



Building the evidence base for synergistic action in support of
raising climate and SDGs ambition

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement provide a firm foundation for the coherent implementation of climate action and sustainable development

2010 level¹ even if all the latest NDCs are implemented, including their components that are conditional on the receipt of support.

An integrated approach that seeks to strengthen synergies between these two global agendas is critical to speed up progress. Focusing on concrete measures for synergistic implementation at all levels would help dramatically increase the pace of implementation and ramp up ambition.

In April 2019, UN DESA and UNFCCC organized the first annual Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Hosted by the Government of Denmark, it took place in Copenhagen with several hundred participants from diverse communities, bringing together practitioners, experts and policymakers from both developing and developed countries; international resource persons from academia, think tanks, the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and representatives of relevant United Nations organizations.

The focus of the conference was promoting coordinated implementation of climate action and the SDGs at the global, regional and country level. Participants identified examples that specifically illustrate the potential of synergistic and interlinked approaches to realizing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement (including through analyses of, for example, national development plans, nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national risk reduction strategies). Participants also analyzed gaps and challenges (including trade-offs), and in an expansive conference outcome summary made recommendations for strengthening synergy, increasing ambition, advancing implementation action, maximizing co-benefits and stimulating multi-stakeholder partnerships, including directing means of implementation to more coordinated action; scaling up and enhancing the mobilization of resources that could benefit sustainable development at large, including climate action; and ensuring the effective use of resources while avoiding duplication of effort.

The success and impact of the first global synergies conference led to a decision to make this an annual event. The pandemic, however, forced a change in plans for 2020. Rather than an in-person conference, a virtual Global Synergies Consultation took place over the course of May and June in 2020, consisting of three separate online events. The consultations kept the community together and even expanded it despite the difficulties presented by the online format. The series resulted in a technical summary report, outlining key messages, best practices and lessons learnt.

In addition, between December 2020 and February 2021, UN DESA, UNFCCC and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) co-convened a series of three webinars on integrated climate and SDG action. The webinars pointed to a variety of options for synergistic policy interventions in different sectors using an integrated nexus approach. Ways to overcome constraints in implementation, including issues related to capacity development, financing

¹ See UNFCCC message to Parties and observers on 4 November 2021, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/message_to_parties_and_observers_on_ndc_numbers.pdf.

strategies, as well as challenges in monitoring and reporting. The synthesis report of the webinars provided a summary of the deliberations made during the above-mentioned learning series, along with a conceptual and methodological information on how to achieve better synergies and overcome constraints.

Building on the outcomes of the first Global Climate-SDG Conference held in 2019 and the virtual consultations in 2020/2021, the third global conference on Synergies provides a unique opportunity to take stock of practical measures that are being implemented to advance climate and SDG synergies in regional, national and subnational efforts, including through COVID recovery plans and the NDCs.

The overall focus of the conference will be on the progress made over the last few years, with a particular focus on building the evidence base for synergistic action in raising climate ambition towards the 1.5 degrees goal of the Paris Agreement while putting the world on the right track for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The discussions will highlight, among others:

- recent examples of integrated policy measures, tools for identifying synergistic opportunities, coordination and planning mechanisms, financing instruments, and other

2)

