



CONCEPT NOTE

Joint Roundtable of Regional Commissions at COP22 (Official UNS side event)

Title:

**Advancing the 2030 Agenda through climate action:
Integrated solutions for regional implementation**

Date and time:

Tuesday, 15 Nov 2016, 13:15—14:45

Venue:

Bering (150)

Strategic priority focus area:

(ii) Promoting Implementation



Objective of the side event

The side-event aims to explore how the Regional Commissions can leverage their roles in implementing the 2030 Agenda for climate action under the Paris Agreement.

Focus Areas

The side event will specifically:

1. Explore the interface between the INDCs and the SDGs: including the common goals across the two agendas, how to strengthen co-benefits, understand trade-offs, prioritization and sequencing;
2. Identify the potential for synergies between implementation streams at the regional level;
3. Highlight core technical and institutional capacity gaps across the regions: covering follow-up and review, as well as means of implementation; and
4. Discuss the role of regional commissions in implementing Agenda 2030 and the PA and how they can support countries to fill the main technical and institutional capacity gaps identified, and ensure that synergies between the agendas can be exploited.

Background

In 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a hugely ambitious action plan for people, planet and prosperity, and one that offers a transformational vision to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient growth path. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including on climate action, form this new universal agenda. In the same year, at the Paris climate conference, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, the Paris Agreement (PA). The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

The challenges of these global commitments are interrelated and call for integrated solutions to their implementation. In this context, it will be important to help identify areas where it would make sense to pursue the joint implementation of both agendas and to find ways to support countries through targeted capacity-building to do so.



For the 2030 Agenda, the sheer scope and complexity of the SDGs means that policy coherence and understanding the trade-offs and co-benefits across and within different goals are challenging. Moreover, mainstreaming SDGs into national development planning and budgeting requires an understanding of which policies can be effectively pursued to achieve countries' development priorities, as well as the prioritisation and sequencing of interventions over the implementation period. Second, the follow-up and review poses additional difficulty. The SDGs are numerous and many data sources are new or need to be compiled or integrated from diverse existing sources, including those that are not currently accepted as official sources. In parallel to the global review process, the scope of the regional level review needs to be defined and carried out. This will require support to strengthen national statistical systems, and to devise appropriate measures of success, adapting the global indicators to regional and national settings. Finally, mobilising the means of implementation, including finance, technology, trade, and capacity-building, will be challenging.

In parallel, the implementation of the PA will rely on countries meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While the targets and measures contained therein do not bind Parties, the PA establishes binding procedural requirements under an 'Enhanced Transparency Framework' (ETF) to promote transparency and compliance in the way that countries will report progress against their commitments. Moreover, finance, technology, capacity-building, public participation and new market and non-market mechanisms are identified as means to enhance the climate actions contained in the NDCs/INDCs. This means that countries will not only need to ramp up data management and reporting, but will need to gain a clear understanding of how the implementation of the PA can enhance their sustainable development agendas, identify developmental co-benefits of their climate actions, put into place concrete mechanisms to enhance their climate actions, and explore ways to attract finance.

United Nations Regional Commissions have a central role to play in promoting the regional implementation of the internationally agreed SDGs and the outcomes of the Paris conference to support regional sustainable development, including through multilateral dialogue, sharing of best practices and lessons learned and capacity-building at the regional level. At its 31st session in March 2016, High-Level Committee of Programmes (HLCP) approved a set of core principles to guide the UN system-wide approach to climate action under the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the PA, emphasizing the need to maximize synergies between these processes and their implementation streams.