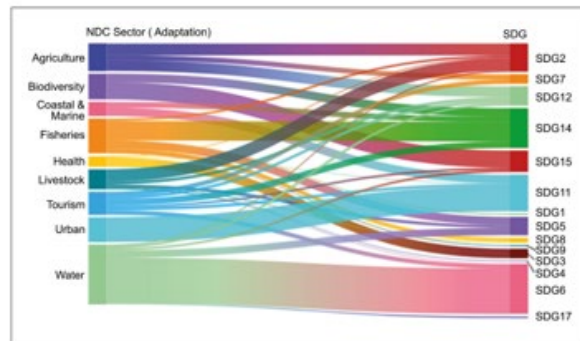
Mr Udakumbura and Ms Subhodini gave an overview of the data availability, progress and utilisation for the VNRs and NDCs in Sri Lanka. This overview was supported by data mapping for SDG indicators. Of the 247 SDG indicators of the global framework, 5 were identified as not relevant to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has sufficient data on 154 out of 247 of the SDG indicators. The data mapping exercise helped to correct some the misattribution of data to specific SDG Goals.

On data availability, Sri Lanka ranked 13 out of 58 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Multiple linkages between NDCs and SDGs have been identified in the NDC Implementation Plan (2021-2030). Figure 38 visualises the linkages between mitigation, adaptation and SDGs respectively.



Linkages between Mitigation and SDGs



Linkages between Adaptation and SDGs

Figure 38 visualises the linkages between mitigation, adaptation and SDGs
(Source: Sustainable Development Council, 2024)

Data gaps in Sri Lanka were reflected in climate change impact and vulnerability, emissions inventory and adaptation strategies and resilience. The lack of disaggregated data is evident as to location, sectors and population groups. The shortage of data exists also in terms of baseline data and outcome assessment. These data gaps hindered responsiveness of policy making,

Data sources vary and include national statistics, surveys, administrative records, and research studies. There are collaborations with local communities and stakeholders for collecting context-specific data. Civil society and stakeholder inputs are welcome to enhance inclusivity, transparency, and effectiveness of the VNRs and NDCs in Sri Lanka.

For ensuring the alignment, data and reporting for SDGs and climate actions have been integrated and streamlined. However, implementation challenges exist regarding compatibility between different reporting frameworks, and the methodology in harmonising data collection and indicators. Data sharing could cause privacy and security issues. Protocols for data sharing and collaboration are needed.

Mr Udakumbura and Ms Subhodini concluded by making specific recommendations to address the data gaps by investing in tailored monitoring infrastructure, encouraging collaborative practices amongst stakeholders and capacity building. It was also mentioned to establish clear guidelines and standards for data collection, validation, and reporting. Lastly, it is important to stay connected and leverage global knowledge and experiences.

► Country Presentation: Thailand's Experience

Speakers: Ms. Wantanee Lalee, Director of International Convention and Cooperation Section, Department of Climate Change and Environment and Ms. Nutjarin Wongiam, Environmentalist, Department of Climate Change and Environment, Thailand

Ms. Lalee and Ms. Wongiam introduced Thailand's decarbonisation pathway with the intended reduction of carbon emission by 30-40% through BAU as stated in NDC 1. By 2050 Thailand will reach carbon neutral and 2065 net zero. This journey will require actions in the following sectors: energy

and transport, industrial processes and product use (IPPU)¹⁰⁸, waste, agriculture and forest. Interventions included publishing a climate change act, blended finance, market mechanism, data centre, technology, research and development and public awareness campaigns.

The institutional mechanisms for climate change in Thailand are a complex web of relations with well-defined mandate (see Figure 39).

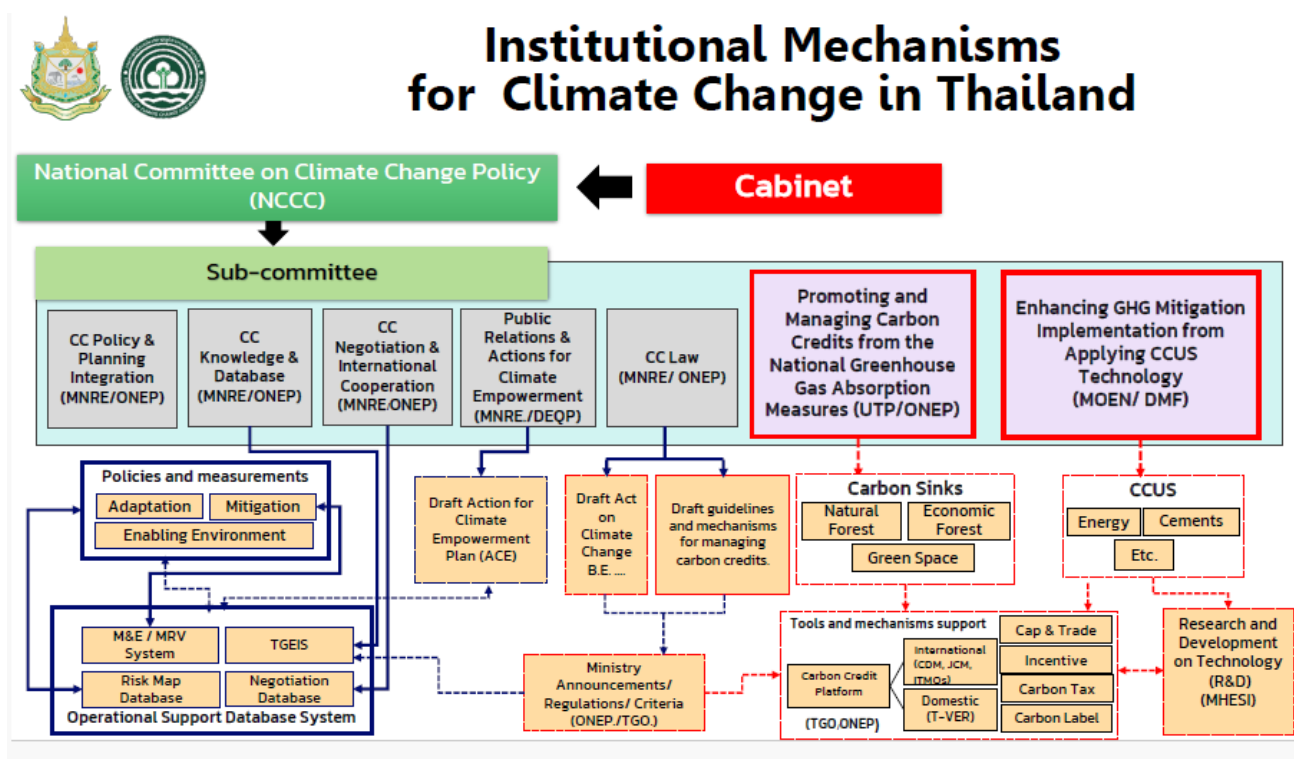


Figure 39: Institutional Mechanisms for Climate Change in Thailand
(Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2024)

A national Monitoring, Review and Validation system (MRV) was part of the structure that addressed national level and sectoral level measurements, policies and coordination (Figure 40).

¹⁰⁸ <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/faq/what-is-included-in-ippu/>

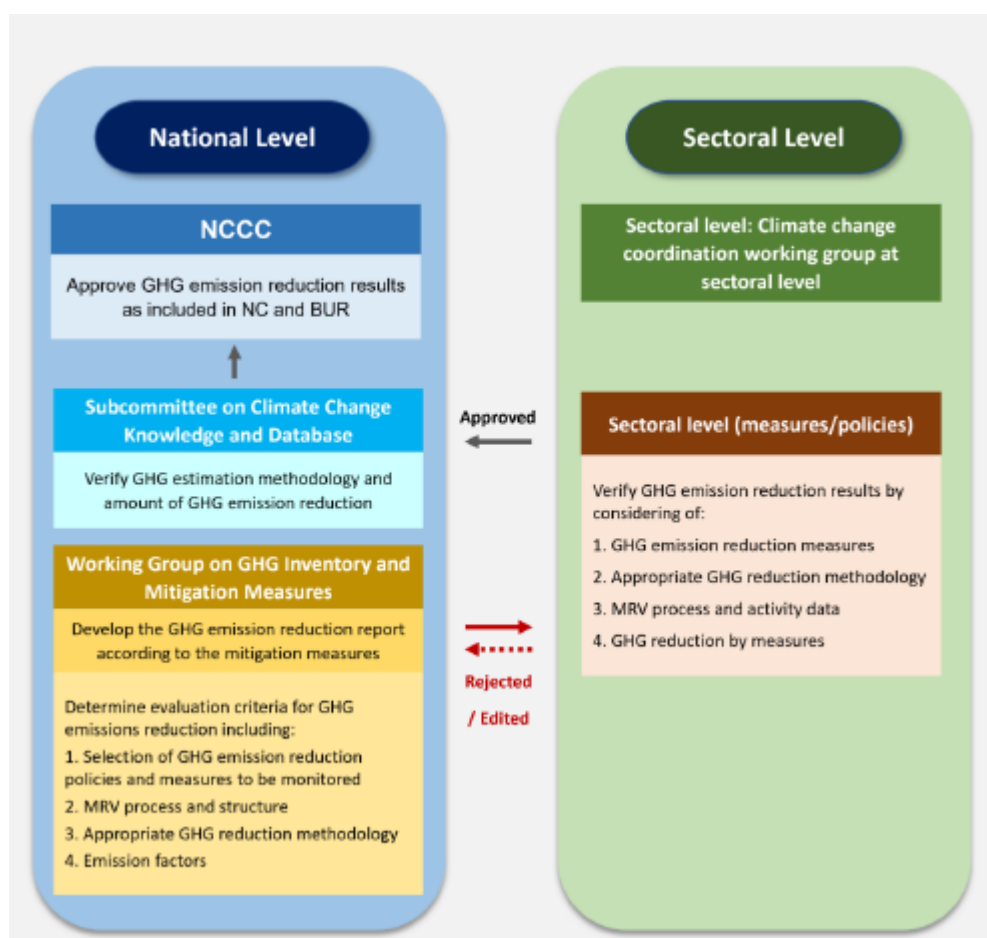


Figure 40: A domestic MRV System of Thailand
(Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2024)

Challenges confronting the governance mechanism and related infrastructure are many. Initial investment has been high and operating costs of proposed measures and action substantial, particularly for technologies and infrastructures. Coordination remains inadequate across different sectoral agencies. International cooperation and support mechanisms are needed to address barriers, affordable technological solutions, and capacity gaps.

Data gaps have been manifested in different aspects of data management, analysis and reporting. Missing elements, such as the emission of NF₃, made the National GHG inventory suboptimal and diminished the reliability of Thailand's climate modelling which could impact the effectiveness of climate policies and regulatory measures in mitigating the effects of climate change. Incomplete and/or inconsistent data across different sectors and ministries affects the relevance and reliability of policy analysis and formulation. Data platforms that could consolidate all relevant data from private and public sectors are absent, preventing effective reporting and decision-making. A secondary impact was also the lack of effective alignment between NDCs and SDGs in mitigating social and economic impacts, especially when managing environmental and climate problems. Ms.

Lalee and Ms. Wongiam elaborated a list (see Table 7) of the procedures or guideline documents of a Quality Management System (QMS)¹⁰⁹, needed for the consolidation of data and alignment.

Other aspects of a QMS system were also detailed. From a consistency perspective, a baseline year for data needs to be determined for data collection and analysis. From an accountability and coordination perspective, there is a need for a simple, user-friendly platform for gathering and sharing climate data with clear responsibility and mandate among government agencies. Lastly, looking outside the institutional boundaries, the higher education institutions of Thailand also need to work as a team and harmonise the foundational basis of climate science, e.g., definition, codes, methodology etc.

[Note by the author: Another reference that could be of use is the ISO 24143:2022, Information and Documentation – Information Governance – Concept and Principles.¹¹⁰]

Table 7: List of information needed for effective management of data management
(Source: adopted from Lalee and Wongiam, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, 2024)

Information needed



1. Guidelines or recommendations for countries whose emissions peak after 2030



2. Guidelines for Developing a Sectoral Energy Transition Plan Aligned with the 1.5°C Pathway



3. Guidelines or recommendations on prioritizing the types of enabling environments that should be put in place first to facilitate and support sectors/stakeholders in achieving NDC targets.



4. Standardized methodologies for mitigation measures and knowledge sharing for effective MRV frameworks.



5. Sharing knowledge and best practices on legal frameworks and modalities to support Thailand's LT-LEDS and NDC implementation

► **Regional Perspective from ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)**
Speaker: Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Social Affairs Officer, Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC

¹⁰⁹ Quality Management System and its document hierarchy, <https://advisera.com/9001academy/knowledgebase/how-to-structure-quality-management-system-documentation/>

¹¹⁰ ISO 24143:2022, <https://cdn.standards.iteh.ai/samples/77915/2fa6df4166e14f88b5c63a8c463230bb/ISO-24143-2022.pdf>

An Indicators and Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals is part of the 2030 Agenda. However, some important indicators often lack baseline data, making it difficult for countries to report on their progress in achieving the associated target(s). This gap stalls quantitative reporting on targets and goals. The alternative is qualitative reporting, which is open to subjective interpretation of implementation progress.

Different intergovernmental agreements rest in different ministries/departments. These vertical agencies may not work closely with the National Statistical Office (NSO) or other line ministries, leading to omission of data on some indicators that are available in these other ministries, departments or agencies. Weak national statistical system (NSS) further perpetuates this gap in reporting. Missing the historical perspective, and without an institutional memory, reporting agencies often fail to take maximum advantage of previous or parallel data collection efforts. Moreover, administrative records remain underused due to a lack of appreciation of the value for national reporting, (in contrast to the commonly observed practice of a quality management system in the private sector organisations).

Besides the foregoing reasons for the relatively poor data availability and utilisation, insufficient lead time and capacity for national reporting preparation are also factors. Starting just a few months before a report is due did not provide enough time for data collection from and verification by stakeholders resulting in outdated data or omission of critical data sources in the final report. Mr Abdulkadri suggested a parallel process of tasks concerning stakeholder consultation, GHG emission profile or inventory and mapping.

A regional knowledge management platform, also known as “SDG Gateway” in the ECLAC region, is a tool created by UN ECLAC, which shows availability of SDG data usage and likelihood of achieving SDGs. It serves as the one-stop shop or “single-window” service in managing the interdependency of the climate data due to geographical and socio-economic proximity. By comparing and contrasting, countries in the ECLAC region may leverage the knowledge created from the platform for achieving higher performance and for identifying innovative solutions to similar climate and sustainability challenges. Lastly, collective effort could be mobilised to work on common SDGs challenges in the ECLAC context in a more resource efficient and strategic manner (see Figure 41).



Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold by 2030 (Number)



Figure 41: Mapping of the Likelihood of Achieving the Defined Threshold by 2030
(Source: The Challenge of Accelerating the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Transitions towards Sustainability (LC/FDS.7/3), Santiago, 2024., page 39.)¹¹¹

Figure 41 also laid bare the existing data gap by SDG Goals in the LAC region. A Development Account (DA12)¹¹² project was designed to enhance the climate change and disaster risk reduction statistical and institutional capacities of target countries in the Caribbean to improve policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework. Lessons learned from this project included:

- Capacity building activities were essential to address SIDS data gaps.
- Multidisciplinary peer-learning process had higher cost benefits.
- Country-specific case examples in training drove home the message.
- Opportunities of networking of technical experts should be increased.
- Few assumptions should be made regarding non-statisticians knowledge and skills.
- Finding more money to replicate the project until sustainability has been achieved.

► Regional Perspective from ESCAP - Evidence-Based Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific

Speaker: Ms. Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, ESCAP

¹¹¹<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/69133-challenge-accelerating-2030-agenda-latin-america-and-caribbean-transitions>

¹¹² For the ECLAC Project DA12 project, reference to 1) Georgina Alcantar, ECLAC, 2022, Regional Workshop: "Addressing coordination and data sharing challenges for better environment, climate change and disaster indicators" at https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/presentations/sesion_0_introduitory_presentation_the_da12th_project_georgina_alcantar_0.pdf; 2) Addressing coordination and data sharing challenges for better environment, climate change and disaster indicators, 2022. <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/addressing-coordination-and-data-sharing-challenges-better-environment-climate-change-and>



Ms Bansal opened her presentation by pointing to the SDG progress in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023. Besides one account, all the rest of the 16 SDG Goals made varying degrees of progress in meeting the 2030 targets even though SDG 5 and SDG 16 could only be assessed on insufficient data (See Figure 42). SDG Goal on Climate Action (SDG 13) bucked the trend and showed regression in 2023.

SDG Progress in Asia-Pacific 2023

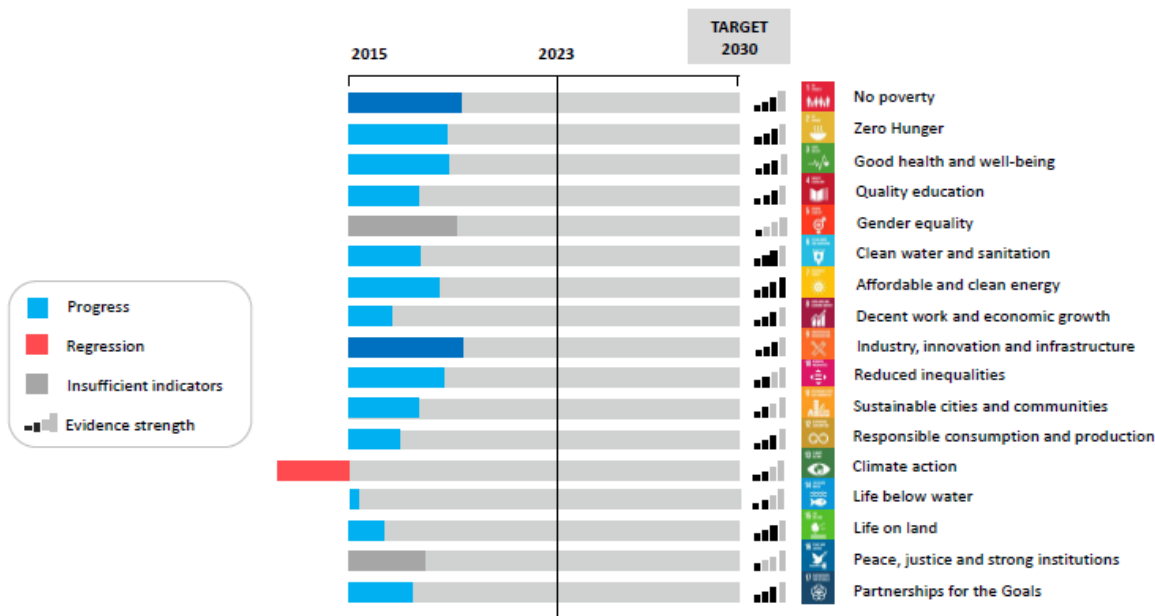


Figure 42: Mapping the progress of SDGs in Asia-Pacific in 2023

(Source: ESCAP Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway, SDG progress snapshot, <https://data.unescap.org>)

Figure 42 also showed that data gaps were more severe concerning Gender Equality (Goal 5) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16). A detailed analysis in the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024¹¹³ on data availability per target showed large data gap existed in Climate Action (Goal 13) and Life Below Water (Goal 14).

To use data effectively, according to Ms Braslow, a regional platform, “National SDG Tracker”¹¹⁴ should be utilised. This AI tool supports customised indicators, data and target values and provides a user-friendly SDG dashboard to track progress.

It was observed that VNR reporting increased the use of SDG indicators, but unequally. Some indicators with sufficient data were not used in VNRs. Ms Braslow gave some interesting examples in this regard, e.g., non-formal education (Indicator 4.3.1), use of clean fuels (Indicator 7.1.2), proportion of land degradation (Indicator 15.3.1).

She also reminded that data represented a system configuration, consisting of indicator identification and selection; target setting; national data flows; analysis and communication and use of data for

¹¹³ <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2024/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2024>

¹¹⁴ <https://data.unescap.org/>

decision making. These are the essential building blocks for monitoring SDG progress and for effective use of data.

The ESCAP Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) methodology identifies the furthest ahead and furthest behind groups in selected indicators. It will be a useful platform to address inequalities in SDGs and to provide insights into how different circumstances interact to create unequal access to basic opportunities. ESCAP is working on capacity building for countries to identify their own inclusive policies according to goals and priorities unique to each country.

► **Guidance for ICTU of NDCs,** ¹¹⁵

Speaker: Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific

Ms Bansal started her presentation by providing a historical overview of the past decade. Figure 43 highlights over 10 years of ambition by the Parties of the Paris Agreement to reduce climate risks.

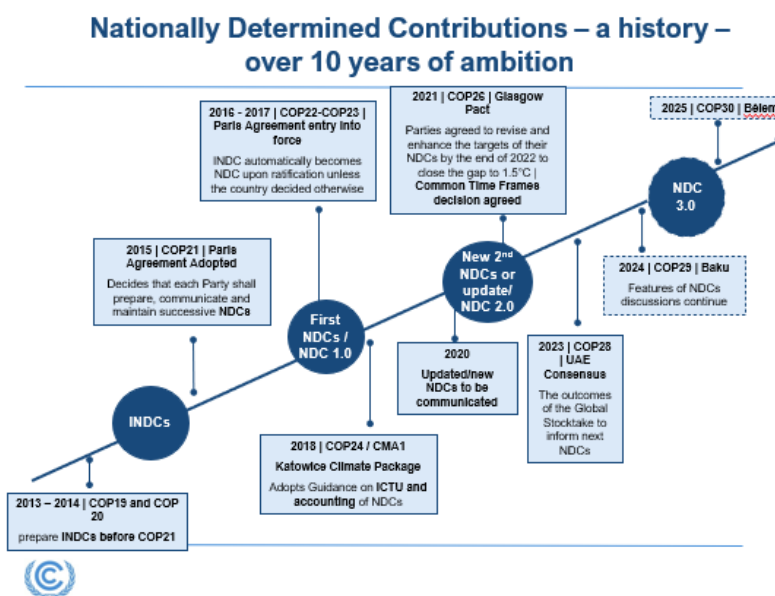


Figure 43: A history of NDCs (2013-2025)
(Source: Bansal, 2024)

Article 3 of the Paris Agreement outlines how NDC commitments are the cornerstone of climate actions. Specific rules for such commitments were also provided in the Agreement, i.e., Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

Article 4.8 of the Paris Agreement states that all Parties shall provide “information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding” (ICTU) in their NDCs. (Pocket Guide to NDCs, 2018, P.18).

¹¹⁶ A successive decisions or Guidance were taken at the Conference of the Parties by the Parties to

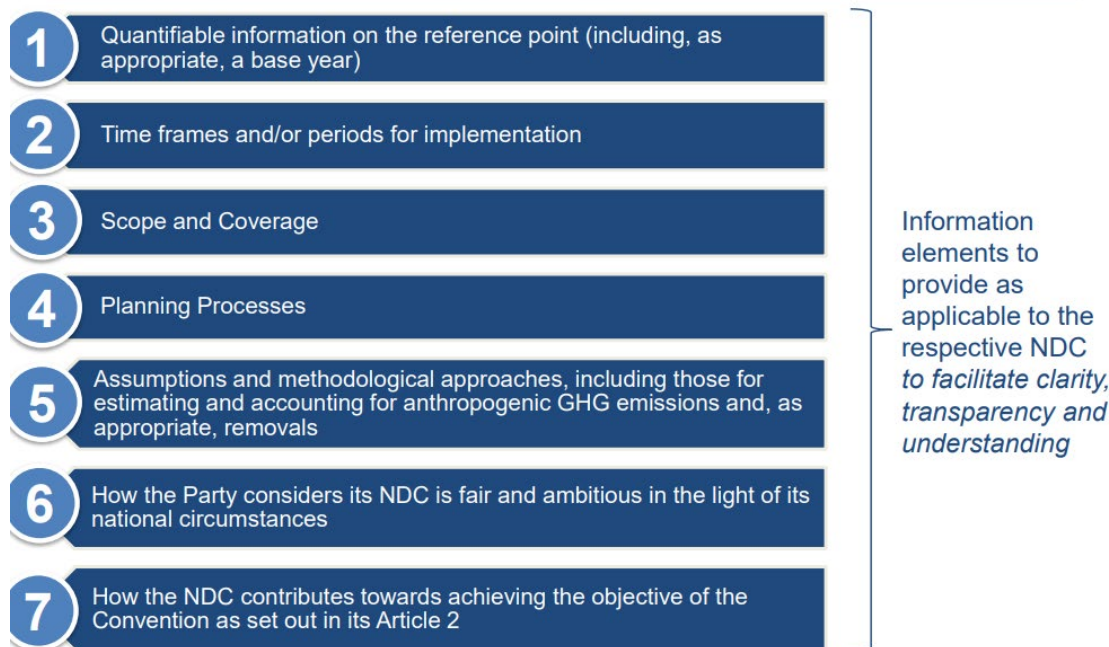
¹¹⁵UNFCCC. Katowice Climate Package – Relevance for NDCs. Nationally Determined Contributions: Brief History & Provisions for NDCs <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Nationally%20Determined%20Contributions.pdf>

¹¹⁶ Pocket Guide to NDCs under the UNFCCC, 2018, ecbi. <https://unepccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-pocket-guide-to-ndcs.pdf>

the Paris Agreement to further improvement of the ICTU and in response to different circumstances of mitigation, adaptation, and financial flows.

Ms Bansal explained these decisions and guidance in detail. Table 8 presents the main elements of ICTU as stipulated in (4/CMA.1).

ICTU – Main Elements (4/CMA.1)



(Source: adopted from Bansal, 2024)

Session 13: Stakeholder Engagement for aligning VNR and NDC

Moderator: Ms Ana Thorlund, Governance and Public Administration Expert, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UNDESA.

Ms. Ana Thorlund gave a brief introduction about the role of UNPOG, and the difference between MDGs and SDGs, focusing on sustainable governance¹¹⁷. She underscored the significance of the various stakeholders and shared new courses on inclusive governance for participants to take part.

► Stakeholder Engagement

Speaker: Ms. Miki Fukuda, Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

Followed up on her first presentation during Session 9 on Day 2, Ms. Fukuda continued her presentation on the topic of meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement.

¹¹⁷ Sustainable Governance Indicators 2015, https://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2020/basics/SGI_Concept.pdf

Stakeholder engagement is considered a crucial safeguard of sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis. The 2030 Agenda also recognises that social dialogue is needed to achieve a peaceful and just society (Goal 16). Stakeholder engagement and social dialogue has a long history in dealing with both labour and environmental conflicts. The Earth Summit¹¹⁸ held in Rio in 1992 organised the civil societies into nine stakeholder groups. This practice has continued in organising the HLPF with some new stakeholder groups added. Participation of the stakeholder groups in policy dialogues is particularly important as whether such groups feel a sense of ownership in the SDGs could influence their achievement.

When mapping the stakeholder engagement reported in both NDCs and VNRs, Ms. Fukuda identified the following learning points:

- Member states tended to report on stakeholder engagement in a) coordination and governance structures for SDG implementation, b) development of national priorities, c) consultation for VNRs development, d) partnership with non-state actors (linking to SDG 16), and e) awareness-raising.¹¹⁹
- Most of the member states highlighted stakeholder engagement but also a) struggle to set up the mechanisms to maintain “open, inclusive, participatory and transparent processes”, b) tend to conduct stakeholder engagement only at the early stages of the SDGs implementation cycle or the very end of the stage; c) provide less details on specifics of the action in terms of why, who, what, when, where and how; and d) rarely report on the quality of the stakeholder engagement.

Ms. Fukuda provided insights gained from research on youth engagement to achieve effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Four dimensions were identified based on existing research in this domain for meaningful youth engagement (see Figure 44).

Principle and Dimension for Analyzing Meaningful Youth Engagement

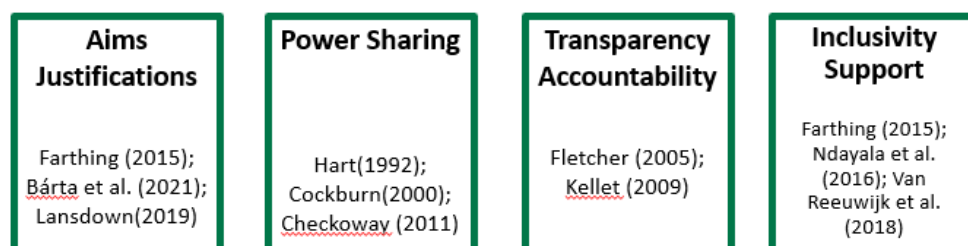


Figure 44: Dimensions for the meaningfulness of the youth engagement
(Source: Fukuda, IGES, 2024)

Commonly seen reasons and justifications for the youth engagement were: either right-based justification, or efficiency, or building trust and maintaining social cohesion. Research also found that

¹¹⁸ <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>

¹¹⁹ UN DESA (2020) “Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019)”. <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/26012VNRStakeholdersResearch.pdf>

youth engagement was for power sharing by allowing youth to initiate activities and make their own decisions; or working alongside of adults with different responsibilities; or consider youth as an equal partner.

Stakeholder engagement was organised for transparency and accountability reasons. It facilitated open communication channels and strengthened accountability through transparency for both sides between youth and the government. Finally, research identified some enabling conditions needed for meaningful engagement. These inclusivity supports included material and non-material support; capacity development, education and empowerment and focusing on the most marginalised and vulnerable.

Examples from the VNRs of Japan, Indonesia, Finland, Denmark and Germany were quoted to illustrate the points. Ms. Fukuda recommended a few takeaways:

1. There are reporting gaps in VNRs on youth engagement, but analysis helps lead to better understanding;
2. Youth engagement can be used around policy formulation, implementation, data collection, and monitoring through the full policy cycle;
3. Youth should be seen as recipients (beneficiaries) of SDGs and contributors at the same time and engaged accordingly;
4. Youth engagement could be a vehicle for mitigating existing disparities;
5. Enabling measures to support various stakeholders' contribution at different policy stages;
6. Enhancing participation via varied means;
7. Prioritising the engagement of stakeholders most likely at risk of being excluded, based on equity and justice principles;
8. Analysing or reviewing of engagement practices conducted by government, stakeholders, and external actors. VNRs and NDCs development needed to be considered and conducted as an iterative exercise.

An extensive reference list on literature related to stakeholder engagement was provided by Mr. Fukuda at the end of her presentation material.

► Country Presentation: Case of Armenia

Speakers: **Ms. Ani Kirakosyan**, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and **Ms. Armine Hovhannisyan**, Third Secretary at the UN and Sustainable Development Division, Department of Multilateral Policy and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armenia

Armenia updated its Nationally Determined Contributions 2021-2030 and in its Updated NDC Armenia declared an objective of 40 percent reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to the 1990 levels. It was also stated that transparency of mitigation and adaptation actions will be ensured through the introduction of a national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system.

Five sectors were selected for mitigation action, i.e., energy, IPPU, agriculture (including direct and indirect N₂O emissions from managed soil), waste and forestry and other land use. Reducing GHG emissions to at most 2.07 tCO₂e/capita by 2050 was identified as the long-term goal.

Armenia's 3rd voluntary national review rested on three key pillars, i.e., humanitarian, peace and development. These 3 pillars formed a mutually reinforcing and comprehensive framework for the analysis of the country context, including the achievements, gaps and challenges in implementing the SDGs.

During the reporting period, several legal and institutional reforms were implemented in the field of the environment. These reforms aimed to: a) Increase the efficiency of water resources management; b) Enhance the environmental impact assessment system; c) Improve atmospheric air protection; d) Strengthen the environmental monitoring system; and e) Optimize the system of specially protected nature areas and forests, e.g., establishing an eco-patrol service, and carrying out reforestation and afforestation work.

Several regulatory reforms were carried out in the environment and climate field. The first was rectification of the Paris Agreement in 2017¹²⁰. The National Action Program of Adaptation to Climate Change and the List of Measures for 2021-2025 (NAP)¹²¹ followed suit as transformative roadmaps. The Water Sector Adaptation Plan and its Program of Measures for 2022-2026 were adopted in November 2022.¹²² The long-term (until 2050) Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia was launched.¹²³ Lastly, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Procedure was published.¹²⁴

Progress on the SDGs implementation was made in different fields, energy transition, economic growth, infrastructure development, refugee settlement, and other related governance reforms. For Armenia, it is important to anchor the joint efforts, especially the UN system, in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, to withstand the humanitarian crisis and promoting a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

► **Country Presentation: Case of Costa Rica**¹²⁵

Speakers: Ms. Rocío Chacón Torres, Head of Institutional Planning, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan) and Ms. Amy Nicole Wilson Bautista, Regional Development Analyst, Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica

In 2016 Costa Rica became the first country in the world to sign a National Pact for the advancement of the SDGs (Relaunched in 2023)¹²⁶. The National Pact is the result of an inclusive and participatory process with national stakeholders. It addresses Goal 17 on Partnerships for the Goals, highlighting the importance of forging the collaboration between the public and the private sectors towards achieving sustainable development.¹²⁷ The objective of this national pact was to transform the 2030 Agenda from an international agreement to a national engagement. The stakeholders who signed the

¹²⁰ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188713>

¹²¹ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=160390>

¹²² <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=170035>

¹²³ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188021>

¹²⁴ <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=188713>

¹²⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/costarica>

¹²⁶ In "Costa Rica: A Shared Vision of Sustainability: Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals. June 2017. at https://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/informepaisods_costa_rica-ingles.pdf

¹²⁷ ditto

national pact included the national government, local governments, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, public universities and the private sector.

One of the essential – and perhaps the most important – challenges that the states have in the globalized world today is to embrace political decisions that provide real opportunities and capabilities for people, so that they can have a better quality of life, living and caring out their personal projects. For this reason, we are moving towards actions that allow us to overcome the inequality and injustice for human development.

Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría, Vice-President of Costa Rica,
September 9th, 2016¹²⁸

The National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs is an important step toward “meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement”.

The “rights to engage” acquired through the Pact included:

- Contribute to the fulfilment of the sustainable development objectives and goals established in the 2030 Agenda, promoting joint work.
- Promote the mobilization of available resources to achieve these objectives and goals.
- Incorporate these objectives and goals into the planning and budgeting instruments of institutions and organizations.
- Strengthen institutional capacities for the development of policies, plans, programmes and projects within the framework of the implementation and monitoring of the goals established by the country.
- Promote a future vision for Costa Rica taking these sustainable development objectives and goals as input and foundation.
- Account to citizens about the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.
- Continue and expand efforts aimed at territorializing the SDGs, favouring the active and inclusive participation of communities as protagonists of their own development.

Stakeholders since contributed to the development of the following instruments and achievements:

- National Government: SDG Governance system (2017)¹²⁹.

¹²⁸ Costa Rica: Taking Action for Sustainable Development, United Nations in Costa Rica, 2016. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Costa_Rica_Partnership.pdf

¹²⁹ Can be referenced in the 2nd VNR: Sustainable Development Goals Costa Rica 2020: “Sustainable Development in Action: The Route to Sustainability”. 2020. P.16. SDG Technical Secretariat - Mideplan https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26894second_voluntary_national_review_sdg_costa_rica.pdf

- National Government: Aligned the SDGs into national planning instruments: National Strategic Plan 2050¹³⁰, National Development and Public Investment Plan 2023-2026¹³¹, SDG National Goals (& Objectives) Strategy
- Local Governments: Creation of the network of cantons to promote the SDGs by localisation and multilevel implementation. Cantonal initiatives included key actions in strengthening capacities, systematization, dissemination and exchange of good practices through defined processes, as well as the promotion of other initiatives and projects related to the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.
- Local Governments: Generated Voluntary Local Reviews (2022, of Atenas, Belén, Escazú, Goicoechea, Puriscal and Sarchí)^{132 133}
- Private sector: Generation of quality employment; implemented the affirmative actions for the hiring of women, people with disabilities, refugees, among others; Implementing sustainable production and consumption systems (Voluntary Cleaner Production Agreements, (CPVA)^{134 135}) and investing in infrastructure, products and services that support the achievement of the SDGs

A MOOC training course and training kit on the theme of “Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of People in Vulnerable Situations” was developed by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG).¹³⁶

Session 14: Country Action Plan Exercise on Financing, Data, Stakeholder Engagement for SDG and NDC Alignment

Joint Capacity building Programme by the United Nations Convention (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

¹³⁰ National Strategic Plan 2050 reported by the Central American Group.

<https://www.thecentralamericangroup.com/national-strategic-plan-of-costa-rica-2050/> and by the International Climate Initiative & The Federal Government of Germany on “Costa Rica’s long-term strategy to 2050”, 2021. <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/iki->

[media/news/costa_ricas_long_term_strategy_to_2050/#:~:text=The%20plan%20envisages%20integrating%20decarbonisation,transport%20system%20based%20on%20renewables.](https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/iki-media/news/costa_ricas_long_term_strategy_to_2050/#:~:text=The%20plan%20envisages%20integrating%20decarbonisation,transport%20system%20based%20on%20renewables.)

¹³¹ National Development and Public Investment Plan 2023-2026. <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en/plans/costa-ricas-national-development-and-public-investment-plan-2023-2026-0>

¹³² Voluntary Local Reviews as a Tool For SDG Acceleration, 2022, <https://www.delog.org/rssdetails/voluntary-local-reviews-as-a-tool-for-sdg-acceleration>

¹³³ State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2023: Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the Local Level. 2023. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Fernando Ortiz-Moya, Zhonghan Tan, Yatsuka Kataoka.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372476888_State_of_the_Voluntary_Local_Reviews_2023_Follow-up_and_Review_of_the_2030_Agenda_at_the_Local_Level

¹³⁴ New Costa Rican firms sign Cleaner Production Voluntary Agreements, 18 March 2010 – CCAD. <https://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=48181&IDCat=3&IdEnt=696&Idm=2&IdmStyle=2.>

¹³⁵ Clean Production Agreement, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Production_Agreement

¹³⁶ https://knowledge.unasipacific.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/Draft_Concept%20Note_Agenda_Online%20Training%20Workshop_Government%20Innovation%20for%20Social%20Inclusion%20of%20Vulnerable%20Groups_1026_with%20speakers.pdf



Speaker: Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick, Climate Finance and Capacity Building Team Leader, UNFCCC

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)¹³⁷,¹³⁸, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)¹³⁹,¹⁴⁰ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are also known as Rio Conventions, address adaptation to climate change in their activities and are working together to enhance synergies in the area of adaptation. A Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the secretariats of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC was established in 2001 with the aim of enhancing coordination between the three Conventions, including cooperation on adaptation.¹⁴¹

These three Multinational Environment Agreements (MEAs) which were already encapsulated in the SDGs (Goal 13, Goal 14 and Goal 15) need to be part of the effort in integrating into synergistic actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.¹⁴² These MEAs have respectively binding or voluntary commitments and specific instruments for actions and reporting. Besides NDCs of the UNFCCC, CBD has “National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans” (NBSAPs)¹⁴³, and CCD has Degradation Neutrality Targets (LDN target setting)¹⁴⁴. To date, in accordance with Article 6 of the CBD Convention, 194 of 196 (99%) Parties have developed at least one NBSAP¹⁴⁵, while 131 countries have committed to setting LDN targets¹⁴⁶. More than 100 countries have already set their targets.

Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT)¹⁴⁷ DaRT is the first tool supporting Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT is being developed by UNEP, with the support of SCBD, and was endorsed by the InforMEA Initiative which brings together MEAs. An overview of the functionality of DaRT is available in Figure 45.

¹³⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/>

¹³⁸ The Biodiversity Plan for Life on Earth, The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15). Among the Framework’s key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf>

¹³⁹ <https://www.unccd.int/convention/overview>

¹⁴⁰ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/climate-change-and-the-environment/united-nations-convention-to-combat-desertification#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20to,development%20to%20sustainable%20land%20management.>

¹⁴¹ Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions. Adaptation: Under the Frameworks of the CBD, the UNCCD and the UNFCCC. https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/adaptation_eng.pdf

¹⁴² Saner, R., Yiu, L. & Kingombe, C. (2019) “The 2030 Agenda Compared with Six Related International Agreements: Valuable Resources for SDG Implementation”, *Sustainability Science*, 14(6), 1685-1716. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-019-00655-2>.

¹⁴³ To date, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, 194 of 196 (99%) Parties have developed at least one NBSAP.

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/projects-programmes/ldn-target-setting>

¹⁴⁵ COP-15, CP-MOP-10 and NP-MOP-4 decisions containing requests related to NBSAPs, 2015. [https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/COP15-MOP10-MOP4%20\(NBSAP%20decisions\).pdf](https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/COP15-MOP10-MOP4%20(NBSAP%20decisions).pdf)

¹⁴⁶ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/131%20countries_list_LDN%20TSP_for%20web.pdf

¹⁴⁷ DART - the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs <https://dart.informea.org/>



Figure 45: The integrated reporting capability of DaRT, developed by UNEP.

(Source: UNEP. <https://dart.informea.org/node/22003>)

The Bioland Tool is a turnkey solution that can be used by all countries, no matter what capacity constraints they are faced with, to establish a basic operational national CHM website which, among other things, can effectively facilitate NBSAP implementation. This turnkey solution uses the Drupal content management system (CMS) and is available at no cost to countries. Click here to see a demonstration of the Bioland Tool.¹⁴⁸

Key justifications for adopting these tools and the synergistic approach could be summarised as follows:

1. Context

- Avoidance of duplication
- Harmonization of actions
- Enhancement of policy and programme coherence
- Realization of synergies
- Sharing of best practices and lessons learned

2. Themes

- Materializing synergies

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/967d/038c/c7c1bec92870825396217c46/chm-ws-2019-01-item-04-bioland-en.pdf>
 Countries interested in making use of the Bioland Tool should contact the CBD Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int

- Tracking progress
 - Financing synergistic projects
 - Local & indigenous knowledge
 - National Development Plans
3. Activity Blocks
- Research and resources
 - Country engagement
 - Initial capacity development
 - Communications and outreach
 - Monitoring, evaluation, learning

Conclusion

This report provides a bird's-eye view of the policies that were discussed during the ETC 2024 and of the challenges that need to be overcome to ensure successful integration of the SDGs with the NDCs and national development plans. An analysis of the proposed country plans of action proposed by the participants was also conducted in order to better understand and reflect on their plans' feasibility and the appropriateness of the related change actions in their respective home countries.

Annex I: Concept Note and Agenda

2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement – Integrating SDG Implementation and Climate Action

Incheon, Republic of Korea, 7-10 May 2024

Concept Note

I. Background

Taking urgent action on the 2030 Agenda and climate change

As we cross the midpoint towards 2030, the world is significantly behind in meeting the majority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As noted by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, the challenge of reaching these ambitious goals has been exacerbated by the pandemic, rising living costs, armed conflicts, and natural disasters, which have erased progress on many goals and has resulted in increased poverty levels. Nevertheless, since 2016, there has been a significant accumulation of knowledge and evidence concerning the SDGs. National and local governments have demonstrated their ambition and commitment by formulating strategies and action plans. Additionally, there is a much-improved understanding of the synergies and interconnectedness among the goals, with governments and stakeholders now better equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate trade-offs and recognize co-benefits in the pursuit of the SDGs¹⁴⁹.

One of the most critical areas is climate action, which overlaps with many of the sustainable development goals. In 2023, the world not only witnessed the shattering of temperature records but also saw global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) soar to new heights¹⁵⁰. In its flagship Emissions Gap Report 2023, the United Nations Environment Programme has attributed this escalation to the lack of significant emission reductions in high-income, high-emitting nations—historically responsible for the bulk of emissions—and the inability to control the rise of emissions in low- and middle-income countries, which now account for the majority of current emissions. Consequently, a call for unprecedented global action has emerged. High-income countries are urged to rapidly advance towards domestic emission cuts, aim for net-zero targets well before the timelines suggested by recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, and simultaneously extend financial and technical aid to poorer nations. On the other hand, countries with lower incomes face the dual challenge of fulfilling immediate developmental needs while transitioning away from fossil fuel dependence, marking a critical juncture in global environmental efforts¹⁵¹.

II. Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement– Integrating SDG Implementation and Climate Action

Nevertheless, research highlights the co-benefits of tackling climate change alongside progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme for the [2024 High-Level Political Forum](#), scheduled from Monday, 8 July, to Wednesday, 17 July 2024, underscores the imperative to “*Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions.*” The HLPF will conduct an in-depth review of pivotal SDGs, including SDG 13 (climate action).

¹⁴⁹ https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20-110923_1.pdf

¹⁵⁰ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145457>

¹⁵¹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/43923/EGR2023_ESEN.pdf

Aligning efforts under the 2030 Agenda with the objectives of the Paris Agreement can drive substantial and efficient progress across both fronts. The Global Stocktake (GST) at COP28 underlined that despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals. The GST further emphasized that finance, capacity-building and technology transfer are critical enablers of climate action and underlined that just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes, with tailored approaches addressing different contexts¹⁵². The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), due in 2025, is a critical moment for enhancing climate commitments and improving Parties' approach to the climate crisis.

Today, many countries have aligned their national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁵³, however, national plans are not necessarily aligned with climate action and NDC commitments.¹⁵⁴ More action is needed on the alignment between NDCs and national developments plans to harness the potential opportunities to accelerate progress on climate action.

Assessing the synergies and potential tradeoffs between climate action and SDG progress is crucial in enhancing the efficiency of measures taken and to promote a just transition. With research undertaken by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate showing that such alignment can lead to US\$26 trillion in economic gains by 2030, produce over 65 million new green jobs, and prevent around 700,000 premature deaths compared to business as usual¹⁵⁵. Low-income and lower-middle income countries are particularly well placed to benefit using low carbon and climate-resilient approaches to meeting their development needs such as through building renewable energy infrastructure, switching to climate-smart agriculture or accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions in land use practices can lead to myriad improvements in health, environmental and livelihood outcomes.

Moreover, as noted by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, attention to the systemic nature of SDG and climate action is necessary to avoid siloed approaches which lead to progress in one area leading to regression in another (e.g. forest safeguarding without consideration of local issues leading to increased poverty and social unrest or vehicles not meeting European emissions standards being shipped to the Global South). UN DESA along with UNFCCC has strengthened the global dialogue on climate and SDG synergies, particularly through the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies with the publication of global reports¹⁵⁶ and findings on progress for integrating climate and SDGs at national level.

Although currently only 23 of the 173 NDCs explicitly refer to the SDGs, the majority of countries that do so are from the Global South, thereby giving a rich range of potential case studies for other low-income and lower-middle income countries to learn from. Kenya and Mexico are two of the countries that have pursued this approach. Kenya conducted an impact assessment of the National Climate Change Action Plan on the SDGs as well as aligning planning cycles of its NDC, National Development Plan and national SDG action plans. Mexico has analysed how existing NDCs impact the implementation of the SDGs, with all 169 SDG targets being evaluated regarding their potential connection to mitigation and adaptation activities¹⁵⁷. However, even if most NDCs could benefit from more explicit alignment with SDG targets, research has shown that climate action and the 2030 Agenda are strongly connected and that this connection is increasing over time¹⁵⁸.

III. 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

¹⁵² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_L17E.pdf

¹⁵³ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/VNR%202022%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>

¹⁵⁴ <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida62090en-integrating-climate-action-into-national-development-planning.pdf>

¹⁵⁵ https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE_2018_FULL-REPORT.pdf

¹⁵⁶ https://sdgs.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies#global_reports

¹⁵⁷ https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/UN%20Climate%20SDG%20Synergies%20Report-091223B_1.pdf

¹⁵⁸ <https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/sei-brief-paris-agenda-2030-connections-dzebo-may-2023-1.pdf>

With an aim to build capacity of public servants in developing countries to achieve the SDGs, the Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development regularly takes place in Incheon, Korea, where around 70 participants gather every year.

Recognizing the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and as a follow up to the Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum (A/RES/78/1) on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023, as well as preparation for the review of SDG 13 at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2024, the Executive Training Course for Policymakers aims to assist UN Member States in adopting a systems-thinking approach to SDG planning and review and NDC 3.0 planning and implementation. Voluntary National Reviews serve as periodic review tools for SDG implementation, however these review past progress, while NDCs are forward-looking. Most importantly, SDG planning processes, integrated into national plans, are the ideal central roadmap for integrating NDC commitments as well. A focus on building national capacities for integrated national planning on climate action's role within sustainable development is therefore a key learning objective of the course.

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) was established in 2011 in Incheon, Republic of Korea under the Division for SDGs of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). With support from the Government of Korea, UNOSD plays a crucial role in assisting Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through capacity building, knowledge sharing, policy advisory, and partnership. Among its notable initiatives, UNOSD organizes the annual Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This training course is designed to equip policymakers from developing countries with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national level.

IV. Objectives

The main objective of the 2023 Executive Training Course is to enhance the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and overall capacities of member states in implementing sustainable development planning, policymaking, and policy shaping through an integrated approach. The course aims to achieve the following key objectives:

- Strengthen practical knowledge and skills for aligning and integrating SDG planning and climate action through Nationally Determined Contributions, including through a practical focus on investment, financing and data methods for integrated preparation and development of these instruments.
- Facilitate networking and the exchange of proven practices and case studies among public policymakers.
- Foster peer-to-peer collaboration and enhance partnership-building capacities across government agencies and departments to ensure integrated and evidence-based policymaking and reporting on sustainable development and climate action.

V. Structure and Methodology

The 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will take place in-person in Incheon, Korea (with virtual engagement option for resource persons).

The course will centre around the theme of aligning SDG planning and NDCs in order to ensure that member states, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are able to avoid siloed approaches that can lead to negative spillovers¹⁵⁹, understand tradeoffs and how to identify and utilize co-benefits. During the training, participants will examine the development of VNRs and NDCs, understand the interlinkages between them, and how to make the connections explicit and reflected in national sustainability planning.

The course will consist of several interrelated modules, structured around ensuring accelerated actions for the Decade of Action. Emphasizing the importance of a 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach, the modules will build upon each other to equip participants with practical yet transformative policymaking skills for the SDGs and climate action. Each module will cover concepts and opportunities surrounding the interlinkages

¹⁵⁹ Spillovers can also be understood as positive or negative externalities across national borders or are also noted as burden shifting, where actions of development in one country impact other countries.

between VNRs and NDCs, complemented by concrete policy practices and country cases. It will consist of presentations by international experts, scholars, and practitioners followed by Q&A and discussions. It will also include group work on simulations and role playing that feed back to plenary sessions. Preparatory reading and assignments will be requested of participants. Finally, a half-day site visit to illustrate the Korean experience in implementing the SDGs and climate action is foreseen.

VI. Target Audience

The 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets senior national government officials from developing countries who are responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and development of VNRs as well as those working on the climate change agenda and development of NDCs.

VII. Language

The 2023 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be conducted in English.

2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Holiday Inn - Incheon, Republic of Korea, 7-10 May 2024

Agenda

Day 1 Tuesday, 7 May 2024

Time	Session	Objective
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Sponsored participants should register at the welcome desk
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Session Mr. Juwang Zhu, Acting Director, Division of Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (<i>virtual</i>) Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), DSDG, UNDESA	Official opening of the training course welcoming participants and invited resource persons
9:15 – 9:35	Keynote Speech Mr. Sang-hyup Kim, Chair of the Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, Republic of Korea	Host country's approach integrating climate and SDGs
9:35 – 9:45	Photo Session	
9:45 – 9:50	Overview of the training Mrs. Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD, DSDG, UNDESA	
9:50 – 10:45	Session 1: Overview of the SDGs and Climate Action Progress Moderator: Mrs. Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD, DSDG, UNDESA Presentations The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals – Progress update Mr. Joop Theunissen, Deputy Chief, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UNDESA (<i>virtual</i>) The Paris Agreement and its role in achieving the SDGs – Global Stocktake (GST1) Ms. Julie Amoroso-Garbin, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific Global Progress on Climate and SDG Synergies Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior	To provide participants with a shared understanding of progress on the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, highlighting the Global Stocktake 1.

	Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG, UNDESA (<i>virtual</i>)	
	Facilitated discussion	
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	Coffee break served in the room whilst discussion continues
11:00 – 11:40	Session 2: Overview of SDGs in National Planning and SDG Review - VNRs - Purpose, Process, and Importance Moderator: Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD Presenters - Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Social Affairs Officer, Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC - Ms. Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, ESCAP <i>Acknowledgement of attending countries completing VNR at 2024 High-level Political Forum: Armenia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mexico, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.</i> Q&A	To provide participants with a shared understanding of the VNR process, purpose and importance.
11:40 – 12:30	Session 3: Overview of the Nationally Determined Contributions Moderator: Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD Presenters - Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific - Ms. Raquel Smith Cordero Ortega, Division Chief, Climate Change Mainstreaming and Integration Division, Climate Change Service of Philippines Q&A	To provide participants with a shared understanding of the NDC process, purpose and importance.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 – 14:30	Session 4: Identifying co-benefits and tradeoffs between the SDG and Paris Agreement (with a focus on NDC) Moderator: UNFCCC RCC Presenters - Ms. Xin Zhou, Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) (<i>virtual</i>) - Mr. Adis Dzebo, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	To provide participants with an understanding of how synergies between SDGs and NDCs can be identified, understanding development pathways with climate change lens

	- Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP Q&A	
14:30 – 15:15	Session 5: Group Work Part A - Identifying synergies approach for interlinkages between the NDCs and SDGs Facilitator: Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP Group Activity: Mapping SDGs and NDC targets for overlap and differences, based on own country experiences Facilitators: ECLAC, ESCAP, IGES, NDC Partnership, SEI, UNFCCC RCC, UNOSD	Participants develop an understanding of the synergies between NDCs and SDGs within their own countries using a systems thinking approach.
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	Coffee break served in the room whilst discussion continues
15:30 – 17:00	Session 6: Regional and Country Examples of SDG and NDC Alignment in Planning Processes Moderator: Mr. Adis Dzebo, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Presenters - Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, Inter-Regional Adviser, UN Economic Commission for Africa (virtual) - Mr. José Abraham Ortíz Álvarez, General Coordinator of Climate Change of Mexico, INECC and Ms. Ana Montano Medina, General Director for Sustainable Development Actions Oversight, Secretariat of Economy, Mexico - Ms. Ressa Kombi, Senior Climate Change Officer, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry and Mr. William Komu, Chief Economist, The National Treasury Economic Planning, State Department for Economic Planning, Kenya Q&A	Participants gain understanding of how countries have successfully aligned SDGs and NDCs in national planning from a country perspective.

Day 2 Wednesday, 8 May 2024

Time	Session	Objectives/Notes
9:00 – 9:10	Rapporteur – recap of day 1 Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UN DESA	

9:10 – 10:00	Session 7: Group Work Part B – Assessing opportunities in aligning SDGs and NDCs Facilitator: UNFCCC RCC / NDC Partnership Group Activity: Mapping opportunities in alignment of VNRs and NDCs, based on own country experiences - Facilitator: Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific	Participants analyse mapping completed from the previous exercise, now assessing tradeoffs with interaction between different policies and sectors, and practical barriers. Reporting back per country group – 1 rapporteur reports back to plenary.
10:00 – 10:30	Session 8: Open Plenary - Aligning SDGs and NDCs into National Planning Moderator: Mrs. Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD, DSDG, UNDESA Guiding questions: - What role do NDCs play in national development plans and strategies? - What role will NDC 3.0 play in enabling national sustainable development? - Going forward, what are the barriers to aligning national plans and strategies with the SDGs and NDCs? - How can VNRs also report on climate action progress?	Participants gain understanding of how countries have aligned SDGs and NDCs in national planning from a global and regional perspective.
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Session 9: Entry points for realizing coherent implementation of NDCs and SDGs Moderator: Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific Presenters - Finance: Mr. Adrián Flores-Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership - Data/Information: Mr. Adis Dzebo, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) - Stakeholder engagement: Ms. Miki Fukuda, Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES Q&A	Participants are provided with an overview of the different means of realizing synergies considering focused areas such as climate finance, data and stakeholder engagement.
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 15:00	Session 10: Financing the NDCs and SDGs Moderator: Mr. Adrián Flores-Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership	Participants consider the landscape of financing from both climate and SDGs and understand how it can

	Presenter - Ms. Selina Wrighter, Head of Policy and Strategy, Green Climate Fund Interactive exercise - Mr. Adrián Flores-Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership Closing Remarks: Mr. Raymond Saner, Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics, Basel University	leverage optimum benefits in driving progress at the national level
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 – 17:00	Session 11: Group discussion and Country presentations on financing Facilitator: Mr. Raymond Saner, Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics, Basel University - Ms. Deepitika Chand, Senior Climate Change Mitigation Officer, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Mr. Andrew Coriakula, Sustainable Development Specialist, Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance, Fiji - Mr. Stephen Ampem-Darko Ayiku, Principal Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission and Mr. Edward Bruce-Lyle, Senior Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana - Mr. Pascal Byarugaba, Program M&E Specialist, Secretariat-Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda and Mr. Francis Opolot, Principal Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda Discussant: Mr. Adrián Flores-Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership	Presentations and plenary discussion on identifying finance opportunities that can accelerate SDG and climate action.

Day 3 Thursday, 9 May 2024

Time	Session	Objectives/Notes
9:00 – 9:10	Rapporteur – recap of day 2 Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD	
9:10 – 10:45	Session 12: Data Gaps and Information needed for VNRs and NDCs Moderator: Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD, DSDG, UNDESA	Participants consider how data and broader information issues can be

	Presenters - Ms. Pelellagama Kapuge Sithila Subhodini, Additional Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Environment and Mr. Chaminda Udakumbura, Director (Operations), Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka - Ms. Wantanee Lalee, Director of International Convention and Cooperation Section, Department of Climate Change and Environment and Ms. Nutjarin Wongiam, Environmentalist, Department of Climate Change and Environment, Thailand - Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Social Affairs Officer, Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC - Ms. Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, ESCAP - Ms. Juhi Bansal, Regional Expert for NDCs, LT-LEDS, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific Q&A	aligned for the SDGs and climate action.
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Session 13: Stakeholder Engagement for aligning VNR and NDC Moderator: Ms. Ana Thorlund, Governance and Public Administration Expert, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UNDESA Presenters - Ms. Miki Fukuda, Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES - Ms. Ani Kirakosyan, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and Ms. Armine Hovhannisyan, Third Secretary at the UN and Sustainable Development Division, Department of Multilateral Policy and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armenia - Ms. Amy Nicole Wilson Bautista, Regional Development Analyst, Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy and Ms. Rocío Chacón Torres, Head of Institutional Planning, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan), Costa Rica Q&A	Participants consider how stakeholder engagement can be aligned for both the SDGs and climate action (gender lens and inclusion, Leave No-one Behind).
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	

13:30 – 13:45	Session 14: Country Action Plan Exercise on Financing, Data, Stakeholder Engagement for SDG and NDC Alignment Facilitator: Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD Introduction and instructions for the exercise	Participants are introduced to the action plan exercise
13:45 – 15:15	Group Activity: Development of Action Plan for SDG and NDC Alignment Facilitators: ECLAC, ESCAP, IGES, NDC Partnership, SEI, UNFCCC RCC, UNOSD.	Participants are split into groups that consider the development of one of the focus areas.
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 17:00	Group Activity: Development of Action Plan for SDG and NDC Alignment (continued) Facilitators: ECLAC, ESCAP, IGES, NDC Partnership, SEI, UNFCCC RCC, UNOSD.	Participants are split into groups which consider the development of one of the focus areas.

Day 4 Friday, 10 May 2024

Time	Session	Objectives/Notes
9:00 – 9:10	Rapporteur – recap of day 3 Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD	
9:10 – 11:30	Session 15: Group Presentation of Action Plans for comment and feedback Moderator: Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD	Participants provide their plans and receive expert feedback.
11:30 – 11:45	Course Evaluation Facilitator: Ms. Lichia Saner-Yiu, Consultant, UNOSD	Participants provide feedback on the effectiveness of the training
11:45 – 12:00	Closing Session Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head, UN Office for Sustainable Development, DSDG, UNDESA	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 17:00	Site Visit - Incheon I-start up Park, Songdo - IFEZ Smart City Integrated Operation Center, 4th floor of G-tower - Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) PR Center, 33rd floor of G-tower	

Annex II: Participants List

Country Participants

Armenia

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Philippines

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Division Chief
Climate Change Mainstreaming and Integration Division, Climate Change Service of Philippines

Sri Lanka



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Ministry of Environment

Chaminda Udakumbura
Director (Operation)
Sustainable Development Council

Thailand

Wantanee Lalee
Director of International Convention and Cooperation Section
Department of Climate Change and Environment

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