

SUPPORTING GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION

An effective response to climate change-related challenges requires actions at the global, regional and national levels. The UN system is using its expertise and resources to ensure planning and delivery of coherent support to countries in their efforts at all three levels.

Global level

UNFCCC provides the central global forum for normative work on climate change. The mandates it issues, together with relevant mandates issued by other intergovernmental bodies across the UN system, set the goals and standards towards which multilateral action on climate change aims. Climate knowledge developed or disseminated by UN system entities provides the scientific basis for decision making. Public information activities increase awareness of governments and the broader public and contribute to strengthening the international consensus for decisive action.

Regional level


Guided by regional and subregional priorities and challenges, and within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism convened by the UN Regional Commissions, consultations are being held to decide on selected focus areas for collaborative and coherent UN support to climate-related actions at the regional and subregional levels. Such areas include: strengthening observation networks and monitoring and assessment systems; promoting policies and investment for energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy sources, new technologies and standards for reducing CO₂ emissions from vehicles; fiscal policies for promoting “green growth” and; risk management system in climate-sensitive countries and sectors. Some of the activities relating to those areas have been illustrated under the various sections of this document.

National level

The UN system, collectively through the UN Development Group (UNDG), is developing means to improve support and collaboration on climate change activities at the country level. A task team on climate change and environmental sustainability has been created under UNDG to gather information on needs and best practices, as well as to develop in 2009 detailed recommendations and guidance to enhance UN agencies collaboration at national level through the UN Country Teams.

PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING

The Secretary-General has made it a top priority of his tenure to raise awareness at the highest level of the potential impacts of climate change and the necessity for taking urgent action. He is pursuing that personally, in cooperation with other UN system Executive Heads, as well as through his Special Envoys on Climate Change and other senior UN officials.



Gateway to the UN System's
Work on Climate Change

www.un.org/climatechange



www.climate-l.org

While political buy-in is key to making strides towards tackling climate change, individual action undertaken by more informed citizens is fundamental as well. The UN Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change, through its member agencies, has developed a strategic communications programme to deliver messages and information to key target audiences in order to build support among decision-makers and the public for a new global agreement that will effectively address climate change.

Public awareness-raising activities carried out by the UN system and the UN Communications Group include:

- “UNite to combat climate change” — a UN-wide campaign to promote an inclusive, comprehensive and ratifiable deal in Copenhagen.
- Climate Neutral Network (CN Net)—Online tool for outreach, networking, and awareness-raising on climate change; aims to catalyze an international response to global warming. Participants register; submit their climate neutral strategies; and share best practices. Target groups are governments (national, local) and the business sector
- Global UN branding and advertising campaign on climate change in cooperation with the International Advertising Association (IAA)
- Effective media training for promoting coverage of climate change and the UNFCCC negotiations in developing countries
- Reinforced work to include climate change in education for sustainable development
- Maintaining a central portal/Gateway connecting to all UN system entities active on climate change (www.un.org/climatechange) and cooperating with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) for Climate-L.org (www.climate-l.org).