

**Advancing work on adaptation to climate change  
A UN system perspective**

*Draft Policy Brief*

**A N N E X E S**

**UN system resources and good practices  
in support of adaptation to climate change**

*A. Planning and implementation mechanisms*

*B. Priority issue areas*

*C. Background:  
The UN system and climate change*

## ***C. Background: The UN system and climate change***

### **CEB CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FRAMEWORK**

***Five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas*** have been identified in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system, with corresponding convening agencies to ensure better coordination of concrete deliverables as follows:

<b><i>Focus area</i></b>	<b><i>Convening agency</i></b>
Adaptation	High-level Committee on Programmes, collectively
Technology transfer	UNIDO, UN-DESA
Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)	UNDP, FAO, UNEP
Financing mitigation and adaptation action	UNDP, World Bank Group
Capacity-building	UNDP, UNEP
<b><i>Cross-cutting area</i></b>	
Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning	WMO, UNESCO
Supporting global, regional and national action	UN-DESA, UN Regional Commissions, UNDP,
Climate-neutral UN	UNEP
Public awareness-raising	United Nations Communications Group, UNEP

***Increased synergies.*** Programmatic work at the headquarters level through the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) is connected to United Nations system activities at the country level through the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the individual United Nations country teams. The United Nations regional commissions correspondingly work at the regional level, while the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serves as the link to the global climate change negotiation process.

***Online inventory of United Nations system activities on climate change*** developed, both as an information resource and a planning tool (accessible at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/projectsearch>).

***Online portal.*** “Gateway to the UN System’s Work on Climate Change” (<http://www.un.org/climatechange>), which provides access to the publication entitled *Acting on Climate Change: The United Nations System Delivering as One* and links to individual agency climate change pages.

***Knowledge management website*** for use by United Nations staff, delegates and outside experts dealing with climate change, established in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (<http://www.climate-1.org>).

### *The UN system and adaptation*

The UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), in its decision of 28 April 2008, identified adaptation as one of five areas of focus for UN system-wide work on climate change, in response to the UNFCCC negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capabilities in the UN system.

Work related to adaptation is already being carried out under a number of sectors identified at earlier stages of the CEB coordination exercise, including agriculture and fisheries; disaster risk reduction; education; forestry; health; information and communication technologies; oceans; land degradation and desertification; population and human settlements; tourism; water. Adaptation is also to some extent addressed by work done under other CEB focus or cross-cutting areas, such as capacity building; finance; supporting global, regional and national action; climate knowledge; and public awareness raising (see above).

The HLCP Working Group on Climate Change is collectively responsible for convening/ coordinating the overall collaborative work of the UN system relating to Adaptation at the programme level, while the UN Development Group (UNDG) is expected to advance relevant country-level operational activities. The UN Regional Commissions bring together stakeholders and advance common understandings and relevant work at the regional level. Guidance is provided by the UNFCCC Secretariat, with respect to concrete implementation actions called for by the Parties through existing agreements and as the negotiations progress. The process occasionally leads to identification of gaps and further requirements in activities, mandates and/or resources in important areas of relevance to adaptation, which would need to be conveyed to the Parties to UNFCCC for their consideration and possible action in the context of their common but differentiated responsibilities.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity  
CDM - Clean Development Mechanism  
CEB - United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination  
COP - Conference of the Parties  
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
GCOS - Global Climate Observing System  
GEF - Global Environment Facility  
HLCP - High Level Committee on Programmes of the CEB  
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency  
ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization  
IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development  
ILO - International Labour Organization  
IMO - International Maritime Organization  
IMF - International Monetary Fund  
IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
ITU - International Telecommunication Union  
LDCs - Least Developed Countries  
MDGs - Millennium Development Goals  
NAPAs - National Adaptation Programmes of Action  
OHCHR - Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights  
REDD - Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation  
SIDS - Small Island Developing States  
UN - United Nations  
UNAIDS - Joint and Co-sponsored UN Programme on HIV/AIDS  
UNCCD - UN Convention to Combat Desertification  
UNCG - UN Communications Group  
UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
UN-DESA - UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs  
UNDG - UN Development Group  
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme  
UN-ECE - UN Economic Commission for Europe  
UN-ECA - UN Economic Commission for Africa  
UN-ECLAC - UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme  
UN-ESCAP - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
UN-ESCWA - UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
UNFCCC - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change  
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund  
UN-HABITAT - UN Human Settlements Programme  
UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund  
UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women  
UNISDR - UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
UNITAR - United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
UN-OCHA - UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
UNU - United Nations University  
UNWTO - World Tourism Organization  
UPU - Universal Postal Union  
WB - The World Bank  
WFP - World Food Programme  
WHO - World Health Organization  
WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization  
WMO - World Meteorological Organization  
WTO - World Trade Organization