
TWIN TRACKS:

Developing sustainably and equitably
in a carbon-constrained world

How the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development can complement and
support each other towards a sustainable future

3rd Edition



Foreword

In 2015 world leaders took a series of decisions that will have profound impacts on the wellbeing of our planet and its people. The outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York and the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21) in Paris can help to set the world on a safer and fairer path. Almost everyday, new information emerges on the growing impacts of climate change, giving us stark reminders of how urgent it is to change course. So, can political leaders deliver the changes promised in 2015?

2015 was a year that restored some confidence in multilateral processes. Neither the Paris Agreement nor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is perfect, but in many regards both are better than most people expected. For example the commitment in the Paris Agreement to try to keep global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius was exceptional. And WWF and CARE International strongly endorse the universal and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets as set out in 2015.

In the run up to the Sustainable Development Summit and COP 21, we saw the debate on the links between climate change and sustainable development shift from climate change being seen by some as a ‘toxic’ issue for the SDGs to recognising that the two issues are intrinsically linked. We tried to support and facilitate this significant, positive change through our Twin Tracks reports, issued in two editions in 2015 in advance of the Sustainable Development Summit.

The inclusion of a stand-alone climate change goal (SDG 13), and the many targets linked to climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation under the other SDGs is a great outcome. This intrinsic linking should support policy makers to integrate climate change into the implementation of policies and programmes. Moreover, all governments have welcomed the links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the text of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The SDGs offer solutions to tackle climate change. They seek to change patterns of consumption and production, energy use and economic growth – all challenges that are also recognised in the Paris Agreement. The SDGs strongly underline the need to build resilience to disasters and other climate change impacts. The agendas have also converged regarding key principles underpinning action. For instance, both agreements promote gender equality and human rights. Taken together the climate change agreement in Paris and the SDGs are two excellent tools to support us towards a sustainable future.

In terms of implementing the Paris Agreement the next steps are rapid ratification by governments, and the implementation of national climate action plans. However, time is not on our side. All governments have confirmed that the current plans lag significantly behind from what is needed, in particular in terms of emission reductions. The consequences of slow action on emission reductions will be irreversible, and any delay in building climate resilience undermines the delivery of the SDGs, pushing more people further into extreme poverty. Both agreements also underline, stronger than ever before, the important role of non-governmental actors, including civil society and the private sector, and their engagement at all levels.

CARE and WWF recognise the inter-connected and inter-dependent nature of the world we live in. Only by bringing our complementary skills and perspectives together, can we achieve our common goal of a more equitable world where all people live in dignity and where nature thrives. Now is the time for real and urgent action to deliver on the promises made in 2015. This will be much harder than ‘getting an agreement’, which was itself hard enough. It requires genuine change in terms of how investments are made, how the economy is structured, how energy is generated and how resources are used and managed. This is not business as usual, it requires transformational change that impacts on every sector from infrastructure to health, from water resources to women’s rights. It also requires new partnerships and collaborations, with governments, private sector, civil society and citizens all working together in innovative ways.

The SDGs and the Paris Agreement provide a positive vision for the future, and a road map for how to get there. What we need now is for global leaders to maintain courage and determination. We must all change course and head towards this new destination, and act boldly and decisively for a fair, safe and sustainable future.



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IN A NUTSHELL...

- This final update of the report *Twin Tracks: Developing Sustainably and Equitably in a Carbon-Constrained World* analyses the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP21 – in particular the Paris Agreement – and the UN post-2015 development framework processes, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The adoption of these two major international policy frameworks in 2015 provided a key opportunity for tackling the interlinked twin challenges of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and climate change. This opportunity must now be seized in their coordinated implementation.
- The interlinked character of climate change and sustainable development has been reflected in these agreements through a strong and visible climate change narrative (including a climate goal) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a clear recognition of the sustainable development needs and contributions of climate action in the Paris Agreement.
- The detailed analysis of the existing agreements, institutions and processes contained in this paper clearly shows that substantial synergies and opportunities exist for implementing these mutually supportive agreements in a coordinated way. This will help countries in the ambitious implementation of these frameworks and delivery of their national obligations.
- The analysis also reveals areas where further agreements and ambition are required in order to accelerate a just transition to net-zero emissions¹, climate-resilient sustainable development and poverty eradication.

¹ Net-zero emissions should be achieved primarily by reducing fossil fuel emissions to (near) zero by or before 2050, phasing in 100% renewable energy and restoring ecosystems (both to restore carbon storage capabilities and biodiversity). The Paris Agreement's temperature limit target of keeping warming "well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius" is a key trigger to speed up ambition immediately in this regard.

AIM, PRINCIPLES, TIMELINE

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Aim to prevent dangerous climate change

Protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind

The Paris Agreement will be applicable to all Parties, and unless specifically excluded, it will contain all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all sectors and human activities, sources and sinks

Implementation of Paris Agreement to reflect equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC 2), in light of different national circumstances

The Paris Agreement stresses that climate change action should respect and promote human rights and gender equality

The Paris Agreement emphasises the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty, welcoming the 2030 Agenda

Global temperature limitation goal (well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C)

On-going implementation with a new agreement to set the path for post-2020

Acceptance of all Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) (as ambition floor) by all Parties until 2030

A “stocktake” and review by parties in 2018 and 2023 on the adequacy of the actions taken

A Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the UNFCCC on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways

DESIRED OUTCOME

Achieve a just transition to sustainable development and poverty eradication, where dangerous climate change is avoided and natural resources are preserved

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes draw their principles from the Rio Principles, including CBDR and equity, and refer to the right to sustainable development. Furthermore, they stress the role of human rights, and promote gender equality

The timelines of both processes overlap directly

The UNFCCC framework works to prevent dangerous climate change and limit its impacts, which have the potential of reversing development gains

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can drive ambition and support implementation of legally-binding agreements in the UNFCCC

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

Aim to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development

Governments commit themselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030

Countries commit to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Highlights that climate change undermines the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development

Universally applicable to all countries

Affirms the Rio Principles, including CBDR

Integrates environmental conservation into several aspects of social and economic decision-making

More holistic and integrated vision and approach to global development challenges

Reference to holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels

SDGs implemented from 2016-2030

WHAT IS MISSING

Explicit reference to equity

Strong accountability mechanism

MITIGATION

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Obligation to limit global temperature increase in a legally binding agreement (well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit to 1.5°C)

The Paris Agreement envisages 'net-zero' emissions by sometime in the second half of the century ("balancing" remaining GHG emissions with carbon removal by sinks)

Reach the global peak of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognising that peaking will take longer for developing countries, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter

The Paris Agreement includes a legal obligation to submit every 5 years more progressive nationally determined contributions

National GHG emission mitigation pledges/ commitments (pre- and post-2020) and reporting by almost all countries

Developed countries to continue to take the lead with absolute emission reductions; developing countries to enhance their efforts and to move over time to economy-wide targets

WHAT IS MISSING

Global and individual (in particular by developed countries) ambition consistent with 1.5°C (well below 2°C pathway), and in line with capability and 'historic' responsibility

Framework to ensure equitable mitigation actions in line with global targets

Agreement to phase out fossil fuel subsidies

Clear framework for mitigation in international aviation and maritime transport consistent with 1.5°C (well below 2°C) pathway

Ensure sufficient accountability and implementation of additional initiatives to advance pre-2020 mitigation (including those from the 2014 UN climate summit in New York)

Significantly upscale public funding (including IFI, ECA etc.) for mitigation purposes in poorer countries, and leveraging significant private investments ("Shifting the trillions")

Elaboration of modalities for the Paris Agreement's mechanism on mitigation and sustainable development

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

SDG targets with emission relevance in sectors: agriculture, energy, sustainable consumption and production, infrastructure, cities, policy integration and forests

Reference to 2°C or 1.5°C target, pre-2020 gap, and key role of UNFCCC agreement

SDG 9 (infrastructure, industrialisation) with indicator "CO2 emission per unit of value added" (9.4.1)

SDG 13 indicator on plans/ strategies that foster low greenhouse gas emissions development (13.2.1)

SDG 13 indicator on integration of mitigation into curricula (13.3.1)

WHAT IS MISSING

Reference to long-term greenhouse gas emission reductions goal

Mitigation indicators for relevant sectors, including the goals for energy, transport, agriculture, and land use/ forestry, recognising co-benefits

Coverage of sustainable development in international aviation and maritime transport

Provision of adequate means of implementation

DESIRED OUTCOME

Just transition to zero-emissions sustainable development (mitigation) and avoidance of dangerous climate change

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes recognise the importance of addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development

UNFCCC established architecture should be regarded as instrumental to countries' SDG efforts

ADAPTATION to climate change impacts

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Clear recognition of the equal importance of action to mitigate climate change and to adapt, as well as of the link between levels of mitigation ambition and adaptation need

The Paris Agreement with a global goal on adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contribute to sustainable development and ensure an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2 (Art. 7.5; also 2.1b)

Commitment by all countries to engage in adaptation planning and action (Art. 7.9)

Flexible cycles of national contributions on adaptation, adaptation as part of regular global stocktake

The Paris Agreement strengthens adaptation principles (Art. 7.5) for guiding all action, such as gender-responsive and participatory action, taking into consideration particularly vulnerable communities and ecosystems

Cooperation and support for developing countries through Cancun Adaptation Framework,

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) process etc., further strengthened through the Paris Agreement

Adaptation featured strongly in the more than 180 national climate plans (INDCs)

Increased means of implementation for Adaptation envisaged, with Paris Agreement underlining the need for balance between support for adaptation and mitigation

Institutions (e.g. Adaptation Committee, Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and various climate funds)

Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A) envisaged to enhance action before 2020

WHAT IS MISSING

Post-2020 public finance support goals for adaptation

Metrics and guidelines to measure progress towards new global adaptation goal

Development of various methodologies following COP21 outcome, including on recognising adaptation efforts by developing countries, assessing adaptation needs, additional adaptation finance etc.

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

Climate impacts recognised to threatened countries ability to achieve sustainable development

Several targets reflect particular attention to the poor and most vulnerable people, communities, ecosystems and countries

Resilience (as entry point for climate resilience of people, communities and ecosystems) is integrated into several targets, including targets 1.5 on building the resilience of the poor and vulnerable, 2.4 on sustainable food production systems and that strengthen capacity for adaptation, 11b on integrated policies in human settlements, 13.1 on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into national planning

Global Indicators address aspects such as people affected by disasters (13.1.1); number of countries with relevant strategies (13.2.1); with adaptation integration in curricula (13.2.2)

WHAT IS MISSING

Provision of adequate means of implementation for above targets

Global Indicators in other goals, which clearly address the need to adapt; task at national level to better integrate adaptation and climate resilience

DESIRED OUTCOME

Safeguarding sustainable development through addressing climate impacts

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes recognise the importance of addressing climate change impacts in the context of sustainable development

UNFCCC established architecture should be regarded as instrumental to countries' SDG efforts

The role of adaptation has been further strengthened through the Paris Agreement and the SDGs

LOSS & DAMAGE associated with climate change impacts

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

The Paris Agreement includes a specific Article (8) on loss and damage, separate from adaptation

Institutions: Warsaw International Mechanism anchored in the Paris Agreement, including mandate to enhance it

Characterisation of key loss and damage themes through Paris Agreement and Warsaw Mechanism work plan (including early-warning systems, insurance, displacement, permanent and irreversible losses)

WHAT IS MISSING

Clear recognition and commitments to provide additional finance for addressing loss and damage, based inter alia on historical responsibilities

Global/regional legal frameworks to address the growing problem of loss and damage, e.g. in relation to climate change displacement

DESIRED OUTCOME

Safeguarding sustainable development through addressing climate change impacts

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes recognise the importance of addressing climate change impacts, as well as their threats to achieving sustainable development

The emerging UNFCCC institutional architecture can be supportive to countries' SDG efforts

The role of loss and damage has been further strengthened through the Paris Agreement

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

Climate impacts recognised as threatening the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development and the survival of many societies. The biological support systems of the planet are at risk

Several targets reflect particular attention to the poor and most vulnerable people, communities, ecosystems and countries

Political commitment to 'Leave no one Behind'

Some targets refer to types of loss and damage, such as 14.2 (ecosystem restoration); 14.3 (minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification)

WHAT IS MISSING

Provision of adequate means of implementation for above targets

Stronger reflection of the adverse consequences of unavoidable impacts

References to justice and mechanisms for supporting those impacted by climate change

ENERGY

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

The Paris Agreement acknowledges the need to promote universal access to sustainable energy in developing countries, particularly in Africa, through the enhanced deployment of renewable energy

Energy addressed in efforts to raise mitigation ambition in UNFCCC process, including pre-2020 commitments

The Paris Agreement goal to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions implies a finance shift to renewable energy and energy efficiency

Institutions (such as the GCF) recognised in the Paris Agreement and thus expected to deliver practice that is coherent with the Paris Agreement goals; potential trigger to further focus on renewable energy finance

WHAT IS MISSING

A clear indication that the globally largest GHG emitting sector – fossil fuel energy supply – has to turn to 100% renewable energy supply as soon as possible to comply with Article 2 (“well below” 2°C)

A clear indication that strengthened energy conservation and efficiency is crucial to support the cost-effective clean energy measures

Commitment to phase-out fossil fuel subsidies

DESIRED OUTCOME

Universal access to (and efficient use of) affordable, reliable, sustainable, clean zero-emission energy

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes identify energy as an important sector for both development and mitigation.

They call for policies that improve access to energy and reduce impacts on the climate system, which makes them mutually supportive

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

SDG 7 to ensure universal access to sustainable and modern energy, and its targets to double energy efficiency and increase renewables, in line with the SE4ALL initiative

Target 12.c to rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies

Global indicators measuring population share with access to electricity (7.1.1) and primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (7.1.2); renewable energy share in energy consumption (7.2.1); energy intensity of GDP (7.3.1); UNFCCC USD 100 billion commitment as indicator for measuring international cooperation (7.a.1)

WHAT IS MISSING

Strong and relevant indicators, implementation plans, follow-up and review mechanisms at global, regional and national levels

The political declaration failed to clearly commit to a transition to renewable energy

Renewable energy and energy efficiency targets consistent with the Paris Agreement’s temperature limitation goal

AGRICULTURE

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Agriculture identified as a key area for adaptation and mitigation in the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol

Paris Agreement recognises the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) work programme on agriculture 2015/2016

Adaptation finance often addressing agriculture

WHAT IS MISSING

Commitment to implement (or transition to sustainable, equitable, productive and resilient carbon-sequestering agriculture (mitigation and adaptation)

Accountability and assurances of social and environmental integrity of agriculture-related initiatives to advance pre-2020 action (including from 2014 UN climate summit in New York, Lima-Paris Action Agenda etc.)

Mandate to initiate a process on social and environmental safeguards for mitigation activities related to land use

In order to deepen understanding, on-going consideration of the linkages between and appropriate measures to address: a) climate change impacts on; and b) contributions to climate change from agriculture and food security, recognising all types of agriculture, taking into account the different needs and vulnerabilities of various populations engaged in all kinds of agriculture

DESIRED OUTCOME

A sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient agricultural system that provides food and nutrition security for all and is as climate-friendly as possible

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes recognise agriculture's key role in poverty eradication and climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as food security. They both call for the implementation of policies that will promote food and nutrition security, which makes them mutually supportive

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

SDG 2 to "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", and its targets, in particular target 2.4, which promotes sustainable and resilient agricultural practices that strengthen the capacity for adaptation, and target 2.5 to preserve biodiversity, as well as 2.3, which (like target 1.4) calls for secure and equal access to land and other productive resources

Commitment to devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers

Target 1.4 to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal ownership and control over land and natural resources

Linkages between agriculture and other key resources, such as water (e.g. 6.5 on integrated resource management at all levels) and ecosystems (e.g. 2.4)

Global indicators measuring the extent of land under sustainable agricultural practices (2.4.1), households using irrigation systems (2.4.2), households using eco-friendly fertilizers (2.4.3)

WHAT IS MISSING

Clear reflection of climate change in global indicators (see above)

FORESTS

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Recognises forests as an important carbon sink or source, and as an important contributor to adaptation

Has established a framework for REDD+, encouraged parties to implement and support it as part of the Paris Agreement and decided that the Green Climate Fund will play a major role in delivering finance for REDD+

The REDD+ framework includes seven environmental and social safeguards, including biodiversity, participation of relevant stakeholders, and respect for rights

WHAT IS MISSING

International partnerships between forest nations and donor nations to ensure implementation of targets to reduce forest sector emissions, which are in many cases contingent on international support

In particular, early action to accelerate implementation of forest-related initiatives pre-2020, before the Paris Agreement kicks in and by which time the SDGs have targeted an end to deforestation

Integration of forest and land sector in a new climate agreement in a sustainable and rights-based manner, including through ensuring all Parties to the UNFCCC consider the forest and land sector in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)

DESIRED OUTCOME

A halt and reversal of forest loss and associated GHG emissions, and sustainable and equitable management of forests to provide natural habitat for species, sustainable livelihoods and preserve genetic diversity

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both processes identify forests as a key action area and recognise the wider benefits forests can provide, e.g. climate change adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, food and shelter

The SDGs set a global objective to halt deforestation by 2020 and significantly increase afforestation and reforestation. The REDD+ framework, the national commitments and the international finance being mobilised under the climate change process can help to achieve these objectives

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

SDG 15 and its targets that aim to protect, restore and sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation by 2020

Linkages between agriculture and forests, to promote sustainable management of ecosystems (e.g. 2.4, 15.2, 15.9)

WHAT IS MISSING

Agreement on a quantitative target for afforestation and reforestation globally (currently substantially increase) in target 15.2

Strong and relevant indicators, implementation plan and follow up and review mechanism at the global, regional and national levels

FINANCE

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Paris Agreement goal to make financial flows consistent with low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways

Aims to mobilise funding for climate actions in developing countries

Developed countries are obliged to take the lead in climate finance

The Paris Agreement encourages other Parties to provide support voluntarily

Developed countries' goal to mobilise USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for climate action in developing countries was extended by the Paris Agreement until 2025

The Paris Agreement commits developed countries to provide biennially information on the provision of climate finance

UNFCCC financial mechanism serves the Paris Agreement (including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF))

GCF promotes low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways "in the context of sustainable development"

WHAT IS MISSING

Clear and predictable roadmap (including an increase of public finance) by developed countries for the USD 100 billion by 2020 annually

Clear roadmap for post-2020 climate finance. Paris Agreement just expresses that USD 100 billion per year should be a floor for climate finance post 2020

Agreed definition of additionally (e.g. climate finance above and beyond existing development finance commitments)

Agreement that all non-explicit climate finance (including official development assistance (ODA) and domestic finance) should be 'climate smart'

Progress on innovative financing mechanisms, which generate additional finance for climate and also SDG action (such as international transport)

Commitment to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies

DESIRED OUTCOME

Financial frameworks and adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for developing countries, which incentivise environmental sustainability and drive climate-resilient and net-zero emissions development across the world

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda includes linkages to climate and the UNFCCC, and has become an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The SDGs refer to existing financial commitments under the UNFCCC, thereby recognising that countries will need to live up to their climate finance commitments to avoid blocking development progress

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

SDG targets 13.a, 10.b, 15.a & b, 17.3, and 17.16 reinforce the financial commitment for the fulfilment of the objectives of the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is the outcome of the Third Financing for Development Conference (July 2015)

The AAAA includes references to climate change as a global challenge impacting vulnerable communities (paragraphs 3, 65, 103), as well as to the UNFCCC and COP21 (paragraph 59), the Green Climate Fund, and a 50:50 balance between finance for adaptation and mitigation (paragraph 61) and to development finance being climate-resilient (paragraph 62)

WHAT IS MISSING

Clarity on funding sources to implement the AAAA and the wider post-2015 development framework

Additional financial commitments by developed and other capable countries

Clarity on the relationship between climate and development finance, including agreed definition of additionally (e.g. climate finance above and beyond existing development finance commitments)

Establishment of new finance sources which can support both

Sustainable development and climate action (such as international transport)

Commitment to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies

MONITORING and ACCOUNTABILITY

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

Existing regular reporting procedures for:

- developed countries (national communications every 4 years, biennial reports every 2 years) covering actions and financial support; annual national GHG inventory reports
- developing countries (national communications, biennial update reports on mitigation and support received every 2 years, voluntary including a national GHG inventory)

The Paris Agreement establishes an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, with each country regularly submitting national inventory reports of emissions and removals; and information to track NDC progress

The Paris Agreement establishes regular global stocktake (every 5 years, starting from 2023) which shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing their actions and support

The Paris Agreement established a mechanism to facilitate implementation and promote compliance (Art. 15), with further details to be developed

The Adaptation Committee will work out further modalities on recognising adaptation contributions, assessing adaptation needs

WHAT IS MISSING

Equity reference framework to judge the fairness and ambition of national contributions in light of the Paris Agreement's objectives

Development of stringent compliance/facilitation regime ensuring scaling up of ambition

Further alignment of metrics and indicators for adaptation

System-wide gender equality standards for data generation, disaggregation and progress reporting

DESIRED OUTCOME

Effective and coherent monitoring and reporting to achieve sustainable action progress and mutual and citizen accountability, with transparent data and role for civil society

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Both the UNFCCC and the 2030 process can identify synergies in relation to key political moments, in particular the Paris Agreement Global Stocktake and the 2030 Agenda Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

The High-level Political Forum Sustainable Development's (HLPF) intended "high-level political attention to gaps or areas where we are lagging behind" can result in "political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up" to accelerate progress on the most important issues, including climate change. Climate relevant aspects are suggested for the thematic reviews in 2017 and 2018

On the national level, countries should assess how monitoring and reporting procedures could be used to serve the requirements of both processes in an integral and efficient manner, including by using the same indicators and metrics where possible

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

Commitment to fully engage in conducting regular and inclusive reviews of progress at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

The global process will take place under the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Annual SDG progress report prepared by UN Secretary General

Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (by 2019)

Voluntary country reviews

Adoption of draft global indicator framework with 230 indicators, organised along the SDGs, which will be monitored globally, however, not sufficiently climate-smart

Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible

According to SDG target 17.18, disaggregation of data and statistics by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Agreed principles for follow-up and review

WHAT IS MISSING

An independent review body to guide the national differentiation of targets, where required

Tier-system to be developed for agreed indicators regarding the availability of methodologies by 2017

System-wide gender equality standards for data generation, disaggregation and progress reporting

IMPLEMENTATION

WHAT THE UNFCCC PROCESS CONTRIBUTES

The Paris Agreement decision means that all countries should develop “mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, and submit them by 2020

Continuous planning at national level for adaptation

All countries are encouraged to enter commitments (NDCs) into a public registry

Technical Expert Meetings where actions and solutions are discussed

The Paris Agreement highlights the role of non-governmental actors in addressing climate change

WHAT IS MISSING

Clear guidance from the Technical Expert Meetings on how specific actions can be scaled up and how the UNFCCC could support such actions

DESIRED OUTCOME

National strategies to implement zero-emission, sustainable development, while eradicating extreme poverty

HOW THE TWO PROCESSES ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

National level implementation of both processes can only be efficient and sensible, if it takes place in an integrated manner across departments and sectors

Integrated strategies will increase efficiency and benefits for both poverty eradication and a just transition to net-zero emissions development

Mobilisation and engagement at all levels, governmental and non-governmental, are regarded as essential

Siloed implementation would – especially when it comes to implementation – have detrimental effects and risk cancelling out successes on both sides

WHAT THE 2030 AGENDA CONTRIBUTES

All countries are committed to implementing the SDGs

Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition, but taking into account national circumstances. Each government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated in national planning processes, policies and strategies

National sustainable development strategies are expected to incorporate the SDGs and their targets, and use global and national indicators to report on progress

Global indicator 13.2.1 on Number of countries that have formally communicated the establishment of integrated low-carbon, climate-resilient, disaster risk reduction development strategies (e.g. a national adaptation plan process, national policies and measures to promote the transition to environmentally friendly substances and technologies)

The new Technology Facilitation Mechanism may help the expansion of sustainable development technologies

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the need to mobilise action by all actors in various sectors

WHAT IS MISSING

Guidance for design and implementation for national sustainable development strategies

Clarity on funding sources for implementation

CONCLUSIONS

2015 was a year like no other. With the achievement of two significant UN agreements: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. By signing these two agreements, governments commit to political frameworks that are the basis for substantial changes in direction towards an equitable and sustainable, low-emission future. 2015 was a rare opportunity for humanity to define its common future in a way that ensures economic development does not cause irreversible damage to the environmental systems we all rely on. If implemented, these two agreements will lead the way to eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and a better quality of life for present and future generations.

For 2016 the challenge shifts from achieving an agreement to its implementation, especially at national levels. Governments and other stakeholders need to find integrated ways of delivering on the two agreements.

The climate reality in early 2016 gives world leaders a stark wake-up call, with global temperatures topping previous records, millions of people and large ecosystems suffering from extreme heat and weather pattern disruptions from El Niño, and global CO₂ concentrations reaching record heights.

When the SDG negotiations started, many governments were concerned that including climate change in the talks could make the negotiations even harder and that climate change should be limited to the UNFCCC process leading towards the COP21 talks in Paris. CARE and WWF countered this argument, setting out the case that sustainable development cannot be achieved without tackling climate change, and vice versa, and advocating for this to be reflected in the two policy agreements.

This review of the synergies between the two processes demonstrates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a focus for countries to consider how they develop in a low-emission and sustainable way. For example, how to develop low-emission and sustainable energy and transport systems, industries, agriculture, infrastructure, cities and use natural resources in ways that restore and protect our global natural capital. Climate change represents a real threat to the existing and future progress of human development. To ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 agenda can be achieved, current and future development must be climate change compatible, i.e. tending towards zero emissions and building resilience to already unavoidable climate change impacts.

At the same time, the UNFCCC process has much to gain from coordinating with the SDGs since most of the issues covered in the UNFCCC – from priority sectors for mitigation to all aspects of adaptation, as well as equity considerations – are relevant to the 2030 Agenda and consequently countries' development and finance plans. Positively, the 2030 Agenda has been recognised in the Paris Agreement, and the SDG 13 on climate change has been concretised through the outcomes of COP21. Climate change is also integrated across all other goals – although we feel this could have been more extensive.

Recommendations for next steps:

The SDGs and the UNFCCC processes are interdependent. Without sustainable development, the threat of climate change cannot be averted, and without action on climate change mitigation and adaptation, development achievements will be stalled or reversed. Both processes delivered agreements in 2015 focusing on different aspects of a just transition to zero-emission, climate-resilient sustainable development.

The **UN Paris Agreement on climate change** sets out the overall level of climate ambition through its main obligatory goals contained in Article 2: a) by holding global average temperature increases to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C (coupled with the goal of rapid emission reductions towards 'net-zero' in the second half of the century); b) enhancing adaptive capacity and fostering resilience; and c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Governments agreed on a framework for reporting and monitoring, but the details have not yet been negotiated. Countries agreed on a global adaptation goal and strengthened adaptation principles, and established addressing loss and damage as an area distinct from adaptation. The Paris Agreement also contains frameworks for means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity-building (including the establishment of a specific institution) – the scale of efforts, however, is not yet compatible with the overarching goals and the support needed in developing countries.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** has a far broader remit, with 17 goals and 169 targets covering social, economic and wider environmental issues. With the climate change goal (SDG 13) and its explicit linkage to the Paris Agreement, both agendas are now coupled. Moreover, the overarching goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular the goal on low-emission and climate-resilient, should be applied to the SDGs as a whole.

A cross-institutional approach is essential for integrated and effective implementation. When it comes to implementing the outcomes of both processes in particular at the national level, there needs to be integrated, cross-

ministerial effort. Siloed implementation would set countries up for failure to achieve either climate or development goals and the two could be traded off against each other. In order for the synergies between the two processes to be realised, there must be cooperation and coordination between the post-2015 and UNFCCC processes as well as political mechanisms to ensure joint thinking.

Applying climate-sensitive indicators for adaptation and mitigation under relevant SDGs is important. This will provide development, finance and infrastructure ministries with a clear requirement to integrate climate considerations into national and sectoral planning. Applying climate sensitive indicators can also facilitate better understanding of how climate change links to certain SDGs on the national level, for example the SDG on ending poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy lives, achieving gender equality, ensuring access to water, making cities and infrastructure resilient, and increasing marine and terrestrial ecosystem resilience. The agreed Global Indicators for the SDGs fall short of this task, but do provide various entry points for climate proofing when it comes to setting national level indicators. The UNFCCC process could provide additional guidance and support for developing national level indicators for mitigation, adaptation and finance accounting. In the case of adaptation, this should be taken into account when indicators are agreed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Commitments that countries included in their national plans in the UNFCCC climate process, e.g. certain sectoral goals, could also be used as national SDG commitments, where appropriate, and if they are sufficiently ambitious in light of the Paris Agreement.

Developing national sustainable development strategies, which aim to bring down emissions to 'net-zero' levels, will be an important means to ensure both UNFCCC and SDG outcomes are coherently implemented in ways that are both appropriate to each country and adequate at a global level. Cross-ministerial cooperation will be essential, if national sustainable development plans are to be effective. This is implied in the SDG target 13.2, as well as being consistent with agreements under the UNFCCC to promote mid-century, low-emission development strategies and develop National Adaptation Plans. This means that countries with high per capita carbon and resource use footprints must fundamentally shift their development patterns, and those with lower footprints need to foster development pathways that are low carbon and sustainable.

Enhancing science-policy interaction for integrated SDG and climate planning and implementation is key. Scientific scenarios, as well as global and regional models, are important to inform long-term planning and implementation of actions. The 2015 Global Sustainable Development Report notes that climate change is the one SDG which is covered in most of the global scenario models analysed. Consequently, the Report makes recommendations on the role of the High Level Political Forum for strengthening the science-policy interface and cites the IPCC as a positive example of how international development process can benefit from scientific advice, a linkage that the HLPF should build on. Global assessments such as the IPCC reports have paid particular attention to implications of climate change on sustainable development issues. Going forward, the 2018 special report on 1.5°C, as well as the 6th Assessment Report, must also be regarded as central for informing the synergetic implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Richer countries, such as those in the G20, should invest in research on sustainable development pathways consistent with 1.5°C.

Harnessing synergies in existing and future reporting formats is important. When reporting on the climate change targets of the SDGs, countries could use existing UNFCCC reporting formats and methodologies. The follow-up negotiations to COP21 on various methodologies and transparency frameworks may also take into account potential synergies. Moreover, when countries undergo the voluntary national reviews as part of the 2030 process, starting in 2016, they should take into account the key goals of the Paris Agreement as guiding parameters, including the strengthened temperature limitation goal of 1.5°C. The national climate action plans (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) submitted to the UNFCCC can inform this discussion to a certain extent, noting, however, that their ambition is overall not sufficient.

Making coordinated use of political moments can increase ambition. Both processes have already agreed certain political milestones for the coming years. Under the UNFCCC, this includes the 2018 facilitative dialogue (in addition to regular annual ministerial conferences), but also the 1.5°C special report by the IPCC. The 2030 process also has key moments such as the High-Level Political Forum and the comprehensive review in 2019. These events should be used to drive an ambitious agenda and to increase pre-2020 ambition on all fronts. They should also be an opportunity to encourage the development of national level sustainable development strategies and attract the financial, capacity building and technical support for those who need it. The preparation and conduct of these events are also opportunities to fill the gaps identified in this report, and to deliver on what is still missing.

There must be a broad mobilisation of stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and academia. Governments alone cannot deliver on the ambitious programme laid out in 2015. Multiple stakeholders need to be engaged and mobilised if we are to achieve zero-emission, climate-resilient sustainable development. New partnerships, coalitions, and innovative ideas will be needed to push these two agreements forward and transform our economic and social systems. For example, there must be strong champions to ensure that the guiding principles enshrined in the two agreements, including human rights and gender equality, are held up. Delivering on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement will be no easy task and we all have a role to play in making the promises of a better future a reality.

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Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organisation fighting global poverty with special focus on working alongside women and girls. CARE established the Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN) in 2010 as a global centre of expertise to help drive the integration of climate change and environmental risk management into CARE's long-term development and humanitarian programming. In 2015, CARE worked in 95 countries around the world, supporting 890 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects to reach more than 65 million people. To learn more about CARE's work on climate change visit: www.careclimatechange.org

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