



COP28
UAE

30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023

Side-Event Concept Note

**“Aligning Climate and Development Financing
to Achieve SDGs and Accelerate Climate Action”**

**Monday, 4th of December 2023,
United Arab Emirates, Dubai, Expo City
Egyptian Pavilion, Blue Zone**

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Side Event on the margins of CoP28

“Aligning Climate and Development Financing to Achieve SDGs and Accelerate Climate Action”

❖ Background:

Developing countries’ efforts to accelerate progress with the SDGs are being threatened by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. The 2023 UN SDG Progress Report raised a red flag that the progress in one third of the SDGs has stalled or gone into reverse, while it is with limited or insufficient progress for more than half of the 2030 Agenda’s 17 goals. On the other hand, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports continue to demonstrate the drastic impact of climate change occurring frequently and stress on the difficulties in averting the worst ramifications of that phenomena¹.

As a matter of fact, climate finance is paramount for the realization of the SDGs. Addressing climate change not only safeguards the environment but also directly influences SDGs nearly all of the 17 SDGs. Building climate resilience is foundational for long-term development, and climate action financing is a catalytic tool to propel the SDGs across these interconnected goals. Additionally, national sustainability road maps should explicitly include climate action plans, thus weaving climate priorities into national developmental frameworks².

Climate finance needs in the region until 2030 are estimated to be at 570 billion USD; including most Arab LDCs, MICs and conflict-affected countries, and excluding the GCC countries. Costed needs are almost exclusively conditional on international support (95%) and mainly concentrated around climate adaptation, resilience building and mitigation. Between 2010-2020, the total climate finance flow from public international were estimated at a total of 34.5 billion USD.

Notably, core public international climate finance represented approximately 6% of the climate finance needs costed by the Arab States. This funding is highly concentrated on mitigation (72%), a few sectors (49% in energy and transportation), loans (87%) and MICs (93%). In

¹ UNDP-OECD Report - G20 Contribution to 2030 Agenda in Times of Crises.

² Breaking Financing Barriers for a Just Climate Transition in Africa Paper, November 2023.

particular, two MICs (Egypt and Morocco) received 60% of the core public international climate finance in the region.

The 2023 Report on G20 contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Times of Crises (2019-2023), emphasizes the need for greater attention to the interplay of development and climate agendas and to the consequences of multiple and intersecting crises.

In this respect, financing sustainable development and climate action remain extremely challenging with each one of them increasingly seem taking a separate path although pretty much related, reflective and mostly dependent on each other. It is evident that lack of access to proper financing stands in the way of developing countries to deliver the SDGs by 2030, in addition to limiting their ability to enhance climate action including the implementation of the Paris Agreement and their NDCs.

Thus, addressing the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda separately, with limited consideration of their interlinkages, remains a challenge for advancing these two ambitious agendas to deliver their objectives. To achieve the SDG and Climate agenda's goals, structural economic transformations across all sectors are required. Accordingly, the two global agendas would be best considered jointly in the acceleration of their implementation.

There are opportunities for developed and developing countries, international financial institutions, multinational development banks, the private sector and all concerned parties to join hands and effectively explore alternative innovative means to boost access to financing opportunities for the realization of the SDGs as defined in the 2030 Agenda and to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. That said, aligning the different types of financing is a pressing issue that will ensure efficiently reaching our goals.

❖ The Side Event:

The event aims at examining the interlinkages between development finance and climate finance, with the motive that ensuring alignment between the two is an urgent matter that will boost the realization of the Agenda 2030 goals, as well as the Paris Agreement.

To that end, the session will engage high-level policy makers and relevant stakeholders to thoroughly discuss the current global status related to financing development and climate action and put forward their concrete ideas and proposals to facilitate access of developing countries to financing tools as to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development and climate action.

Within the same context, the event will make the link with the CoP27 Presidency initiative “Friends of Greening National Investment Plans in Africa and Developing Countries” to highlight the role of national governments in supporting climate action by greening their investment plans.

❖ Session Objectives:

- Examine how climate-related finance supports the implementation of the SDGs.
- Conduct in-depth discussion on the existing and persistent challenges to access finance for development and climate financing.
- Explore innovative means and solutions to align developmental and climate financing as a way to facilitate access to required finance and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with its 17 SDGs and climate action, including delivering NDCs.
- Explore alternative funding mechanisms to fund climate action and development goals, while ensuring that it is guided by recipient countries’ priorities.
- Capitalize on the COP27 Presidency initiative “Friends of Greening National Investment Plans in Africa and Developing Countries” that was launched on the margins of COP27.

❖ Format:

The event will be held in-person, in the form of an interactive panel discussion, allowing relevant stakeholders (member states, international organizations, development partners, etc.) to share views, best practices, and lessons learnt followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A.

- **Host:** The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED) of the Arab Republic of Egypt, UNDP, & UN-SPBF/UNEP.
- **Date:** Monday, 4th of December, 2023.
- **Duration:** 45 minutes.
- **Time:** 11:00 am to 11:45 am.
- **Location:** The Egyptian Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP28 Conference Facility, UAE.

Agenda:

Duration	Topics and speakers
2 mins	Welcoming remarks by the moderator, Ms. Shereen Zorba , Head of the Secretariat of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment
Panel discussion: “Aligning Climate and Development Financing to Achieve SDGs and Accelerate Climate Action”.	
35 mins	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt. H.E Mr. Faisal Alibrahim, Minister of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia (TBC). H.E Ms. Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater, Minister of State for International Cooperation, Qatar (TBC). H.E. Philda Nani Kereng, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, Botswana (TBC). Dr. Abdallah Al Dardari, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Arab States. H.E Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt and UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mr. Stephane Guimbert, Country Director for Egypt, Yemen and Djibouti, World bank. High level representative from the private sector (TBC).
8 mins	Interactive discussion and Q &A followed by the concluding remarks.