



# United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

## COORDINATED UN SYSTEM ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE\*: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD

The United Nations system Chief Executives Board (CEB), under the leadership of the Secretary-General, has initiated a process to align the strengths of all organizations of the UN system in coordinated action to meet the challenges of climate change. The objective of the CEB's work is two-fold: to support the process for an international agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and to assist Member States at national, regional and global levels in their efforts to address the impacts of climate change. The Executive Heads of CEB member organizations have agreed on the following initial identification of key areas for engagement by the UN system:

### **A. Science, Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning**

The capacity of countries to monitor climate change and utilize climate predictions is crucial in assessing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, as well as in developing early warning systems on extreme climate events and hazards. The UN system plays a central role in this area. UN entities will reinforce their efforts to provide sound and unbiased scientific and technical information to enable evidence-based policy and decision making at all levels.

### **B. Support for Global, Regional and National Action on Climate Change**

To deliver on the growing needs and expectations of the international community, the UN system must draw on its strengths: providing a neutral forum for brokering negotiations; establishing trust and galvanizing high-level political support; and securing participation, engagement and ownership of a broad constituency of stakeholders. The current intergovernmental negotiations, under the UNFCCC, evolve around four key areas: Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology and Finance, where adaptation and mitigation are goals, and finance and technology means for achieving those goals. While negotiations are a Member State-driven process, the UN system can support them substantively, and is developing a framework to assist in overall planning and action at the global, national and regional levels in these four key areas.

\* This note is an illustrative summary of a more detailed report on "Coordinated UN System Action on Climate Change" prepared under the auspices of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. The report is available through the UNFCCC Secretariat or the CEB Secretariat.

### **C. Coordinating the UN System's Work in Key Sectors**

A coordinated programme of work that taps into the normative, analytical and operational strengths and expertise of CEB members across a range of sectors will ensure that the UN system can fully support Member States as they determine their national priorities, their strategies and policies for mitigation and adaptation, as well as their sector policy options to integrated sustainable development. Current efforts at strengthening the UN system's ability to deliver as one are critical in this effort. The following key sectors have been identified as priorities for coordinated work by the UN system:

- Energy
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Water
- Oceans
- Forestry
- Health
- Transport
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Population and Human Settlements
- Education
- Public Awareness Raising

The attached matrix gives an indicative overview of potential UN system support to the implementation of climate change negotiation results in each one of these areas, and in terms of overall planning.

### **D. Moving Towards a Climate-Neutral UN**

In responding to the call of the UN Secretary-General to lead by example, the CEB has committed to exploring ways of making its premises and operations more climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, and to move towards climate neutrality. By the end of 2009 UN system entities will have assessed their emissions, started to reduce and manage these emissions, and determined the cost and budgetary implications of offsetting emissions from those activities that remain.

### **E. Looking Ahead**

As an integral part of the international community's response to the challenge of climate change, the UN system must bring to bear the collective strengths of all its entities in a way perhaps never achieved before. Further work is being undertaken to determine a coordination structure with key clusters of activity and specific lead agencies. This effort, a "work in progress" requiring sustained attention, will evolve in light of international deliberations, particularly in the UNFCCC, but also in other intergovernmental bodies.



# United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

## AREAS OF POTENTIAL UN SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION RESULTS (*Indicative list*)\*

### Overall Planning and Action Support

#### ADAPTATION

- Promote and support the development of broad-based national strategies on adaptation to address both short and long-term needs, including legislation, policy decisions and operational programmes in sector;
- Assist countries in conducting socio- economic cost-benefit analysis, climate-proofing investments, and spatial planning;
- Strengthen national capacities to improve integrated policy making and effective early warning systems, based on improved vulnerability analysis with respect to both natural disasters and other climate risks;
- Collect, systematize, analyze and disseminate good practices and knowledge, based on experience and lessons learnt, including from National Adaptation Plans of Action and pilot implementation projects;
- Build resilience at the local level by promoting autonomous adaptation capacity and mainstreaming community-based adaptation;
- Enhance regional cooperation on adaptation;
- Develop policies to ease transitions in labour markets and to seize opportunities for generating new and sustainable sources of employment, and to build capacity of enterprises, trade unions and governments to anticipate changes in employment and adopt an efficient and equitable process of adaptation;
- Support countries to deal with specifically vulnerable sectors, recognizing that a holistic approach is critical to poverty alleviation, conservation and gender equality in many countries;
- Build capacity to protect and sustainably manage the biodiversity and ecosystem services that are required for maintaining resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and the maintenance of critical genetic resources;
- Build capacity among decision makers to better utilize demographic data and information in sustainable development planning.

#### MITIGATION

- Assist developing countries in the identification and implementation of national mitigation strategies that limit the growth of, or reduce, GHG emissions while promoting local sustainable development and cleaner economic growth;
- Support the integration of such mitigation policies in national development strategies, focusing on the energy, construction, agriculture, transportation, industry, forestry and on land management;
- Assess, illustrate and disseminate collateral benefits of mitigation activities;
- Support developing countries in the assessment of their mitigation potential and in measuring their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (including the compilation and reporting of national greenhouse gas inventories);
- Promote an enabling regulatory environment for mitigation programmes;
- Scale up the delivery of carbon finance through strategic choices that help catalyze a change in the way greenhouse gas mitigation is achieved in developing countries and integrated into development plans and transformed investment patterns;

- Assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation by building their capacity, developing a methodological and policy framework for the implementation of programmes that reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation;
- Develop and disseminate strategies to address increasing emissions from the transport sector;
- Support research on the impacts, in particular on developing countries, of mitigation policies and measures.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Develop effective policy frameworks to accelerate the transfer, deployment and dissemination of existing and new technological solutions;
- Promote the creation of bilateral, multilateral and private-public partnerships on technology research and development;
- Promote sustained and joint efforts between government and the private sector, including the financial sector, to promote the market for new technologies;
- Provide technical support to developing countries in conducting and improving their technology needs assessments and in transforming such assessments into bankable technology transfer projects that meet the standards of potential financiers;
- Develop international energy management standards to increase the efficient use of existing and future technologies in industry and other sectors.

## FINANCING

- Support national governments in the formulation of policies to increase investment and financial flows in mitigation and adaptation;
- Support the development of national capacities to access and utilize resources to implement an appropriate mix of policy instruments to achieve sustainable growth;
- Support efforts to reinforce international financial mechanisms, including the GEF;
- Strengthen actions aimed at targeting public funding more effectively, encouraging more effective engagement of the private sector and strengthening work to address investment flows and financing initiatives;
- Support efforts to enhance the tools of the carbon market, including the broadened application of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and to enhance action under the Nairobi Framework to support developing country participation in the CDM;
- Support the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund;
- Support commitments to trade liberalization and investment in goods, services and technologies that contribute to mitigation efforts; and
- Increase efforts to ensure that energy efficiency measures have better access to finance, including carbon finance.

FAO, GEF, IAEA, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, ISDR, ITU, UN Regional Commissions, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, WMO, World Bank Group, WTO

## Energy

### ADAPTATION

- Improve access to clean energy for households, schools and health facilities and raise awareness to the linkages between clean energy and child health.

### MITIGATION

- Improve national capacities to integrate climate change in developing countries' national sustainable energy strategies in order to meet their growing energy needs, particularly through renewable energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;
- Utilize the immense potential of cooperation with the private sector, particularly in energy financing and technology;
- Improve understanding of transportation systems, taking into account cleaner transportation options;
- Improve energy management in industry by developing standards, product labeling, and certification procedures for both domestic appliances and industrial equipment.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Provide authoritative technical and economic analyses of climate relevant technologies, including e.g. the experience gained in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances.

[UN-Energy](#), UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UN-DESA, FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, World Bank Group, GEF, IAEA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF

## Agriculture and Fisheries

### ADAPTATION

- Strengthen national capacities to determine adaptation and mitigation responses in agriculture and fisheries sectors, including in sustainable land and water management;
- Increase technical support to farmers in developing and implementing alternative agricultural systems;
- Improve data and information provision on the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems, fisheries, rural populations and food security, including efforts to improve short-term weather forecasting and projections on agricultural systems and medium-term weather projections;
- Promote research on drought resistant and saline tolerant crops.

### MITIGATION

- Deepen the understanding of the links between bio-fuels and food security, land and water use, and biodiversity;
- Promote research on “second generation” bio-fuels generated from cellulose, waste and other materials that minimize competition with land and water use for food production;
- Support increased carbon sequestration through restoration of degraded land and through improved agricultural land management.

### FINANCING

- Develop financial instruments to compensate poor farmers for the environmental services they provide by adopting environmentally sound land use practices that reduce carbon emissions.

[FAO](#), [IFAD](#), [WFP](#), [World Bank Group](#), [WMO](#), [UNEP](#), [UNIDO](#), [IAEA](#)

## Water

### ADAPTATION

- Increase the understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change on water systems;
- Identify the hotspots where climate change and other driving forces are expected to exacerbate water scarcity and extreme events, and help monitor social impacts, facilitate population movement and prevent conflict;
- Strengthen integrated water resource management by developing and promoting methodologies for incorporating hydrologic variability and climate change in the design of project, programme and sector-wide investments;
- Raise awareness, build capacity and increase resilience of local communities to cope with water stress, increased hydrological variability, and extreme events.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Increase resilience of industry to reduced availability of water resources by promoting the deployment of water-efficient technologies.

### FINANCING

- Increase investment to better understand the impacts of climate variability and change on water systems and implications in terms of investments in the water sector.

[UN-Water](#), [UNEP](#), [UNDP](#), [UNESCO](#), [WMO](#), [UN-DESA](#), [UN-OCHA](#), [FAO](#), [World Bank Group](#), [IFAD](#), [UNIDO](#), [UN-Habitat](#), [UNICEF](#), [IAEA](#)

## Oceans

### ADAPTATION

- Improve the understanding of the impacts of climate change on the ocean heat pump, marine ecology and marine risk forecasting;
- Strengthen an integrated network of ocean-climate observations;
- Build capacity for local communities to forecast and cope with coastal risk.

### MITIGATION

- Encourage research to fill knowledge gaps for ocean carbon sequestration.

[UN-Oceans](#), [UNESCO](#), [IMO](#), [WMO](#), [UNEP](#), [IAEA](#), [UN-DESA](#), [FAO](#), [GEF](#)

## Forestry

### ADAPTATION

- Strengthen national capacities to determine adaptation and mitigation responses in their forestry sector, including in sustainable land and water management;
- Promote implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests, which has developed a comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management, combining national action and international support, and offering environmental, social and economic benefits;
- Build the capacity of countries to shape policies and plans aimed at realizing the benefits of halting deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable forest management;
- Promote forest expansion as an adaptation measure for watershed protection, prevent soil degradation and rehabilitate degraded land;
- Promote synergies among the Rio Conventions to promote biodiversity conservation, prevent land degradation and promote land rehabilitation.

### MITIGATION

- Support community-based reforestation projects and promote awareness among children and young people to impact reforestation efforts at community level;
- Strengthen incentives to developing countries to stimulate improved sustainable forest management;
- Improve scientific understanding and adoption of standards and methods of assessing carbon change in forests and carbon storage.

### FINANCING

- Develop financial instruments to compensate poor farmers for the environmental services they provide by adopting land use and forestry practices that reduce carbon emissions;
- Promote the protection of existing forest, which could become eligible for carbon financing under the new climate regime;
- Explore mechanisms of compensation from the international community to take account of the opportunity costs of alternative land use and the administrative costs of forest protection;
- Help local communities to benefit from new international instruments to compensate forest holders for global ecosystem services provided;
- Promote efforts to simplify CDM rules for broader integration of community based afforestation/reforestation projects.

[UN-DESA](#), [FAO](#), [UNEP](#), [UNDP](#), [UNFCCC](#), [World Bank Group](#), [IFAD](#), [UN Regional Commissions](#), [WFP](#)

## Health

### ADAPTATION

- Generate knowledge and evidence for action (e.g. definition of an applied research agenda that is targeted specifically at health, climate and impact on mortality and population);
- Increase research, knowledge and awareness of health consequences of climate change at all levels, including schools and community outreach activities;

- Strengthen public health planning capacities, including through improved monitoring and evaluation of climate and health impacts;
- Strengthen health systems to provide protection from climate-related risks (e.g. promotion of a more forward-looking preventative approach to health protection);
- Integrate health considerations into decisions on climate change in other key sectors.

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, IAEA

## Transport

### MITIGATION

- Support the use of cleaner marine fuel and more efficient marine engines;
- Support the use of operational and technical measures, which may include optimal routing design and speed management as well as optimization of the ship's hull, appendices and propeller design and interaction;
- Strengthen technical co-operation to support developing countries to meet their trade needs through access to clean transport;
- Promote further research on the impact of aviation on the atmosphere;
- Further develop aviation emissions impact assessment tools and facilitate data access and dissemination;
- Continue to develop and update aircraft engine emissions standards, and medium and long-term goals;
- Promote the use of operational measures that reduce fuel consumption and emissions;
- Foster the modernization and optimization of air traffic management systems;
- Support national policies to improve public transport, stimulate modal shifts and improve efficiency of land transport systems.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Further explore possible alternative fuels for aviation and assess their environmental impacts;
- Facilitate the sharing of information on best practices and voluntary measures to address aviation emissions.

### FINANCING

- Introduce market-based measures, which may include emissions trading.
- Explore the use of global market-based measures to reduce aviation emissions.

ICAO, IMO, World Bank Group, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, WTO, UN Regional Commissions, UN-DESA

## Disaster Risk Reduction

### ADAPTATION

- Strengthen national capacities in disaster preparedness, with an emphasis on early warning, vulnerability analysis and mapping, and logistics;
- Develop a comprehensive approach aimed at reducing vulnerabilities to climate risks by identifying the most critical issues and likely areas of concern (i.e. hot-spotting);
- Improve and make accessible existing disaster reduction tools, methods and information on best practices at the national and local levels;
- Better articulate the relations and synergies between the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and climate change and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
- Implement the Tampere Convention relating to emergency telecommunications for disaster reduction and relief.

ISDR, UN-OCHA, WMO, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WFP, UNESCO, World Bank Group, UN-Habitat, IMO, UNFPA, ITU, IFAD, UNICEF

## Population and Human Settlements

### ADAPTATION

- Construct comprehensive programme of support aimed at reducing urban poverty, building national and local capacity in the development and implementation of integrated urban planning, based on scenarios of future climate change impacts on population movements;
- Support local authorities to assess risks and vulnerabilities to climate change and develop a strategic plan accordingly, particularly those in secondary cities in developing countries, which are at the most risk from climate change.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Develop and disseminate technologies, standards and codes to support sustainable infrastructure and construction.

[UN-Habitat](#), [UNFPA](#), [UNESCO](#), [UNDP](#), [UN-DESA](#), [ISDR](#)

## Education

### ADAPTATION/ MITIGATION

- Integrate environmental sustainability, including climate change, into national curricula and into life-long learning, and mainstream it in teaching and teacher training;
- Develop prototype materials and awareness-raising tools for benefit of educators, teachers and students worldwide;
- Adapt the work of institutions of higher education towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives and national science, technology, engineering and innovations systems to respond to the exigencies of the climate change agenda increasing local, national, and regional capacities for informed decisions about climate change;
- Raise awareness in developing countries that education is the most effective strategy to support long term sustainable and climate resilient growth.

[UNESCO](#), [UNEP](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNDP](#), [WMO](#), [WHO](#), [FAO](#), [UNU](#)

## Public Awareness Raising

### ADAPTATION/MITIGATION

- Provide a venue for engagement with civil society organizations across the world;
- Enhance the role of the media in raising public awareness;
- Improve the use of information and communication technologies to facilitate improved access to data and information to support timely responses to climate change risks;
- Create incentives to encourage the public to undertake climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

[All UN system organizations in their respective fields of activity](#)

\* NB: Acronyms of UN system entities mentioned throughout the list indicate engagement of the corresponding entity in the sector under consideration, within its respective mandates and programme of work. The list is not exhaustive and does not indicate the kind or level of engagement. Existing coordination mechanisms for each sector are underlined.