



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

12 June 2017

Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-third session

United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action

I. Overview and vision

1. The United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action is guided by the collective commitment of the United Nations system to improving collaboration and the delivery of support on climate change to Member States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development era of implementation. The Strategic Approach is situated within this external context and will be used specifically to:

- **Respond to the comprehensive and ambitious sustainable development and climate change** architecture recently established, including, but not limited to, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the New Urban Agenda,¹ as well as to the growing challenges that climate change presents for sustainable development, responding to humanitarian need and sustaining peace;
- **Promote the role of the United Nations in advancing climate change action and sustainable development as one coherent and mutually reinforcing agenda**, including through support to Member States for implementation, to avoid duplication in activities and to capitalize on available expertise across the United Nations system;
- **Enable, inspire and guide the United Nations system**, building on existing activities and seeking to enhance the leveraging of synergies.

2. In order to be effective in supporting the United Nations system, the Strategic Approach is underpinned by and supports the following principles:

- **Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Common Core Principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action**, which include pursuing human rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches and working through partnerships such as with the private sector and civil society organizations;

¹ Other relevant agreements are noted in principle B of the Common Core Principles (see annex).



- **CEB common principles to guide the United Nations system’s support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;**
- **United Nations Development Group core principles of collaboration for delivering together in support of the 2030 Agenda.**²

3. The Strategic Approach is expected to be implemented over the period 2017-2020, after which it could be reviewed, extended or refreshed.

II. Understanding the aims of the Strategic Approach

4. By serving as a unifying vision for collaborative United Nations action on climate change, the Strategic Approach will be a driver and tool for the United Nations system to achieve the objectives and outcomes outlined below.

Objectives

- **To reinforce and operationalize the Common Core Principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action as a guiding framework for inter-agency collaboration on climate change** where a joint United Nations system response would achieve the best possible support for Member States in undertaking climate action.
- **To encourage and guide integrated action** in the areas of climate change and sustainable development and to deliver co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, so as to enable the United Nations system to provide better support to Member States to advance those two objectives in tandem.
- **To identify and foster action in key impact areas** of relevance to the climate change agenda where improved collaboration and shared expertise are needed and add value.
- **To ensure coherent and, where possible, joint approaches to the country-level work on climate change carried out by the United Nations**, in line with agreed United Nations Development Group principles for delivering together.

Outcomes

- **Improved United Nations system-wide promotion of and guidance on synergies** between different recent global agreements to ensure coherent and streamlined support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
- **Stronger linkages** between policy and operational aspects of the United Nations system’s work in support of Member States, including by operationalizing the Common Core Principles.
- **Improved coordination efforts** in the areas of climate change that are focused on delivering tangible results and a real, measurable impact on the ground.
- **Improved United Nations system collaboration** in key impact areas and processes, including emerging climate challenges where improved collaboration is needed.
- **Facilitated partnerships to improve collaboration and innovation**, including with the private sector and civil society.

² Available from <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNDG-Support-for-Implementing-the-2030-Agenda.pdf>.

- **Support for United Nations system-wide accountability** on climate action by deepening United Nations corporate sustainability efforts,³ including by further scaling up action to achieve its commitment to climate neutrality by 2020 and by contributing to emissions reduction through programming.
- **Increased clarity** on the United Nations system’s services offered to Member States to implement climate action in support of new and relevant frameworks and agreements.
- **More effective use of resources** by pooling expertise and maximizing synergies across the system through increased inter-agency collaboration to enable more effective climate change outcomes, in particular on key impact areas.

III. Direct implementation of the Strategic Approach through impact areas for collaboration

5. On the basis of a consultative process with United Nations agencies, eight thematic impact areas have been identified that would benefit from improved and increased collaboration among agencies. These are areas where combining skills and expertise would ensure better climate support from United Nations agencies or where collective United Nations thinking would help to advance action on new and emerging issues.

6. The aim of the Strategic Approach is to galvanize United Nations action in those areas and provide specific recommendations where collective United Nations action can be taken. These recommendations relate to both how the United Nations can improve collaboration and convergence on joint climate action within the system and with partners and how the United Nations can better provide joint support on climate action to Member States at the global, regional and country levels. In all cases, the emphasis is on building upon and working through existing tools, initiatives and mechanisms, where feasible.

7. In United Nations programme countries, the implementation of the Strategic Approach will rest on existing inter-agency mechanisms for country-level operations, as agreed by the United Nations Development Group, namely, the resident coordinator system, the United Nations country team mechanism and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. It will also be guided by the principles agreed by the United Nations Development Group for delivering together in support of the 2030 Agenda, which highlight the importance of evidence-based, results-focused, innovative approaches that bring together the United Nations system to collectively support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through greater collaboration, coordination and, where possible, “joined-up” approaches, including joint programmes.

8. Listed below each impact area outline are the agencies that were involved in developing the recommendations and priorities for that impact area. The “facilitator agency” role has, so far, been to act as a focal point and to support coordination on the issue. It is not intended that facilitating agencies should act as the lead for all implementation in each area or as the permanent lead in those areas. In many instances, contributing agencies will be leading certain initiatives or programmatic responses that contribute to the overall impact area. Additional agencies are welcome and encouraged to join relevant impact areas to contribute to their outcomes and to supporting a system-wide approach.

³ See www.greeningtheblue.org.

Normative guidance on climate change

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement will be facilitated by global, regional, national and local policies, with a high level of coordination and integration across sectors and, in some cases, within regional sectors across countries.

The United Nations system can provide coherent normative guidance on climate change in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if it brings together its cumulative expertise and experiences and “delivers as one” at every step of the policy development process.

By “delivering as one”, the entities of the United Nations system will be able to support individual countries and regions most efficiently, by assessing their existing normative systems, including legislation and policies and, where needed, further developing those systems so as to ensure delivery on nationally determined contributions and ensure coherence and linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as by enhancing Member State ownership of the relevant intergovernmental frameworks, goals and targets, while also enhancing their mutual reinforcement through interconnections and cross-referencing. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are the two main global forums where progress will be measured and further guidance provided. Their relevance and effectiveness will depend on the contributions and active promotion of the agendas of both organs in dozens of other intergovernmental forums and bodies, most of which are serviced by the United Nations system.

A number of important joint United Nations system initiatives are already under way, including with respect to strengthening legal frameworks on climate change at the national level; enhancing the protection of people displaced by climate change, managing disaster risk and mainstreaming migration, urban and other issues within existing national climate policies, through the development of guidelines and capacity-building tools; and supporting countries at the national level through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **United Nations system organizations should systematically seek input from the broader system to ensure that an integrated perspective is brought to bear in servicing global and regional intergovernmental forums and bodies, whenever such bodies address the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;**
- **The United Nations system should continue to foster policy coherence on climate change at the national, regional and global levels, through concerted action;**
- **The United Nations system should develop and disseminate coherent messages for an integrated global response to the climate change challenge;**
- **The United Nations system should prioritize translating the Common Core Principles for a system-wide approach to climate action into specific recommendations for the delivery of consistent and complementary policy guidance on climate change by United Nations entities.**

Contributing agencies: Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (facilitators), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as well as regional commissions.

Interrelationship between nationally determined contributions and Sustainable Development Goal implementation

The establishment of both nationally determined contributions⁴ and the Sustainable Development Goals has created new mechanisms for tackling climate change, through which the United Nations system is expected to provide support to Member States. United Nations agencies helped many countries to formulate and submit their intended nationally determined contributions before the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Paris in 2015, and can continue to play a critical role in building readiness for implementation. In particular, the United Nations system can support increased ambition in the implementation of climate and sustainable development objectives and identify opportunities for joint implementation by which the nationally determined contributions can drive sustainable development and vice versa. To effectively achieve the nationally determined contributions, Member States will need to engage a range of stakeholders, including civil society, local authorities, financial institutions and the private sector. The United Nations, collectively, can act as a convener to bring these groups together at the global, regional and national levels.

Joint United Nations approaches in this area will help to ensure the pooling of knowledge and coordination in support of all sectors addressed by the nationally determined contributions, while drawing links with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective of collaborative United Nations system action on nationally determined contributions and Sustainable Development Goal implementation is therefore to pool and share expertise among entities in order to improve United Nations support to Member States in achieving nationally determined contributions and in facilitating synergies with Sustainable Development Goal implementation, including by facilitating country support and the regional sharing of knowledge and expertise. This action should be anchored in country ownership, leadership, commitment and mutual accountability and build on existing multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the NDC Partnership.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Collaboration through existing United Nations Development Group and other United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms to identify opportunities for synergizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the nationally determined contributions, as well as the goals and targets of other recent frameworks and agreements, where complementary;**
- **Regular inter-agency sharing of experiences and examples on nationally determined contribution and Sustainable Development Goal implementation through existing platforms, including a shared database for Member States of all nationally determined contribution guidance documents, tools and expertise produced by the United Nations system and its entities;**
- **Coordination of and, where possible, joint approaches to the work of the United Nations in support of the development and implementation of nationally determined contributions at the country level.**

Contributing agencies: UNDP (facilitator), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), FAO, ILO, IOM, UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNIDO.

⁴ See http://unfccc.int/focus/ndc_registry/items/9433.php.

Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction

The Paris Agreement established a global goal of “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change”. The aim of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster risk through addressing exposure and vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. Together, these instruments guide development towards risk-sensitive investments and resilience and are complemented by, and complementary to, other recent frameworks and agreements. For example, many Member States have included adaptation and disaster risk reduction in their nationally determined contributions.

The United Nations is in a unique position to make an impact. Joint United Nations initiatives are promoting policy coherence and supporting countries in integrating disaster and climate resilience into development and humanitarian interventions. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, endorsed by the United Nations system Chief Executives Board for Coordination, provides a results-based framework for cooperation in disaster risk reduction. Strategic and policy aspects are overseen by the senior-level leadership group on disaster risk reduction for resilience.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Scale up joint action in transformative initiatives relating to climate information, early warning and preparedness, insurance and social protection, climate-smart agriculture, livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, water management and resilient cities and infrastructure, with joint capacity-building for risk-informed development warranting special attention;**
- **Set disaster risk reduction and resilience high on the political agenda through high-level advocacy and outreach for anticipating risk, absorbing shocks and reshaping development using existing forums, panels and platforms, including through Special Envoys;**
- **Deliver and track progress in the revised Plan of Action on disaster risk reduction for resilience and introduce strategic issues in climate change action for consideration by the senior-level leadership group;**
- **Provide coherent and, where possible, integrated support to national efforts, including in the context of the implementation of nationally determined contributions, on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.**

Contributing agencies: Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (facilitator), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, ECA, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Science, technology, knowledge and innovation

The importance of science, technology and innovation and the role of United Nations in providing expertise and joint support to Member States have been recognized in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, among others.

The United Nations system has been collaborating on science, technology and innovation issues, including on the technology facilitation mechanism, and is actively involved in supporting science, technology and innovation actions that can act as the basis on which to scale up support and pursue collaborative action that supports Member States, from collaboration among United Nations agencies that provides high-level advice on relevant science, technology and innovation issues that bridge knowledge systems, to bringing indigenous knowledge into climate change research and assessments. Further collaboration that will be continued and strengthened facilitates the analysis and prediction of Earth system change so as to determine the predictability of climate and the effect of human activities on climate, as well as the impact of climate change on ecosystems and on human well-being.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Enable Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through training and education in science, technology and innovation, inclusive science, technology and innovation policies and strategies and the deployment of technologies, action plans and road maps in areas such as the environment, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, industry, the economy and education;**
- **Share challenges, trends and solutions in science, technology and innovation needs and deployment for achieving climate goals and Sustainable Development Goals, including through technology needs assessments, an annual science, technology and innovation forum and joint reporting;**
- **Develop methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to climate-relevant science, technology and innovation, building on existing efforts in this area, to help countries track the progress of their achievements;**
- **Strengthen the capacity of Member States to bring diverse knowledge systems into climate change decision-making through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Climate Research Programme and other mechanisms.**

Contributing agencies: UNEP (facilitator), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, ECA, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and WMO.

Data and observations

Data and observations provide critical evidence to underpin policy decisions on climate action by Governments around the world. Generating and exchanging harmonized, disaggregated and quality-assured data and performing reliable observations are mandated activities carried out by a number of United Nations agencies, including WMO, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF and IOM. Joint efforts among relevant United Nations agencies should build upon, integrate and improve existing and planned surface-based atmospheric measurement networks, airborne and satellite observations, modelling frameworks and data assimilation systems.

Significant numbers of United Nations inter-agency frameworks and mechanisms already exist for data and observations, providing an excellent basis for scaling up and strengthening United Nations collaboration and joint action in this area. Examples of such frameworks and mechanisms include a cooperative platform to align the work of United Nations organizations in delivering climate services, in order to develop management support in the areas of disaster risk reduction, resilience, water, food, health and energy, and collaboration on databases to provide country-level estimates of greenhouse gas emissions and support Member States on transparency in the context of the Paris Agreement. Joint global data and research programmes for understanding the impacts of climate change on issues such as humanitarian response and migration patterns are further areas of work already under way that can contribute to progress in this impact area.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Collaborate through existing mechanisms to create reliable and long-term baseline data sets for access by Member States;**
- **Provide data and observations for use in early warning related to crisis, disasters and humanitarian situations, including inputs to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre;**
- **Strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States to generate, collect and use disaggregated data and information that enhances their ability to implement, monitor and report climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions and loss and damage;**
- **Provide coherent and, where possible, integrated support for national data collection and statistical capacity development efforts on climate change.**

Contributing agencies: WMO (facilitator), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, FAO, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Climate finance and investment

Transitioning economies to climate-compatible pathways requires a major rechanneling of financial flows, both public and private. The scale of the challenge is approximately \$1.5 trillion per annum, compared with business-as-usual. It requires policy action that: (a) builds, within sectors of the real economy, the demand for risk-informed, sustainable finance; (b) fosters financial sector development that enables the financial system to provide the required supply of sustainable finance; and (c) maximizes the allocation of public finance towards climate action, while ensuring that it is used as catalytically as possible.

The United Nations system can play a stronger role in helping countries to understand the complex and intertwined challenges in those three areas. It can provide guidance and capacity to countries and can facilitate an effective exchange of knowledge between them and support in accessing finance for climate action. This includes partnering: (a) with relevant public financial vehicles such as the Green Climate Fund,⁵ the Global Environment Facility⁶ and development banks; and (b) with networks of public and private financial institutions and financial regulators on financial regulations for sustainable development.

The objectives of collaborative United Nations system action on climate finance and investment are to foster understanding in the international community of climate finance as a systemic challenge involving financial markets; build the capacity of States to respond to that systemic challenge by implementing appropriate policy packages; and facilitate access by States to international finance and its effective use.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

Through partnerships, including that between the Convention on Climate Change and UNEP, which led to a joint work programme, address the following activities and deliverables:

- **A unified United Nations view on mobilizing financial stakeholders to action through systemic change;**
- **Support for countries in developing comprehensive, national climate financial road maps;**
- **Mobilization and facilitation of non-State action on climate finance and the building of synergies between United Nations action and intergovernmental processes on climate finance in the Group of 20;**
- **Support for countries at the national level to access financing, both direct and indirect, and integration of climate action across relevant national financial planning and budgeting processes.**

* *Contributing agencies: UNEP and the Convention on Climate Change (facilitators), ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, FAO, UNDP and UNIDO.*

⁵ See www.greenclimate.fund.

⁶ See www.thegef.org.

Nexus of climate change, sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian issues

Climate change is a “threat multiplier” that amplifies risks to economic, social and environmental issues and can aggravate already fragile situations and the existing vulnerability of populations. Through a better understanding of the linkages between climate change and peace and security, the United Nations system can improve the ability of Member States to achieve sustainable development and sustaining peace. Given the multifaceted nature of this issue, the expertise and experiences of the whole United Nations system is required. The United Nations system is in the unique position to support in-country and regional initiatives, raise awareness, underscore the urgency of understanding the nexus, generate data and multidisciplinary analyses, identify innovative and practical solutions and establish partnerships.

The United Nations system has an emerging foundation upon which to build momentum for action. Work is under way on migration, forced displacement, environment and climate change, issues of loss and damage are being explored by multiple agencies and United Nations collaboration is taking place in inter-agency forums and through diverse workplans, including on disaster displacement, climate change, displacement and conflict, and extended research on climate vulnerability and environmental cooperation for peacebuilding. Progress in this impact area will include external partnerships between the United Nations system and local authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Existing mechanisms, including the United Nations Working Group on Transitions, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee task team on strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus with a focus on protracted contexts and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, should discuss issues pertaining to the current climate nexus, so as to enhance cooperation, avoid duplication and address gaps;**
- **The United Nations system should work collectively towards a common framing of prevention and resilience and set out a collective research agenda to better understand the scope, interaction among drivers and tools for building and sustaining peace in a changing climate;**
- **United Nations entities should to come together to integrate climate change risk in collaborative frameworks and interventions on the issue. This should be informed by data gathering and analyses and promote the scaling up of action through humanitarian, peacebuilding and development programming.**

Contributing agencies: UNDP (facilitator), FAO, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, IOM, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

Education, advocacy and collaborative action

The critical role of education and training in climate change was highlighted in the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising issued at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties held in 2014 and given the stamp of approval at the Paris Conference, held in 2015. Priorities and country needs are laid out in decisions on the Doha work programme, including the decision on the review of the Doha work programme adopted at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2016.

Work will be undertaken and strengthened through existing United Nations collaboration⁷ and partnerships, including efforts to promote formal, non-formal and informal climate change education, and will provide a framework for coordinated support for the implementation of the Convention on Climate Change in relation to education, training, public awareness, participation and access to information. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can also be strengthened to achieve improved support for Member States, including existing United Nations collaboration that supports countries in designing and implementing country-driven, results-oriented and sustainable learning to address climate change.

The recommendations for this impact area are:

- **Jointly support the design and implementation of climate change education, training and awareness-raising at the national level through existing focal points, focusing on the challenges and needs outlined in the review of the Doha work programme of the Convention on Climate Change;**
- **Jointly promote awareness-raising, training and education as a key vector for achieving engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation at regional and international high-level events such as the Conference of the Parties, with identified milestones;**
- **Jointly support countries in strengthening their capacity and putting in place the skills to implement their climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, including through support for national climate change education plans.**

Contributing agencies: UNESCO (facilitator), FAO, IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and WMO.

⁷ This includes the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness Raising.

IV. Next steps and implementation

9. The United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action seeks to galvanize actions that maximize collaboration within the United Nations system on climate change, based on existing work under way, where joint approaches can tackle new challenges and where United Nations system collaboration can enhance support to Member States in implementing intergovernmental agreements.

10. Implementation of the strategic approach and its impact areas will be carried out predominantly through existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms and joint initiatives.⁸ Annual reviews of progress in each impact area will be carried out through a lead-agency approach. This could be done through the existing core task team, under the continued facilitation of UNDP, UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs,⁹ as well as with the involvement of senior leadership and the expertise of other key United Nations agencies, where relevant. The High-level Committee on Programmes is further invited to review, as needed, the implementation of the strategic approach in order to address, at the global policy level, any systemic issues, gaps or bottlenecks that might be identified through periodic implementation reviews.

11. **The following recommendations are also identified to support the implementation of the strategic approach and its impact areas:**

- **United Nations agencies should use the Common Core Principles and the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action as tools for catalysing and enabling collaboration among United Nations system entities on climate change action and for use by individual agencies in strategic planning, as appropriate;**
- **United Nations Development Group should address how the operationalization of the Common Core Principles and the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action can best support country-level climate action by the United Nations within the context of Sustainable Development Goal implementation;¹⁰**
- **Development of an overview of existing joint United Nations approaches and initiatives on climate change that can be utilized and built upon for the implementation of the recommendations under the impact areas;**
- **Production of an external-facing version of the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action in infographic form that illustrates joint United Nations climate action and advocates for the role of the United Nations in supporting increased climate ambition.**

⁸ This includes regional United Nations Development Group coordination, regional coordination mechanisms, the Environment Management Group, the senior-level leadership group on disaster risk reduction and resilience convened by the Senior Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and collaboration with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, including its Sustainable Development Unit and its work streams on both climate change and Sustainable Development Goal implementation.

⁹ Future leadership modalities could also be determined by the task team, once operational, including a rotating chair system and/or senior leadership by specific United Nations agencies, on the basis of “thematic” issues.

¹⁰ Collaboration with the Development Operations Coordination Office is under way to determine how to facilitate this through the United Nations Development Group.

Annex***Common Core Principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action***Executive summary*

1. Following the decision by HLCP at its 30th session, by which the Committee supported the development of a system-wide approach to coordinated climate action in a phased manner, a Task Team under the HLCP Working Group on Climate Change was established to develop “a proposal for the first part of the strategy, focused on system-wide policy and high-level programmatic coherence and coordination”. Based on consultation across the system, it was agreed to generate a set of “key principles” to guide and inform the UN system-wide approach to climate action in the post-2015 period.

2. The principles draw on successful examples of previous and current UN system-wide approaches to climate change, as well as identified gaps and opportunities for system-wide action for more effective support to Member States. The principles have been designed to guide a system-wide approach and inform and strengthen the system’s collective support to climate change action under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC process, and the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the global, regional and national and subnational level.

Common Core Principles for a UN System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action

- A. Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common UN norms and standards**
- B. Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- C. Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change**
- D. Prioritize inter-agency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact**
- E. Strengthen UN system responsiveness to Member States’ needs on climate change**
- F. Base UN system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge**
- G. Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors**
- H. Ensure UN system-wide accountability on climate action**

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

Common Core Principles for a UN System-Wide Approach to Climate Change Action

- A. **Support and advance inclusive sustainable development for all in line with common UN norms and standards:** A UN system-wide approach to climate change action should be underpinned by the existing norms and standards in which UN system support to Member States is rooted, in alignment with and supportive of the ambition, vision and key guiding approaches laid out in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes (but is not limited to): pursuing inclusive sustainable development; ensuring climate change support for all, including children, youth, women, indigenous peoples and the poorest and most marginalized; integrating human rights, gender- and age-responsive approaches; and advancing women's empowerment, social justice and equality and a just transition for all.
- B. **Facilitate integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** A UN system-wide approach to climate change action should support Member States in advancing the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Samoa Pathway, and eventually the agendas expected to emerge, in 2016, from the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III, under the overall umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This should also include links to relevant climate actions under conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, the Rio Conventions and key issues relevant to climate action including energy, food security, water, gender equality, health and air pollution. Specifically, a system-wide approach must foster and capitalize on synergies, opportunities for alignment and co-benefits within and across these frameworks, as well as with other common UN strategies and implementation plans that interface with climate change. The approach should ensure that UN system action on climate change is not solely about protecting development from climate change or reducing greenhouse gas emissions as an end in itself, but also about promoting climate change action that can drive sustainable development.
- C. **Advance and scale-up ambitious and transformative action on climate change:** The UN system should send a strong signal in support of efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Such a signal should include outlining pathways to a zero carbon and low emission world; supporting countries in implementing their national climate plans, including by promoting durable, sustainable and inclusive solutions for adaptation; and fostering dialogue and action for greater ambition for climate action in partnership with Member States and non-state actors. UN system-wide policy and high level programmatic coherence and coordination should support the main pillars of climate action: mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, transparency and monitoring, capacity development, facilitating technology transfer and finance.
- D. **Prioritize interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact:** A system-wide approach should identify and support action areas where Member States and the UN system can benefit from joint UN system approaches. A system-wide approach should not be intended to encompass all individual activities by agencies relating to their individual mandates or decisions of their governing bodies, nor limit these activities, but instead be focused specifically on areas where joint action leads to improved results. In this way, a system-wide approach seeks to limit duplication and repetition within the system, responding also to recent JIU recommendations for improved

collaboration, and encourage strengthened engagement among organizations to develop, assess and evolve approaches to climate action, based on comparative advantages of respective agencies and building on existing mechanisms and good practices.

- E. **Strengthen UN system responsiveness to Member States' needs on climate change:** Noting the universality of both the SDGs and Paris Agreement, a system-wide approach should acknowledge that UN system support to Member States on climate change will differ in accordance with national and regional contexts and country needs. This includes recognizing the differing role of UN system support to middle- and high-income countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and fragile states, as well as the need for locally specific climate change knowledge and data. A system-wide approach should facilitate joint UN system action to develop tools and approaches that help Member States to take climate action at global, regional, national and subnational level and be better equipped to implement the Paris Agreement, including through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which will play an important role in spurring climate change action at the national level.
- F. **Base UN system climate action on the best climate science, data and knowledge:** The UN system should champion and base its support to Member States on the state-of-the-art in climate-relevant science, data and knowledge—including the knowledge and experiences of populations affected by climate change, and ensuring this data is gender sensitive. Furthermore, the UN should continue and strengthen its support for the global, regional national and subnational production, dissemination and use of this data, science and knowledge.
- G. **Build and strengthen partnerships, including with non-state actors:** A system-wide approach should recognize and respond to the growing role of new partners (including the private sector, subnational actors and civil society) in supporting and strengthening UN action on climate change. This would include how the UN system complements and works with climate action, including on financing, under way outside the UN system and mobilizes partners in support of ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda. At the same time the UN system should ensure that UN action is inclusive to all stakeholders, while facilitating action that recognizes the distinct roles and responsibilities between different stakeholders, such as civil society and the private sector. The UN system can also play an important role in providing normative guidance to the private sector on climate action and support efforts on accountability. This principle should notably build on the work undertaken by the Lima Paris Action Agenda partners in catalyzing multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate action.
- H. **Ensure UN system-wide accountability on climate action:** A system-wide approach should encourage UN system support and programming that contributes to ambitious emissions reductions and reduces climate risk, and holds the UN system accountable to deliver on this to the member states and populations it will support. This includes ambitious approaches by the UN system at all levels and development and implementation of systematic tools and measures to strengthen accountability by the UN system for its own emissions, sharing climate data on current and future risks, advancing risk informed development, assessing the impact of project outcomes on vulnerability, and assessing the climate impact of implemented UN system programmes. This should encompass approaches for assessing programming that ensures climate-proofing and climate resilience, as called for in the Paris outcome.