Expert group meeting on addressing climate change through integrated approaches: Linking adaptation and mitigation

23 August 2024 (09:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. UTC+7)
Meeting Room B, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note

The world's first global stocktake (GST) is considered the central outcome of COP 28 and supports efforts to develop stronger nationally-determined contributions, with a target date of 2025. The GST offers a stark assessment of the current state of global climate action and the urgent need to increase efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions need to be cut by around 43 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2035 from 2019 levels, aiming for net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. Transformative change is needed across all sectors. Many countries also recognize that adaptation measures are not optional, but, essential and urgent in the face of intensifying climate impacts, particularly for communities least-equipped to handle them. The "vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action" is underlined by the GST report.

There is increasing recognition in the scientific literature, including IPCC reports, that choosing and implementing adaptation and mitigation options in a manner that increases synergies and avoids tradeoffs is feasible. There is a need to explore such options and identify the policy measures and financing mechanisms that are mutually reinforcing.

ESCAP is undertaking a scoping study titled "Addressing Climate Change Through Integrated Responses: Linking adaptation and mitigation." Following a survey administered to identify experiences and lessons learned, this expert group meeting aims to gather insights to enrich the study and provide useful recommendations for action. It will explore the following topics:

- Priority sectors and policy processes for strengthening integrated approaches
- Technological, institutional, and behavioral options to coordinate, build, and use capacity for integrated adaptation and mitigation
- Economic, financial and policy instruments that incentivize integration and connect adaptation and mitigation
- Mobilizing stakeholders in support of integrated approaches
- Research and development to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of integrated approaches and to foster adaptation-mitigation linkages in climate action plans

Participation is in person and online, and by invitation only.
For more information contact:

- Ms. Aneta Nikolova: nikolova@un.org
- Ms. Banashiri Sinha: banashri.sinha@un.org
## Tentative Programme

**Opening Session**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>09:00-09:35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.08.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Welcome remarks, Mr. Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
- Preliminary findings from the scoping study on integrated approaches, Ms. Banashri Sinha, Regional Climate Change Consultant, ESCAP
- Scientific and policy perspective on integrated approaches to link mitigation and adaptation actions, Professor Joyashree Roy, Asia Institute of Technology, IPCC Author

### Session 1: Stock-take of experience of integrating adaptation and mitigation actions – opportunities and challenges

**Moderator-** Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP Environment and Development Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>09:35-10:40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Where are the most viable windows of opportunity to integrate adaptation and mitigation?

- Commentary
  - Dr. Dana Yermolyonok, Senior Advisor, GIZ, Kazakhstan
  - Ms. Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia (TBC)

Open discussion

Policy processes and frameworks that explicitly target integrated approaches in the climate sector provide important support. What have been some of the most (and least effective) policy processes and frameworks – and what can we learn from them?

- Commentary
  - Dr. Rathana Peou Norbert-Munns, Sustainable development and agrifood system policy expert, FAO ROAP
  - Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Professor, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Asian Institute of Technology

Open discussion

Focused research to strengthen the evidence-base and availability of data regarding the benefits of integrated approaches, is needed. What methodologies and tools can support such research?

- Commentary
  - Dr. Fuad Humbatov, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
  - Mrs. Manisakhone Chittaphong, Assisting Deputy Director General, MoNRE, Laos PDR

Open discussion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 2: Enabling conditions – gaps and needs, success stories and way forward</th>
<th>Moderator: Ms. Banashri Sinha, Regional Climate Change Consultant, ESCAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:40-10:50</td>
<td>How can national policies and institutions enhance policy coherence and overcome barriers to integrated approaches?</td>
<td><strong>Commentary</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Ms. Mary Descary Joy B. Bongcac; Senior Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines&lt;br&gt;- Dr. Kapil Gnawali, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Open discussion</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Integrated climate change adaptation and mitigation measures require the mobilization of, and partnerships among diverse stakeholders. How can the roles, actions and partnerships of key actors be strengthened?&lt;br&gt;<strong>Commentary</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Professor (Adjunct) Faroze Nadar, Executive Director, UN Global Compact for Malaysia Brunei&lt;br&gt;- Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Senior Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDP ROAP&lt;br&gt;<strong>Open discussion</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Meeting the needs for climate finance within limited resources poses an important challenge. How can integrated approaches to climate finance close the financing and technical gaps? What solutions are available?&lt;br&gt;<strong>Commentary</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Ms. Cristina Gregorio, Climate Finance Specialist, SDG Finance Team and Climate Finance Network, UNDP&lt;br&gt;- Dr. Tran Do Bao Trung, Deputy Head of Adaptation Division, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam&lt;br&gt;<strong>Open discussion</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50-11:55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55-12:00</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Chief, Environment and Development Policy, ESCAP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>