



United Nations
Climate Change



CLIMATE & SDGS
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DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

One Page Summary

Webinar 2: Synergies for Just Transitions & Economic Recovery, 11 June 2020

The 2nd of three webinars in the Global Consultations on Climate & SDG Synergies, Webinar 2 focused on the *specific policies, trends, and changes in human behavior that can enable countries to recover better & stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic*. The Webinar's eight speakers suggested measures that can be scaled to achieve "quick wins" for people and the economy, while laying the ground for climate & SDG co-benefits that can accelerate economic recovery and just transitions [once economies are fully open]. Many of the 500+ participants actively engaged in the discussion.

Despite their diverse perspectives, the speakers broadly agreed that **the pandemic presents an opportunity** to make connections between human and environmental health and go beyond responding to short-term crises, to build resilience to risks; address climate change, biodiversity collapse, exclusion and widening inequality.

To achieve this, speakers suggested **a range of stimulus and recovery measures** that can address the underlying causes of systemic risks, avoid trade-offs between socioeconomic and environmental priorities and harness climate and SDG synergies. They illustrated the effectiveness of such measures, by sharing examples of initiatives that have worked in tandem to generate employment and raise incomes of vulnerable populations, strengthen social protections, build stronger and more equitable health systems, protect vital ecosystems and empower marginalized populations. Speakers emphasized the potential to scale proven solutions – including to generate employment through labor-intensive green infrastructure, energy efficiency, eco-system restoration and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Several speakers pointed to the public debt arising from the COVID lockdown as a risk, noting the potential to reduce the real or perceived **fiscal space** for public investment in many countries, particularly in the global South. Noting the severity of the pandemic's human crisis and the likelihood of an extended economic downturn; the speakers agreed that fiscal space should not be a binding constraint to recovery. They noted the need for collective action and innovative mechanisms to build fiscal space; and suggested that actors –in all relevant fields – unite in a coalition to demand that recovery spending aligns with - rather than displaces – measures essential for a just, sustainable and resilient recovery.

Webinar 2 Speakers:

1. Moderator Leena Srivastava, Deputy Director General for Science, IIASA
2. Rabia Ferroukhi, IRENA Director of Knowledge, Policy and Finance
3. Yvon Slingenberg, Director of the European Commission's Department for Climate
4. Jesus Felipe, Asian Development Bank, Senior Economic Advisor Moustapha Kamal Gueye, ILO Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme
5. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, UNDP Director of Global Environmental Finance
6. Janene Natasha Yazzie, International Indian Treaty Council, UN MGoS
7. David Waskow, WRI Director of International Climate Action
8. Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA
9. Maaik de Langen, Pathfinders for Justice, NYU Center on International Cooperation

For speaker bios, presentations and a recording of Webinar 2, please visit :
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies2020>