



United Nations
Climate Change



CLIMATE & SDGS
SYNERGY CONFERENCE
Virtual Engagement
2020



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Short Summary

Webinar 1: Thinking ahead for a Sustainable, Just & Resilient Recovery, 28 May 2020

UN Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, and UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa opened the webinar, launching the *Global Consultations on Synergies for a Better and Stronger Recovery to Covid-19*. They called on stakeholders to integrate climate & SDG action, noting the heightened importance of harnessing synergies for pandemic recovery. Without stronger action, climate change could worsen COVID-19 and all challenges.

The webinar's seven panelists focused on planning for synergies in a time of intersecting crises. Sharing examples and methodologies, they explained how stakeholders account for trade-offs and seek to maximize synergies in recovery planning. They stressed the need to align short-term responses with longer-term objectives and shared examples of recovery measures that "front load" impacts for people and the economy.

Key points raised:

- At a minimum, COVID recovery packages should be checked against a countries' Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] under the Paris Agreement and SDGs to ensure they do not reverse progress.
- Updating and enhancing NDCs requires planning that can be used as a pillar of recovery plans – building on countries' efforts to build inclusive growth and health co-benefits into their NDCs OR otherwise integrate health, climate change and development planning.
- Recovery efforts can sustain environmentally positive shifts initiated by the pandemic, such as creating bike lanes and switching off coal, while also generating positive economic impacts.
- Many countries lack the capacity to conduct analysis of climate-SDG synergies, especially in an inclusive, transparent, and update-able way.
- Adaptable tools – rather than guidance or one-off projects –can build local capacity where backed by long-term structural support and partnerships.
- Greater capacity building is needed to facilitate inclusive analytical processes – particularly as climate-SDG interactions depend heavily on local context and policy makers require options.
- To account for context & types of interactions -SEI brings actors considering different solutions together to understand the potential effects of each one on other policies
- To get incentives and policies right, data, analysis and reporting should capture the multiplier effects of NDC and recovery spending on intersecting objectives.
- Costa Rica and other countries increasingly monitor NDC-SDG synergies through the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework.
- Merging NDCs and development plans, M&E and reporting frameworks would help – by presenting an opportunity to bring disparate sectors and people together –to analyze and account for synergies, trade- offs.

Webinar 1 Speakers:

Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

Alexander Trepelkov, UN DESA

Zitouni Ould-Dada, FAO

Thibaud Voita, NDC Partnership, [Climate, Health and Inclusive Growth in the Context of Pandemic Recovery](#)

Henning Wuester, ICAT

Jason Veysey, SEI Deputy Director - [Integrated planning](#)

Ivonne Lobos Alva, SEI Research Fellow based in Colombia; UN Major Groups & other Stakeholders

Karen Holm Olsen, UNEP/DTU [Monitoring Synergies for Transparent & Accountable Covid-19 Recovery](#)

Dr. Junichi Fujino, IGES

Felipe De Leon, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

To view the Webinar & learn more, visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies2020>