



United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.2



Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

Distr.: General  
26 May 2020

English only

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## Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Fifty-second session

Bonn, 4–12 October 2020

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Cooperation with other international organizations**

### **Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

##### *Summary*

The secretariat engages in collaborative activities, initiatives and programmes with United Nations entities, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations that enhance and contribute to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The key objective of the secretariat in such engagement is to support implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in an efficient and effective manner. This document provides information on activities that the secretariat has been involved in with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations since the fiftieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

GE.20-07057(E)



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	clean development mechanism
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCA portal	global climate action portal (NAZCA)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IEA	International Energy Agency
IGO	intergovernmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
LAKI	Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
RCC	regional collaboration centre
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (decision 1/CP.16, para. 70)
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TEM	technical expert meeting

TNA	technology needs assessment
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WIM Executive Committee	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
YOUNGO	youth non-governmental organizations

## I. Introduction

### A. Mandate

1. SBSTA 30 requested the secretariat to prepare, before SBSTA sessions at which its agenda item on cooperation with other international organizations is to be taken up, an information note summarizing relevant cooperative activities.<sup>1</sup>

### B. Background and scope

2. Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the COP shall seek and utilize the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. Thus, the secretariat places great value on working with other international organizations, including United Nations entities, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and the scientific community.

3. This document summarizes the main activities carried out by the secretariat in cooperation with other international organizations since June 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the reporting period), when the previous information note on the subject,<sup>2</sup> prepared for SBSTA 50, was published.

### C. Overview of cooperative activities

4. United Nations and other international organizations provide expertise, assistance and support to Parties for the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Having recognized the many interlinkages within the complex UNFCCC process, and that expertise and resources – human, financial and other – might also be found in other parts of the United Nations system and other IGOs, the COP and the subsidiary bodies have encouraged other organizations to undertake tasks and activities in support of their work.

5. Conversely, cognizant of the expertise and knowledge that the secretariat has accumulated over the years, many international organizations call upon it to contribute to discussions and policy documents on climate change matters. The secretariat is receiving and responding to increasing requests from other United Nations organizations and forums for advice and collaboration related to climate change.

6. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> in paragraph 31 of which the UNFCCC is acknowledged as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiations on the global response to climate change, has increased the need for closer cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system, in particular given that, as stated in its paragraph 71, the Agenda and the SDGs and targets, including their means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked. Through close cooperation with United Nations entities and other international organizations, the secretariat can help countries to achieve the SDGs in a coherent and collaborative way.

7. The secretariat collaborates with United Nations and other international organizations across all its mandated workstreams.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, para. 128.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.2.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

## **D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

8. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information in this document. It may also wish to invite Parties to provide guidance on the scope and direction of the cooperative activities presented in chapters II–III below. The SBSTA may further wish to make recommendations on key priority areas in which the secretariat could enhance efforts to leverage contributions to addressing climate change from other IGOs, and on possible approaches to undertaking such efforts, including through memorandums of understanding and partnerships.

## **II. Specific areas of cooperation**

9. This chapter provides an overview of the secretariat’s cooperative activities during the reporting period, including those specifically in support of the efforts of Parties to implement the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. It is not a comprehensive account of all the secretariat’s activities, initiatives and programmes.

### **A. Technology**

#### **1. Technology Mechanism**

10. Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention stipulates that all Parties are to promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic GHG emissions in all relevant sectors. COP 16 established the Technology Mechanism to facilitate implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support the full implementation of the Convention.<sup>4</sup> The Technology Mechanism has two components, the TEC and the CTCN, and serves the Paris Agreement.<sup>5</sup>

11. As the policy component of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC analyses technology policy issues and provides policy recommendations to countries to enhance climate technology development and transfer. It facilitates collaboration among technology stakeholders and promotes coherence across technology activities. In supporting the work of the TEC, the secretariat engages with many United Nations organizations, IGOs and non-governmental organizations.

12. During the reporting period, the secretariat supported the internal task forces of the TEC established to support implementation of the TEC workplan for 2019–2022. The task forces include representatives of United Nations organizations and received input from the GCF and GEF secretariats, the International Renewable Energy Agency and UNEP DTU Partnership.

13. The secretariat organized the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> meetings of the TEC. Representatives of United Nations organizations and IGOs, such as UNEP DTU Partnership and the World Intellectual Property Organization, as well as non-governmental organizations participated in the meetings either in person or via the live webcast and UNFCCC social media platforms, managed by the secretariat.

14. The secretariat supported the TEC in organizing two regional TEMs, one on circular economy solutions and innovations in water and energy management for the agrifood chain, held during Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week in August 2019, and the other on decentralized solutions for smart energy and water use in the agrifood chain, held during Asia-Pacific Climate Week in September 2019.

15. As the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism, the CTCN supports developing countries in implementing climate technologies. It has three core functions:

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<sup>4</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, para. 117.

<sup>5</sup> Mandated in Article 10, para. 3, of the Paris Agreement.

- (a) Providing technical assistance at the request of developing countries;
- (b) Creating access to knowledge on climate technologies;
- (c) Fostering collaboration among climate technology stakeholders.

16. During the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with the CTCN and participated in the meetings of its Advisory Board. TEC 19 was held directly after the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board. The secretariat continued to collaborate with UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the host organizations of the Climate Technology Centre, by participating in CTCN regional forums for national designated entities.

## **2. Technology needs assessments**

17. Developing countries undertake TNAs in order to identify their technology priorities for mitigating GHG emissions and adapting to climate change. Through TNAs, developing countries establish climate technology action plans.

18. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to collaborate with the GEF, UNEP and UNEP DTU Partnership in phase III of the global TNA project, whereby financial and technical support is being provided to 22 small island developing States and LDCs undertaking TNAs. This included the organization of two capacity-building workshops on TNAs for countries participating in phase III of the global TNA project.

19. The secretariat collaborated with the CTCN, UNEP and UNEP DTU Partnership in supporting the TEC on TNA matters, including in relation to identifying experience, lessons learned and good practices in conducting TNAs and implementing their results.

## **3. Technology facilitation mechanism**

20. Paragraph 70 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development refers to the launch of a technology facilitation mechanism to support implementation of the SDGs. During the reporting period, the secretariat participated in the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, a component of the mechanism that involves over 40 United Nations organizations. As part of this collaboration, the secretariat participated in a training workshop on mobilizing science, technology and innovation in developing countries for the SDGs, organized by UN DESA and UNESCAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

## **B. Climate finance**

### **1. Funds serving the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement**

#### **(a) Green Climate Fund**

21. COP 16 designated the GCF as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.<sup>6</sup> Under the arrangements between the COP and the GCF, the GCF and UNFCCC secretariats may, as necessary and subject to the direction of the GCF Board and the COP, cooperate and exchange views on matters relevant to the operation of the Financial Mechanism, including implementation of the arrangements between the COP and the GCF, coordination with other international financing channels and the participation of representatives in meetings of relevant bodies.<sup>7</sup> The GCF also serves the Paris Agreement.<sup>8</sup>

22. In the reporting period, the UNFCCC secretariat engaged with the GCF secretariat and attended the GCF Board meetings, at which the Board progressed in implementing guidance from the COP and the CMA and took decisions to approve project proposals and adopt policies relating to GCF operations. The two secretariats conducted a joint retreat to explore ways of strengthening their collaboration and partnership, including through joint

<sup>6</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, para. 102.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 5/CP.19, annex, para. 18.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 58.

task teams for enhancing the linkages and continuing the collaboration between the secretariats at the operational level. Furthermore, the UNFCCC secretariat collaborated with the GCF secretariat on the first replenishment process of the GCF and engaged with participants in the replenishment process. Representatives of the GCF secretariat also participated in various meetings and workshops organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, including meetings of constituted bodies, the 2019 SCF Forum, TEMs on adaptation and mitigation, workshops relating to the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and the 2019 in-session workshop on long-term climate finance.<sup>9</sup> At COP 25, the GCF Board held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting with the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement on enhancing cooperation and coherence of engagement.

**(b) Global Environment Facility**

23. The GEF is entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism.<sup>10</sup> The memorandum of understanding between the COP and the GEF states that the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the GEF shall cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experience as necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism in assisting Parties in implementing the Convention.<sup>11</sup> The GEF also serves the Paris Agreement.<sup>12</sup>

24. During the reporting period, the UNFCCC secretariat interacted with the GEF secretariat by participating in GEF Council meetings, at which the Council progressed in implementing guidance from the COP and the CMA; decided to approve work programmes under the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund; and adopted policies relating to GEF operations. The two secretariats regularly collaborated during and between the UNFCCC conferences held during the reporting period. The GEF secretariat participated in UNFCCC meetings and events, including meetings of constituted bodies under the Convention, workshops relating to the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, and TEMs on adaptation.

**(c) Adaptation Fund**

25. CMP 3 decided that the Adaptation Fund Board shall be the operating entity of the Adaptation Fund, serviced by a secretariat and a trustee.<sup>13</sup> The Adaptation Fund serves the Kyoto Protocol and, as of 2019, the Paris Agreement. During the reporting period, the secretariat participated in Adaptation Fund Board meetings, at which decisions taken at CMP 14 and CMA 1 that might affect the Fund were discussed.

26. The Adaptation Fund Board secretariat in turn participated in meetings of constituted bodies under the Convention and interacted with the AC on matters related to national adaptation goals and indicators and their relationship with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

27. The Adaptation Fund Board took action to promote linkages between the Adaptation Fund and other constituted bodies under the Convention, such as the AC, CTCN, GCF, GEF, PCCB and SCF.

**2. Standing Committee on Finance**

28. The secretariat supports the SCF in its collaboration and outreach activities with IGOs, financial institutions and other stakeholders engaged in its work. All meetings<sup>14</sup> of the SCF are webcast. An official notification is issued on the UNFCCC website informing admitted

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/1tf-meetings/long-term-climate-finance-events-in-2019>.

<sup>10</sup> Decision 3/CP.4, para. 1.

<sup>11</sup> Decision 12/CP.2, annex, para. 10.

<sup>12</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 58.

<sup>13</sup> Decision 1/CMP.3, paras. 18 and 20.

<sup>14</sup> Information on the meetings of the SCF, including the webcasts and lists of participants, is available at <http://unfccc.int/6881.php>.



IGOs about the possibility of attending SCF meetings,<sup>15</sup> and personalized invitation letters are sent to representatives of United Nations agencies and IGOs.

29. During the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with United Nations organizations and IGOs in supporting the organization of the 2019 SCF Forum, on climate finance and sustainable cities. The secretariat collaborated with UNESCWA in Beirut, Lebanon, which hosted the event. Representatives of national and municipal governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, think tanks, multilateral and bilateral finance institutions and international commercial banks participated in the Forum as speakers and resource persons. The secretariat will continue to facilitate SCF engagement with a wide variety of climate finance stakeholders and United Nations and expert organizations working on nature-based solutions to organize the 2020 SCF Forum, on finance for nature-based solutions.

30. The SCF, with the support of the secretariat, closely collaborates with stakeholders specialized in tracking and reporting climate finance flows as well as stakeholders that produce information related to developing countries' needs for implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Various international, regional and national financial institutions, IGOs and think tanks<sup>16</sup> contributed to the preparatory work on the 2020 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows<sup>17</sup> and the 2020 report on the determination of the needs of developing countries related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.<sup>18</sup> The contributors provided information and data, participated in SCF meetings, collaborators meetings and one TEM, and responded to the call for evidence.<sup>19</sup>

### 3. In-session workshop on long-term climate finance

31. The secretariat cooperated with climate finance experts from government, United Nations organizations, IGOs, the private sector and civil society in organizing the 2019 in-session workshop on long-term climate finance.<sup>20</sup> Representatives of the Independent Evaluation Unit of the GCF, the Overseas Development Institute, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, and the Asian Development Bank participated in the workshop as speakers and resource persons. A summary report on the workshop<sup>21</sup> was prepared for consideration by the COP.

### 4. Needs-based Finance project

32. COP 23 requested the secretariat to explore ways and means of assisting developing country Parties in assessing their climate finance needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating these climate finance needs into action.<sup>22</sup> In response, the secretariat launched the Needs-based Finance project, with the key objective of facilitating access to and mobilization of climate finance for addressing priority mitigation and adaptation needs identified by developing country Parties. In doing so, the secretariat has been collaborating with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and United Nations agencies and through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels to explore ways and means of assisting developing country Parties in assessing their needs.

33. As at May 2020, the secretariat, through its RCCs (in St. George's, Grenada; Panama City, Panama; Bangkok, Thailand; Lomé, Togo; Kampala, Uganda; and Dubai, United Arab

<sup>15</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/3153.php>.

<sup>16</sup> Including groups of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, United Nations entities and other international organizations, networks of private financial institutions, the International Development Finance Club and OECD.

<sup>17</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance>.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/needs-report>.

<sup>19</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/6877.php>.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/tf-meetings/long-term-climate-finance-events-in-2019>.

<sup>21</sup> FCCC/CP/2019/4.

<sup>22</sup> Decision 6/CP.23, para. 10.

Emirates) and in collaboration with partner institutions, was implementing the Needs-based Finance project in 10 regions or subregions, engaging over 90 countries.

## **C. Capacity-building**

### **1. Capacity-building framework**

34. In accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 29/CMP.1, the secretariat collaborates with organizations on collecting and compiling the information needed by the COP, the CMP and the subsidiary bodies to annually monitor the progress of implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. The information submitted by the organizations is uploaded to the capacity-building portal,<sup>23</sup> a web-based platform that, through an interactive world map, enables external users to search for, identify and download capacity-building information submitted since 2008 by United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations.

### **2. Durban Forum on capacity-building**

35. COP 17 requested the SBI to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building by organizing an annual in-session Durban Forum for in-depth discussion on capacity-building.<sup>24</sup> The 8<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on capacity-building took place in conjunction with SBI 50.<sup>25</sup> The overarching topic of the Forum was strengthening institutions at the national level to support capacity-building activities for implementing NDCs in developing countries, and the Forum focused on:

(a) The role of academia, research institutions and other national or subnational institutions in strengthening and retaining capacity in developing countries;

(b) Enhancing coherence and coordination among national and international stakeholders (such as government institutions, support providers, civil society organizations, subnational authorities, academia and research institutions, and the private sector) for the design and delivery of capacity-building activities supporting NDC implementation;

(c) Best practices and available tools and methodologies for assessing the impact and effectiveness of capacity-building activities in strengthening national institutions' capacity to implement NDCs.

36. The secretariat collaborated with the Global Development Network, the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change, and UNDP, among others, in organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum.

### **3. Paris Committee on Capacity-building**

37. The secretariat supports the PCCB in its collaboration and outreach activities with United Nations entities, IGOs and other interested stakeholders, and in developing and implementing its communication and stakeholder engagement strategies.

38. During the reporting period, the secretariat supported the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PCCB, held in conjunction with SB 50.<sup>26</sup> The meeting was webcast and an official notification was issued on the UNFCCC website inviting admitted IGOs to attend. The secretariat facilitated the participation of five representatives of United Nations organizations and IGOs in the meeting.

39. In supporting the organization and realization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity-building Hub,<sup>27</sup> hosted by the PCCB at COP 25, the secretariat collaborated with more than 65 stakeholders from the public and private sector, including representatives of the NDC Partnership, the OECD Development Assistance Committee, 11 United Nations entities (such as FAO,

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<sup>23</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/337>.

<sup>24</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 144.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/8th-durban-forum>.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/10006>.

<sup>27</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/199364>.

UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UN Women) and numerous international coalitions and networks, such as the NDC Partnership, UNEP DTU Partnership, the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, and the Private Financing Advisory Network. United Nations entities and international coalitions represented 17 and 23 per cent of the organizing partners of the Hub, respectively.

40. Furthermore, in supporting the organization of a technical workshop held at SBI 50<sup>28</sup> and PCCB workshops held at Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week and Asia-Pacific Climate Week in 2019,<sup>29</sup> the secretariat collaborated closely with a number of IGOs, including ILO, the NDC Partnership, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNHCR, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, and UN Women.

#### **4. Funds serving the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement**

41. The secretariat seeks input from the secretariats of the Adaptation Fund, GCF and GEF to prepare the annual compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work undertaken by bodies under the Convention. Representatives of the secretariats of the three funds participated in various capacity-building meetings and workshops held under the Convention during the reporting period, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PCCB, the 8<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity-building Hub.

#### **5. Regional cooperation**

42. During the reporting period, the secretariat worked with regional partners (Development Bank of Latin America, Inter-American Development Bank, Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership, including its platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Latin American Energy Organization), in addition to its core global partners, to hold Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2019, and engaged with other regional partners (Asian Development Bank, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and UNESCAP) to hold Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019.

43. In November 2019, an inception workshop was held in Cairo, Egypt, to begin preparations for designing an Arab climate finance mobilization and access strategy and to exchange information on climate finance needs at the regional and country level. The workshop was organized under the auspices of the Needs-based Finance project in collaboration with the League of Arab States and UNESCWA and with support from RCC Dubai.

44. RCC Bangkok and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies have been supporting Thailand through the GCF Readiness Programme, in collaboration with GIZ. Through this project, several investment opportunities for the country have been developed and proposed in specific sectors. Stakeholders were presented with the investment opportunities during a consultation workshop held in October 2019 for their validation and feedback. Also in October 2019, a technical workshop on climate finance was held to begin developing the climate finance mobilization and access strategy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The workshop was organized by RCC Bangkok in collaboration with the Association's secretariat.

### **D. Action for Climate Empowerment**

#### **1. United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness**

45. The Alliance aims to support Parties' efforts to initiate and undertake ACE activities. The secretariat, in partnership with Alliance members and the Governments of Chile and Spain, organized the Education Day held during COP 25, which included a high-level event

<sup>28</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/195696>.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/198184>.

on ACE,<sup>30</sup> which was attended by ministers, representatives of international organizations and non-Party stakeholders.

## **2. Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development**

46. The Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, led by UNESCO, aims to generate and scale up action at all levels and in all areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. It established five partner networks, on policy support, whole-institution approaches, educators, youth and local communities. The secretariat is a member of the policy network and has made a substantive contribution to scaling up education on climate change and sustainable development with a view to achieving target 4.7 of SDG 4. In this regard, the secretariat participated in the Forum on Education for Sustainable Development and the meeting of the Partner Networks of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development held by UNESCO in July 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

## **3. Action for Climate Empowerment events**

47. The secretariat, in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, held an international symposium and high-level event on ACE in Pamhagen, Austria, on 13 and 14 October 2019. The symposium catalysed wider engagement in, and promoted the implementation of, the ACE agenda, specifically Article 12 of the Paris Agreement and the related Katowice climate package. The events brought together ACE national focal points, youth and representatives of government, international organizations, the private sector, local and regional authorities, academia and philanthropic organizations, who signed at the conclusion of the high-level event the Burgenland Declaration on Action for Climate Empowerment.

## **4. Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment**

48. The secretariat organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue on ACE, held during SBI 50, in collaboration with United Nations entities. The main objective was to provide a forum for Parties and other stakeholders to advance discussions on the final review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and ways of enhancing education, training, public awareness, public access to information, and international and regional cooperation so as to also enhance action under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.<sup>31</sup> Representatives of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness provided technical support and moderated working group discussions. The secretariat published a summary report on the Dialogue.<sup>32</sup>

## **5. Youth and climate change**

49. The secretariat, in partnership with the Governments of Chile and Spain, YOUNGO, United Nations agencies and development partners, organized the Young and Future Generations Day,<sup>33</sup> held during COP 25, to showcase the important role of young people in implementing innovative and ambitious climate change solutions. The secretariat also held the annual Global Youth Video Competition, which it has organized since 2015. The competition demonstrates how young people are key to enacting innovative and ambitious solutions to combat climate change. In 2019, more than 400 videos from competitors in 114 countries were received. The 2019 competition<sup>34</sup> was organized jointly by the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) in partnership with the GEF–UNDP Small Grants Programme. The competition was conducted through the Television for Environment platform.

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<sup>30</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/news/action-for-climate-empowerment-finds-strong-support-at-cop25>.

<sup>31</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/7th-dialogue-on-action-for-climate-empowerment>.

<sup>32</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/12.

<sup>33</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/news/youth-urge-climate-action-at-cop25>.

<sup>34</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/news/winners-of-2019-global-youth-video-competition-announced>.

50. The secretariat provided policy inputs and contributed to the design of Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth. The Strategy was solicited by the Secretary-General and developed by his Envoy on Youth in conjunction with United Nations agencies and youth organizations from around the world. The secretariat provided policy inputs for the United Nations Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America, prior to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019.<sup>35</sup> The Youth Climate Summit provided a platform for young climate action leaders from more than 140 countries to showcase their solutions and to engage meaningfully with decision makers.

51. At the 2019 Latin America and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific Climate Weeks, YOUNGO held side events with youth organizations from the regions, and YOUNGO-nominated speakers spoke at the high-level opening sessions.

52. In October 2019, the Ministry of Environment of Panama, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the UNDP office in Panama held a session on the recent activities and achievements of the Panama Climate Change Youth Network and announced the official launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Leadership Academy on Climate Change, focused on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy.<sup>36</sup> Academies are usually one-week intensive training workshops where participants learn about climate change concepts, such as the science of climate change, national and global mitigation and adaptation actions and clean technologies; are introduced to leadership tools and project formulation; and exchange experience. RCC Panama provided technical support, as at the previous workshops.

## 6. One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

53. The secretariat is engaging closely with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in advancing the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership, a cooperative initiative involving 35 multilateral organizations that supports governments, United Nations agencies and other development partners in designing and implementing results-oriented, sustainable learning to address climate change. The Partnership hosts an e-learning platform on climate change, which enables implementation of the Doha work programme.

## E. Adaptation and loss and damage

54. The secretariat collaborates with IGOs and United Nations organizations in supporting adaptation activities, including through the work of the AC and by promoting synergies between, and strengthening engagement with, national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. It engages with organizations in supporting the work of the LEG, including on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It also supports work under the WIM and efforts under the NWP. The secretariat cooperates with various IGOs on its adaptation and loss and damage activities, including the CBD, GCF, GEF, IOM, IPCC and UNCCD secretariats, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

### 1. Adaptation Committee

55. The AC advises the COP and the CMA on adaptation to climate change. It seeks to raise the profile of adaptation and promote greater coherence of adaptation action. The secretariat supports the work of the AC and works with all IGOs involved in adaptation activities. During the reporting period:

(a) The AC continued the technical examination process on adaptation, with the objective of identifying opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability and increasing understanding and implementation of adaptation action. The process includes annual TEMs on adaptation, bringing together a broad group of stakeholders, including United Nations organizations and other IGOs, to discuss policies, action, opportunities for action and implementation. In 2019 the technical examination process on adaptation focused

<sup>35</sup> See <https://un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>.

<sup>36</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-panama>.

on adaptation finance, including from the private sector, and involved close collaboration with various IGOs and international financial institutions;

(b) A series of regional TEMs on adaptation took place in connection with the technical examination process on adaptation, organized by Parties and non-Party stakeholders, in response to an invitation from COP 23.<sup>37</sup> Hosts and organizers included the GCF, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, and the World Bank. United Nations agencies and IGOs participated;

(c) The AC played a convening role during COP 25 and CMA 2, when a number of IGOs and United Nations organizations were involved in its collaborative work, including organizing an informal meeting with representatives of IPCC Working Group II and events involving the GCF and the NAP Global Network;

(d) The AC and the LEG invited Parties, United Nations entities and other relevant organizations to submit by April 2020 information on gaps, challenges, opportunities and options associated with methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;<sup>38</sup>

(e) Representatives of the GCF secretariat, the United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the United Nations Development Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, among others, participated in AC meetings. All AC meetings are open to observers, including IGOs. Observers are invited to provide general statements at the opening and closing of meetings and suggestions during discussions on specific agenda items, and to participate in the work of breakout groups. AC members and observers deemed such active engagement of observers and the contribution of their experience and expertise to the discussions beneficial to the work of the AC;

(f) The AC generally continued to benefit from the broad knowledge base of NWP partner organizations (see para. 63 below).

## 2. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

56. The secretariat facilitates the work of the LEG in accordance with its mandates<sup>39</sup> through collaboration with various organizations, regional centres and networks. During the reporting period the secretariat:

(a) Considered with the GCF secretariat how best to support LDC Parties in accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs. The GCF secretariat provided updates on developing countries' efforts to access funding for NAPs at the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> meetings of the LEG;

(b) Invited the GEF and its agencies to attend the meetings of the LEG to discuss issues faced by LDC Parties in accessing funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund and to explore further collaboration in support of the work of the LEG;<sup>40</sup>

(c) Engaged relevant organizations, regional centres and networks and the NAP technical working group in supporting the work of the LEG on technical guidance for formulating and implementing NAPs, training on NAPs, holding NAP Expos, advancing Open NAPs, identifying gaps and needs related to the process of formulating and implementing NAPs,<sup>41</sup> enhancing NAP Central and coordinating support for NAPs. The NAP technical working group met at SB 50 and COP 25 to advance its activities;

<sup>37</sup> Decision 13/CP.23, paras. 7–8. See also <http://tep-a.org/regional-technical-expert-meetings-on-adaptation>.

<sup>38</sup> In accordance with decision 11/CMA.1, para. 36.

<sup>39</sup> See decisions 8/CP.13, paras. 2 and 5; 6/CP.16, para. 5; 12/CP.18, paras. 7–8; 4/CP.21, para. 10; and 19/CP.21, paras. 2(c), 5, 6 and 9–11.

<sup>40</sup> See documents FCCC/SBI/2018/18 and FCCC/SBI/2019/5.

<sup>41</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

(d) Invited regional centres and networks to nominate one focal point each for the LEG to assist in addressing adaptation gaps and needs in the LDCs, such as data gaps, regional downscaling of climate change scenarios and GCF readiness support;<sup>42</sup>

(e) Engaged the NAP Global Network to work with the LEG and the AC on developing a toolkit for a gender-responsive NAP process.<sup>43</sup>

### 3. Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

57. The secretariat facilitates the work of the WIM Executive Committee and its thematic expert groups by working with United Nations entities, IGOs and others involved in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. The WIM Executive Committee guides the implementation of the functions of the WIM,<sup>44</sup> one of which is to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders, including by fostering dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among all relevant stakeholders, institutions, bodies, processes and initiatives outside the Convention, with a view to promoting cooperation and collaboration across relevant work and activities at all levels.

58. A key modality through which the relevant IGOs and other stakeholder networks directly engage in the work on loss and damage is the work of the thematic expert groups of the WIM Executive Committee. The areas of expertise of the groups correspond to the five strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan of the WIM Executive Committee. The following activities were carried out during the reporting period:

(a) The WIM Executive Committee launched a technical expert group on comprehensive risk management to assist developing countries in enhancing knowledge and understanding comprehensive risk management approaches, including issues related to finance, data, technology, regulatory environment and capacity-building. Its members include experts from IGOs such as UNDRR, WMO and the World Food Programme, the research community, the private sector and civil society;<sup>45</sup>

(b) In the context of the work of the technical expert group on comprehensive risk management, the secretariat, in collaboration with UNDRR and WMO, brought together key stakeholders (46 experts from 18 countries representing government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, regional organizations, academia and United Nations entities) at a workshop on 29 and 30 October 2019 in Bonn, Germany, to identify ways of addressing capacity gaps related to climate risk observation and assessment in the context of loss and damage associated with climate change;

(c) The draft compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches was updated and finalized, taking into account the inputs received from United Nations entities and IGOs. The compendium provides an overview of transformational approaches and approaches to risk assessment, risk reduction and financial risk transfer, as well as enabling environments for those approaches;<sup>46</sup>

(d) The task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee, which was operationalized in 2017, launched its second implementation phase in 2019 with a view to continuing to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change through enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human

<sup>42</sup> In accordance with decision 19/CP.21, para. 10.

<sup>43</sup> NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <http://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>.

<sup>44</sup> See decision 2/CP.19, para. 5.

<sup>45</sup> The plan of action of the technical expert group on comprehensive risk management is contained in document FCCC/SB/2019/5/Add.1, annex II.

<sup>46</sup> WIM Executive Committee. 2019. *Compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/200759>.

mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation. The task force comprises experts from ILO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IOM, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, UNDP, UNHCR and civil society;<sup>47</sup>

(e) At COP 25, the task force on displacement, co-led by IOM and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, held a side event that showcased developments in evidence and data on displacement linked to climate change, and provided information on relevant activities being implemented at the global, regional and national level.

59. The WIM Executive Committee has advanced work on operationalizing its expert groups on slow onset events and non-economic losses. In addition, preparatory work is under way towards launching a new expert group to assist the Committee in enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, in relation to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.<sup>48</sup> According to their terms of reference, the groups should comprise experts from United Nations organizations and IGOs, similar to the other expert groups already in operation under the WIM.

60. All meetings of the WIM Executive Committee are open to observers, including from United Nations agencies and IGOs. Representatives of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNHCR, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations University, WMO and the World Food Programme, among others, participated in meetings of the Committee during the reporting period. The observers actively participated in the meetings, including in both plenary and parallel working groups, and provided suggestions based on their specific expertise and experience. Their active involvement in advancing the WIM Executive Committee's technical work and quest for synergy and coherent cooperative action at the international level was highly appreciated by the Committee.

#### 4. National adaptation plans

61. The secretariat's cooperation with various organizations contributes to expanding action and enhancing the provision of support to developing countries for formulating and implementing NAPs. Specific activities of the secretariat in the reporting period include:

(a) Facilitating the engagement of a wide range of organizations in helping the LEG to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs, and collaborating with the GCF secretariat and the secretariat of the GEF and its agencies in designing support measures in response to mandates from the COP;

(b) Through the NAP technical working group, involving various organizations, including those developing supplementary materials to the technical guidelines for formulating and implementing NAPs,<sup>49</sup> in developing and harmonizing technical materials on NAPs, including the integrative framework for NAPs and the SDGs;

(c) Encouraging United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and regional networks and centres to contribute to organizing NAP Expos. Many organizations were ready to participate in the NAP Expo that was scheduled to take place from 30 March to 3 April 2020, in Gaborone, Botswana;

(d) Encouraging United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and regional networks and centres to contribute information to NAP Central.

<sup>47</sup> The plan of action of the task force on displacement is contained in document FCCC/SB/2019/5/Add.1, annex I.

<sup>48</sup> In accordance with decision 2/CP.19, para. 5(c).

<sup>49</sup> LEG. 2012. *National Adaptation Plans: Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Technical-guidelines.aspx>.



62. The secretariat is among the partners of the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme,<sup>50</sup> established in response to an invitation of the COP,<sup>51</sup> aimed at providing knowledge and institutional and technical support to the LDCs for advancing their NAPs.

#### **5. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

63. The NWP<sup>52</sup> is a demand-driven knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience under the UNFCCC, which supports Parties to take adaptation action through:

- (a) Curation and co-production of adaptation knowledge outputs and products;
- (b) Facilitation of exchange of adaptation knowledge on different themes and topics;
- (c) Promotion of collaboration among Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and non-Party stakeholders to support evidence-based learning and facilitate response actions addressing needs identified by governments, especially those of the LDCs and small island developing States, and non-State actors at different levels of governance in an iterative manner.

64. By leveraging the expert contributions of a global network of partners, efforts under the NWP amplify actionable climate adaptation knowledge that responds to needs identified in different workstreams.

65. The secretariat continues to expand the NWP partner network,<sup>53</sup> which, as at May 2020, consisted of 401 organizations, including 48 United Nations system organizations and 32 IGOs. The NWP knowledge network comprises many types of organization operating at different scales with expertise in a wide range of sectors and thematic areas. Such diversity accounts for the network's agility in responding to the knowledge needs of Parties and constituted bodies under the Convention.

66. In addition, the secretariat is working to strengthen NWP partnerships by increasing opportunities for continuous engagement via online and in-person platforms and activities. NWP partners are encouraged to submit action pledges and commit to contributing to the work under the NWP over the longer term, thereby catalysing follow-up action and linking partners' workplans to the activities under the NWP.

#### **6. Collaboration in specific thematic areas**

67. Under the NWP, various stakeholders, including United Nations entities and IGOs, engage in specific thematic work in response to the adaptation knowledge needs of Parties and those arising from workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

68. Key activities that the secretariat undertook in collaboration with partners and thematic experts include curating, sharing and disseminating knowledge and experience, and convening partnerships for collaborative action in the thematic area of oceans and ecosystems on the basis of an iterative knowledge-to-action approach. Successful collaboration with the expert group on oceans, comprising 12 experts from United Nations agencies, research and academic institutions and global alliances and networks, led to the delivery of mandated work in the thematic area of oceans in 2019, which continues in 2020, in line with the knowledge-to-action approach of the NWP. The work included preparing a scoping paper on existing knowledge and knowledge gaps in relation to oceans; conducting an expert meeting to refine those knowledge gaps and design relevant collaborative action; and organizing the 13<sup>th</sup> NWP Focal Point Forum, on the thematic area of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, held during COP 25.<sup>54</sup> The Focal Point Forum provided participants with an interactive learning space to share and discuss identified knowledge gaps, key lessons learned and recommendations. Participants also defined collaborative action for closing existing knowledge gaps. The Forum included a high-level segment, in which the President of COP 25 and a keynote

<sup>50</sup> See <http://undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>.

<sup>51</sup> Decision 5/CP.17, para. 23.

<sup>52</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/nwp>.

<sup>53</sup> See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/NWP-partner-organizations.aspx>.

<sup>54</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/13th-focal-point-forum-of-the-nairobi-work-programme-on-the-ocean>.

speaker from the IPCC participated. Other activities under the NWP will facilitate implementation of collaborative action with the expert group on oceans for closing existing adaptation knowledge gaps in 2020.

**(a) Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative**

69. Regional partners, universities, global networks and institutions successfully cooperated to advance work under LAKI.

70. Graduate students from Harvard University collaborated with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development to address a priority adaptation knowledge gap in the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion. Graduate students from the University of Michigan continued the project to address priority adaptation knowledge gaps in Indian Ocean island countries. Furthermore, in the context of the Andean subregion, Yale University students are currently working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature to address priority adaptation knowledge gaps in Peru.

71. In the Middle East and North Africa subregions, the secretariat is working with the support of RCC Dubai (which covers the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia), with the following objectives:

(a) Engaging institutions and experts in identifying and supporting implementation of activities that will narrow the priority adaptation knowledge gaps for intended target knowledge users in the member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the North Africa subregion;

(b) Disseminating knowledge outputs to the intended knowledge users in the subregions, as well as other relevant subregions, to support regional, national and subnational adaptation planning and implementation.

72. UNEP and UNESCWA are also collaborating on activities under LAKI in the member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and North Africa subregion.

**(b) Adaptation knowledge portal**

73. United Nations entities and IGOs participate in activities under the NWP on an ongoing basis through calls for submissions<sup>55</sup> and the adaptation knowledge portal.<sup>56</sup> The portal provides easy access to over 400 case studies and 300 tools and methods contributed by NWP partner organizations and other entities.

## **F. Mitigation**

### **1. Nationally determined contributions**

74. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve, and pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. Further, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement, Parties shall communicate an NDC every five years.

75. Following the success of the dialogues on intended NDCs organized by the secretariat prior to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the secretariat, in cooperation with UNDP, organized regional NDC dialogues, established as one of the main forums for exchanging experience, views and lessons learned in relation to NDC preparation, communication and implementation. The initiative has provided a platform for discussing different aspects of NDC preparation, increasing Parties' readiness to engage in NDC implementation, and exchanges between bilateral and multilateral donors. It has also provided a space for representatives of planning, finance and environment ministries to discuss technical and political aspects of NDC preparation, communication and implementation with bilateral and multilateral donors.

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<sup>55</sup> See <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Search.aspx>.

<sup>56</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

76. Three regional NDC dialogues were held during the reporting period:

(a) The Africa NDC Dialogue, in Accra, Ghana, on 18 and 19 March 2019 as part of Africa Climate Week. The Dialogue had 196 participants, including representatives of 44 African countries;

(b) The Regional Dialogue on NDCs for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Salvador, Brazil, on 19 and 20 August 2019 as part of Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week. The Dialogue had 154 participants, including representatives of 24 countries in the region;

(c) The Asia-Pacific NDC Dialogue, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 and 3 September 2019 as part of Asia-Pacific Climate Week. The Dialogue had 115 participants, including representatives of 38 countries in the region.

77. The secretariat plays an active role in the activities of the NDC Partnership, a coalition of governments and international institutions supporting developing countries in implementing their NDCs and achieving the SDGs. In particular, the secretariat has been engaged in setting up a support unit and developing knowledge platforms, and is hosting parts of the NDC Partnership's support unit.

78. The secretariat also collaborated with the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa to organize regional hands-on training workshops in the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa regions, respectively, aimed at raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of developing countries regarding NDCs and the enhanced transparency framework.

## 2. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions

79. COP 16 called on developing countries to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, aimed at achieving a deviation from 'business as usual' emissions in 2020.<sup>57</sup>

80. During the reporting period, the secretariat, in cooperation with partners,<sup>58</sup> advanced its support and cooperation activities,<sup>59</sup> such as developing technical materials on various aspects of mitigation, including compendiums on GHG baselines and monitoring for the residential, commercial and public buildings sector, the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector, and the energy sector.

81. Furthermore, the secretariat and its partners were involved in communication and outreach activities for disseminating published technical materials to developing countries, including the compendiums on GHG baselines and monitoring for passenger and freight transport<sup>60</sup> and national-level mitigation actions.<sup>61</sup>

## 3. International Civil Aviation Organization and International Maritime Organization

82. The secretariat collaborates closely with the secretariats of ICAO and IMO<sup>62</sup> on addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

<sup>57</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, para. 48.

<sup>58</sup> Including FAO, GIZ, the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Torcuato Di Tella Institute, UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute.

<sup>59</sup> In accordance with decision 1/CP.18, para. 23.

<sup>60</sup> Eichhorst U, Bongardt D, Novikova V, et al. 2018. *Compendium on Greenhouse Gas Baselines and Monitoring: Passenger and Freight Transport*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://www.unclearn.org/learning-resources/library/19933>.

<sup>61</sup> Novikova V, Fuessler J, Molnar M, et al. 2016. *Compendium on Greenhouse Gas Baselines and Monitoring: National-Level Mitigation Actions*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at [http://unfccc.int/files/national\\_reports/non-annex\\_i\\_natcom/cge/application/pdf/final-compendium-mitigation-actions.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/cge/application/pdf/final-compendium-mitigation-actions.pdf).

<sup>62</sup> In accordance with decision 18/CP.5, para. 3.

83. It participates in the work of ICAO technical expert groups to implement the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and in working groups, specifically on the development of MRV, a registry system and quality criteria for emission units and the work on eligible fuels under the Scheme.

84. The secretariat collaborates with IMO by participating in the intersessional working group on the reduction of emissions from ships, supporting operationalization of the initial IMO strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships<sup>63</sup> and implementation of its programme of follow-up actions.

85. ICAO and IMO regularly report to the SBSTA on their actions to address GHG emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

#### **4. International Energy Agency**

86. The secretariat collaborates closely with IEA on energy and climate change issues. A highlight in 2019 was its input to the preparation of the IEA *World Energy Outlook 2019*.<sup>64</sup> The secretariat and IEA have regular exchanges and meetings on energy-related issues with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency, including on data, projections and policies.

87. The secretariat also cooperates with IEA on an annual basis in the context of data analysis and the review of national GHG inventory submissions from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. Furthermore, the secretariat is discussing with IEA ways to expand its cooperation with the aim of better supporting the UNFCCC review process and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

88. Representatives of IEA participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers and contributed to the substantive discussions by making a presentation in one of the breakout groups.

89. In addition, the secretariat has initiated collaborative efforts with IEA to use data on the cost and efficiency of technology in setting country-specific standardized baselines.

#### **5. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

90. The secretariat regularly collaborates with the secretariats of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the area of ozone-depleting substances with high global warming potential. The three secretariats closely coordinate their work in this area and participate regularly in each other's meetings, exchanging expertise and knowledge, particularly with regard to following up on the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol<sup>65</sup> and discussing how experience with the CDM could be used in assessing hydrofluorocarbon projects under the Montreal Protocol.

#### **6. World Bank**

91. During the reporting period, the secretariat strengthened collaboration with the World Bank in relation to the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. In particular, as one of the institutional partners of the Coalition, the secretariat supported the development of the Helsinki Principles and Santiago Action Plan, which are vehicles for facilitating involvement of ministries of finance in implementing the Paris Agreement with a view to filling knowledge and expertise gaps, mainstreaming climate change in economic and financial policy, and mobilizing climate finance. In addition, the secretariat supported outreach efforts of the Coalition, including interaction between finance ministries and climate policy communities, such as at COP 25.

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<sup>63</sup> See <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/GHG/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>64</sup> IEA. 2019. *World Energy Outlook 2019*. Paris: IEA. Available at <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2019>.

<sup>65</sup> Available at <http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop/mop-28/final-report/>.

## 7. Technical working group of international financial institutions

92. In 2012, international financial institutions, including multilateral development banks, formed a technical working group in order to harmonize approaches to GHG accounting. Currently with over 30 members, the group has made critical progress in recent years in developing harmonized methodologies for the renewable energy, energy efficiency and transport sectors. The secretariat participates in the meetings of the working group and provides input on technical issues, identifying priority areas for enhancing collaboration, broadening sectoral coverage and measures to accelerate the pace of development of the harmonized standards, and building on the work of the participating international financial institutions and the secretariat on methodological issues. The secretariat has been invited to facilitate and provide technical support to the working group in the future.

## 8. Clean development mechanism and Nairobi Framework Partnership

93. The Nairobi Framework Partnership<sup>66</sup> began as a collaboration between the secretariat and a number of agencies, including UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. It was established with the specific target of helping developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the CDM. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, Nairobi Framework partners have expanded the scope of the Partnership to include providing support to developing countries for preparing and implementing their NDCs, focused on promoting an enabling environment at the national level for regulatory mechanisms and carbon markets, including the CDM.

94. Nairobi Framework partners, in cooperation with other regional and international organizations, support the organization of regional climate weeks and events. During the reporting period, Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week<sup>67</sup> was held in August 2019 in Salvador, Brazil, and gathered more than 5,000 participants from the public and private sector. Asia-Pacific Climate Week<sup>68</sup> was held in September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, gathering almost 2,000 participants from the region.

95. In addition, the secretariat delivered, through the RCCs<sup>69</sup> and their partners, a series of capacity-building and engagement events involving approximately 1,000 stakeholders.

96. Through the RCCs, the secretariat continues to provide support directly to project participants and developers for establishing new CDM projects and standardized baselines. The RCCs are hosted by, and operate in partnership with, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Bangkok), Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation – St. George’s University (St. George’s), the West African Development Bank (Lomé), the East African Development Bank (Kampala) and the Development Bank of Latin America (Panama City). At the World Green Economy Summit in October 2019, the new RCC Dubai, hosted by the World Green Economy Organization, was officially launched to serve the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. Under the collaboration with the World Green Economy Organization, green economy youth experts will be recruited and deployed at all RCCs. Meanwhile, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Panama, the National Cleaner Production Center of Panama and the Development Bank of Latin America, and with support from the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica and the Colombian Association of Carbon Market Actors, RCC Panama organized in March 2020 an informative dialogue on the status of the carbon market in Latin America to discuss what countries in the region are doing to incentivize carbon neutrality with an emphasis on the

<sup>66</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/nairobi-framework-partnership>.

<sup>67</sup> Organized by the Development Bank of Latin America, Inter-American Development Bank, International Emissions Trading Association, Latin American Energy Organization, Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership, including its platforms for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP, UNEP, UNEP DTU Partnership, UNFCCC and World Bank.

<sup>68</sup> Organized by the Asian Development Bank, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, International Emissions Trading Association, UNDP, UNEP, UNEP DTU Partnership, UNESCAP, UNFCCC and World Bank.

<sup>69</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>.

CDM, in addition to learning about the status of CDM projects in Panama and the latest decisions adopted by the CDM Executive Board.

97. In addition to carrying out their primary function of providing continuous support in relation to the CDM, the RCCs provided in-country support for other activities related to mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and cross-cutting areas:

(a) The first phase of implementation of the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action initiative<sup>70</sup> concluded in June 2019 and a synthesis report on lessons learned and achievements was developed and disseminated. The secretariat planned the second phase of implementation and successfully secured financial support from several donors (German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Quebec and RCC host partners). Significant progress in strengthening the technical capacity and enhancing the participation of stakeholders in considering collaborative instruments has been made in the Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Panama and Senegal;

(b) RCC St. George's continued its partnership with UNDP and the GHG Management Institute to implement activities related to nationally appropriate mitigation actions and the MRV Hub in the Caribbean;

(c) RCC St. George's coordinated with the St. George's University Department of Public Health (RCC host partner) and the World Health Organization to offer a free online course on climate change and public health.<sup>71</sup> Over 800 students from 21 countries participated in the four-week course;

(d) RCC Panama forged a new partnership with ParlAmericas<sup>72</sup> to build the capacity of parliamentarians from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean to implement the Paris Agreement. The ParlAmericas International Secretariat signed a pledge to join the Climate Neutral Now initiative. International Secretariat staff agreed to compensate for the emissions associated with their travel for work by purchasing carbon offsets via the UNFCCC carbon offset platform. Parliamentarians were invited to join the staff of ParlAmericas in this initiative and offset the emissions from their travel;

(e) Building on the positive experience of the West African Alliance for Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, RCC Kampala established the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance<sup>73</sup> in June 2019, formed of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Alliance fosters work on carbon markets and supports the coordinated participation of delegates from East Africa in UNFCCC negotiations. A regional coordinator was appointed, whose main responsibilities are to coordinate implementation of the Alliance workplan and manage related activities, represent the Alliance at relevant climate forums and report to partners. Until a suitable secretariat is identified, RCC Kampala and the GIZ office in Uganda are carrying out secretariat functions in close coordination with member countries;

(f) RCCs started to liaise with United Nations Resident Coordinators and regional United Nations Development Group teams, especially on issues related to SDG 13 on climate change. There was much enthusiasm about greater interaction between Resident Coordinators and the secretariat in support of national climate action;

(g) In 2019, RCC Panama continued supporting implementation of climate actions in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Panama. In addition, in response to a request from some United Nations agencies based in Panama for more coordination and centralized access to information on the outcomes of COP sessions, RCC Panama continued expanding its collaborative platform with a focus on climate change information on Latin America for United Nations agencies in the region.

<sup>70</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-collaborative-instruments-for-ambitious-climate-action-ci-aca-initiative>.

<sup>71</sup> See <https://online.sgu.edu/climate>.

<sup>72</sup> See [https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/PR\\_UNFCCC\\_Observer\\_Status\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/PR_UNFCCC_Observer_Status_ENG.pdf).

<sup>73</sup> See <https://carbon-mechanisms.de/en/initiatives/market-development/east-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance/>.

## G. Transparency

### 1. Technical support and advice

98. During the reporting period, the Consultative Group of Experts, with the support of the secretariat, organized three regional hands-on training workshops and webinars on institutionalization of data management for the national GHG inventory.<sup>74</sup> Two of the workshops were organized with the assistance of UNDP country offices.<sup>75</sup> A total of 106 national experts from 91 developing countries received training.

99. The main objectives of the workshops were to:

(a) Enhance the technical capacity of national experts from developing country Parties involved in the preparation of national communications, biennial update reports and national GHG inventories to institutionalize data management in their national institutional arrangements;

(b) Promote peer learning through exchange of experience and lessons learned, group role play exercises that simulate an actual challenge faced by a country and designing ways to address that challenge, and hands-on exercises to experience using specific data management techniques and tools.

100. The secretariat also assisted the UNDP–UNEP Global Support Programme in organizing three regional peer exchange workshops, which involved 113 participants from 73 developing countries. The workshops introduced the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework and linkages to the SDG global indicator framework; demonstrated a mock technical analysis of biennial update reports; and included a discussion of countries' capacity-building needs.

101. Furthermore, the secretariat, in collaboration with GIZ, conducted a webinar series on the content of the compendium referred to in paragraph 81 above on constructing GHG baselines and monitoring GHG emissions from the passenger and freight transport sector.

### 2. Strategic engagement

102. The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency is a multi-stakeholder trust fund managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services. It offers specific guidance tools and in-country capacity-building programmes to support developing countries in strengthening their implementation of transparency and MRV provisions. The secretariat hosts the coordinator of the Initiative and helps to ensure the alignment of activities related to MRV and transparency with the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The secretariat also participates in the annual strategic meetings of the steering committee and advisory committee for the Initiative, which guide and facilitate the planning and implementation of its work programme.

### 3. Methodological issues

#### (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

103. The secretariat supported the IPCC task force on national GHG inventories in elaborating the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. It followed the scientific and technical discussions by participating in expert meetings and leading author meetings and provided input on draft chapters. In addition, it supported the organization of an IPCC special event on the publication hosted by the SBSTA at SB 50.

<sup>74</sup> See document FCCC/SBI/2019/18.

<sup>75</sup> The workshop for Africa, held in Algiers, Algeria, from 16 to 18 September 2019, hosted by the Government of Algeria, and the workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Ignacio, Belize, from 15 to 17 July 2019, hosted by the Government of Belize.

**(b) European Environment Agency**

104. Cooperation between the secretariat and the European Environment Agency on transparency matters focuses on methodological work to support the reporting and review of climate change policies and the assessment of progress towards targets. At expert meetings hosted by the European Environment Agency in the reporting period, the secretariat contributed to discussions on the reporting and evaluation of policies and measures and the effectiveness of climate and energy reporting and communication after 2020. Evaluating the impacts of policies and measures is one of the critical challenges faced by all Parties reporting under the UNFCCC. Since the reporting required under the European Union is substantively similar, sharing lessons learned and best practices helps to improve the efficiency of MRV under the UNFCCC. In addition, members of the European Commission and the European Environmental Agency participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers.

**(c) United Nations Statistics Division**

105. The secretariat is the official depository for climate change data. As such, it cooperates with key international organizations in the area of data exchange and regularly updates the data stored on the UNdata portal<sup>76</sup> for dissemination within and outside the United Nations system. The secretariat is supporting the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and UN DESA in developing a global indicator framework for measuring and reporting progress in the implementation of the SDGs and provides data for the preparation of the Secretary-General's annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs.

106. The secretariat was involved in preparing the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics<sup>77</sup> for the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission to promote the policy and statistics interface and continues its long-standing cooperation with the Statistical Commission. At that session, the Statistical Commission reiterated the importance of enhancing collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change related information to the UNFCCC and investing in the development of climate change statistics, in particular those related to environment, energy, agriculture and industry, given the expected increased and more diverse data requirements for implementation of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, Parties requested UNSD and the secretariat to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, for example by undertaking joint initiatives to develop climate change statistics and indicators, encouraging joint capacity-building efforts and training with other partners, and exploring ways to encourage national statistical offices to be more involved in preparing data for submission to the secretariat to support implementation of the Paris Agreement.

107. In response, as part of a series of meetings that bring together the community of practitioners in environmental data and statistics, including representatives of United Nations and other organizations and government representatives from almost all countries in the respective regions, UNSD conducted a workshop on environment statistics and information for sustainable development in the Arab region in November 2018 and a regional workshop on environment statistics and climate change statistics for members of the Caribbean Community<sup>78</sup> in November 2019. Such workshops will continue in the coming years with a view to stimulating discussion and cooperation on data matters, including data exchange and dissemination. In particular, the workshops strengthened the link between the secretariat and the Caribbean Community, FAO, UNEP, UNESCWA and UNSD, and showcased the role of the secretariat as the worldwide authoritative source of climate change data. Moreover, they provided government representatives with useful first-hand information on environmental statistics, in particular on environment-related SDG indicators and climate change. The secretariat is also actively involved in the annual meetings of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, which was established by the Statistical Commission in 2013 to strengthen national environmental statistics and enhance the collaboration of international

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<sup>76</sup> <http://data.un.org/>.

<sup>77</sup> Economic and Social Council report E/CN.3/2018/14. Available at <https://un.org/ecosoc/en/documents>.

<sup>78</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat (a British overseas territory in the Leeward Islands), Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.



organizations to develop methodological tools for supporting implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics.

108. In order to globalize climate change statistics and indicators, UNSD is engaging closely with the secretariat to, among other activities, develop a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, as mandated at the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission, in order to strengthen the link between statistics and policy. The global set of indicators and statistics will be comprehensive, but not exhaustive, and designed to support countries in line with their individual concerns, priorities and resources. UNSD, with the substantive support of the secretariat, is currently conducting a pilot survey among selected countries and international and regional organizations, and a global consultation involving all countries will be carried out from May to July 2020.

#### **4. Enabling environment**

109. The secretariat, in collaboration with the UNDP–UNEP Global Support Programme, supports an informal network of entities known as the Group of Friends on MRV and Transparency. The Group consists of around 110 members from 15 international organizations and 15 bilateral agencies involved in supporting developing countries in implementing the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and preparing to participate in the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

##### **(a) Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency**

110. COP 21 established the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. The initiative became operational in 2016 and some developing countries have submitted project proposals for accessing funds under it, in particular for strengthening their institutional and technical capacity to implement the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

##### **(b) Initiative for promoting transparency in small island developing States**

111. The Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub was established in August 2018 to enable English-speaking Caribbean Community countries to efficiently prepare GHG inventories, conduct mitigation assessments and track the progress of their NDCs. The UNFCCC and its partner, the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, host the MRV Hub at RCC St George's. The Hub is funded by the Government of Germany and supported by other partners from the GHG Management Institute and the UNDP–UNEP Global Support Programme. It is a sustainable and country-driven partnership that enables Caribbean Community countries to cooperate on addressing technical challenges to climate change mitigation. The Hub is expected to foster regional technical excellence and ensure stronger policy-relevant carbon accounting.

112. Work is under way to establish an East and Southern African regional South–South network on MRV and transparency. The aim is to establish and maintain a country-driven regional MRV hub to provide support for preparing and submitting national communications and biennial update reports, establishing and maintaining effective and sustainable institutional arrangements and facilitating proper tracking of NDCs in line with the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

#### **5. Koronivia joint work on agriculture**

113. The secretariat continues its long-term collaboration with FAO, providing joint technical support and expertise to countries on matters relating to the Koronivia joint work on agriculture. FAO, as an implementing agency, makes technical contributions to the UNFCCC policymaking process on the basis of its experience of working directly with its member countries. The secretariat contributes to the work of FAO on climate change by providing guidance on the UNFCCC policymaking process and collaborating at the technical level, including by sharing data and information submitted by Parties. Such collaboration

will facilitate implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

114. The secretariat collaborates with other organizations to enhance countries' capacity to report on their agricultural activities. It is a member of the NDC Partnership technical working group on agriculture, food security and land use, and is also represented in the advisory group on guidance for activity data compilation in advanced livestock GHG inventories established by the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

## 6. REDD+

115. The secretariat contributes in a number of ways to enhancing the coordination and consistency of MRV for REDD+. At COP 25 the secretariat held a side event with the GCF on MRV for REDD+ results-based payments, as well as a leaders' dialogue on turning the tide on deforestation for seven heads of United Nations organizations in close collaboration with those organizations.<sup>79</sup> The secretariat is part of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment Advisory Group, whose aim is to ensure coherent and consistent reporting by countries under international processes, particularly of forest-related data and information reported to the UNFCCC. The secretariat works closely with the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries and its partner agencies. Furthermore, the secretariat follows, as an observer, the work related to REDD+ of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank and the GCF. The secretariat also participates in the methods and guidance document advisory group of the Global Forest Observations Initiative.

116. The secretariat participates in, and contributes to, forest-related activities as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.<sup>80</sup> In particular, it contributed to a joint initiative of the Partnership to develop a global core set of forest-related indicators aiming to simplify and harmonize concepts and terminology related to forest reporting and monitoring, streamline reporting and reduce the reporting burden on countries by prioritizing data collection on topics identified at various high-level forums, including under the UNFCCC, and identifying policy priorities.

117. The secretariat supports the activities of all Parties by maintaining the REDD+ web platform,<sup>81</sup> which contains information from Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders.<sup>82</sup> The platform encompasses the Lima REDD+ information hub, with information on REDD+ results, including those for which payments have been received.<sup>83</sup>

## H. Response measures

118. The secretariat and ILO collaborate on matters related to just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work, one of the areas of work of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.<sup>84</sup> In September 2019, the secretariat and ILO, along with UNDP and other partners, organized the first regional training session for the African region on the social and employment impacts of climate policy.<sup>85</sup> The secretariat also collaborated with ILO on organizing workshops for the African, Latin American and Asia-Pacific regions on maximizing the positive and minimizing the negative impacts of climate change response measures.

119. In May 2019, the secretariat contributed to the organization of a training session on promoting just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development, organized by the

<sup>79</sup> FAO, GEF, UNCCD, UN DESA, UNDP, UNEP and UNFCCC.

<sup>80</sup> The other partner organizations are the CBD secretariat, Center for International Forestry Research, FAO, GEF secretariat, International Tropical Timber Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, UNCCD secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, World Agroforestry and World Bank.

<sup>81</sup> <http://redd.unfccc.int>.

<sup>82</sup> See decision 2/CP.13, para. 10.

<sup>83</sup> See decision 9/CP.19, para. 19.

<sup>84</sup> See decision 7/CMA.1, annex.

<sup>85</sup> See [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/news/WCMS\\_721194/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/news/WCMS_721194/lang-en/index.htm).

ILO International Training Centre, and contributed to ILO Green Week in June 2019. The secretariat and ILO contribute regularly on a reciprocal basis to activities with common objectives, including through capacity-building and sharing information and expertise on just transition of the workforce, the creation of decent work, and economic diversification.

## I. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation

120. The secretariat supports knowledge-sharing between the science community and policymakers. Scientific observations, research and IPCC assessments continue to inform the international climate regime as well as national and regional climate policy. The United Nations climate change process, under the Convention bodies, relies on scientific information on climate change from several workstreams. During the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with many United Nations, international and regional scientific programmes, agencies and organizations to strengthen the science–policy interface under the Convention.

121. The secretariat liaised closely with the IPCC, the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC, throughout the reporting period. At SB 51, the secretariat held two joint SBSTA–IPCC special events,<sup>86</sup> one on the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land<sup>87</sup> and the other on the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere.<sup>88</sup>

122. The second Earth Information Day,<sup>89</sup> held in conjunction with SBSTA 51, provided an opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to meet with members of the systematic observation community, including representatives of the Global Climate Observing System, the Group on Earth Observations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the IPCC, the joint Working Group on Climate of the Committee for Earth Observation Satellites and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, WMO and other relevant organizations. Participants received updates on the global climate observing system and related implementation needs, the state of the climate and systematic observation developments, and had opportunities to support decision-making on risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation.

123. The Global Climate Observing System and the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, in collaboration with the secretariat, held a workshop on observations for climate and meteorology for the Caribbean region in Belize City, Belize, from 10 to 12 July 2019. The outcomes of the workshop included a set of key messages, which were presented at SBSTA 51.

124. The eleventh meeting of the research dialogue, held in conjunction with SBSTA 50, focused on science for transformation to a world that can sustainably develop towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, including supporting adaptation and mitigation action based on the best available science. The meeting included panel discussions and the presentation of 51 posters under the themes of transformation of energy and other sectoral systems towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; transformative adaptation and climate-resilient development; changing levels of risk and the attribution of extreme climate events and impacts to climate change; and the role of the ocean in the climate system.<sup>90</sup>

125. The annual meeting of the SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group was held in conjunction with COP 25 to ensure coordination and exchange information on mutually relevant activities. The Joint Working Group is composed of the Chairs of the SBSTA and the IPCC, other presiding officers of Convention bodies and the IPCC, and members of the

<sup>86</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/srccl-special-event> and <https://unfccc.int/event/srocc-special-event>.

<sup>87</sup> IPCC. 2019. *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*. PR Shukla, J Skea, E Calvo Buendia, et al. (eds.). Available at <https://ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>.

<sup>88</sup> IPCC. 2019. *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. H-O Pörtner, DC Roberts, V Masson-Delmotte, et al. (eds.). Available at <https://ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>.

<sup>89</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/systematic-observation/earth-information-day-2019>.

<sup>90</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/node/196130>.

UNFCCC and IPCC secretariats. Representatives of UNFCCC constituted bodies also attended the meeting.

126. In February 2020, the UNFCCC secretariat provided to the IPCC secretariat a summary of the outcomes of COP 25, CMP 15, CMA 2 and SB 51 that may be relevant to the work of the IPCC. The summary also covered the 2019 SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group meeting. The UNFCCC secretariat participates as an observer in IPCC meetings, including at the 50<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> IPCC plenary sessions and the scoping meeting on the synthesis report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. The secretariat has continued to contribute to the discussions of the IPCC Task Group on the organization of future IPCC work in the light of the global stocktake.

## **J. Gender**

127. The secretariat continues to strengthen its collaboration with IGOs in order to mainstream gender considerations in various climate change thematic areas, raise awareness of the importance of gender considerations and celebrate women’s leadership of climate action. The secretariat is an active participant in relation to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and, together with UNEP, co-chairs the climate change working group within the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The secretariat was involved in numerous activities focused on gender and climate change during the reporting period, including:

(a) The workshop on gender and climate change at SBI 50, which focused on action taken to implement the first gender action plan under the UNFCCC<sup>91</sup> and highlighted contributions of Parties and observers, including IGOs such as FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IPCC, IPU, UNDP and UN Women;<sup>92</sup>

(b) Gender Day at COP 25, which highlighted action taken to implement the UNFCCC gender action plan and provided an opportunity for Parties and observers to participate in the Gender Day marketplace, where those providing services and support for integrating gender into climate policy and action connected with those interested in benefiting from such services and support. A number of IGOs, including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Plan International, UNDP and UN Women, collaborated with the secretariat in organizing or contributing to Gender Day;

(c) Providing technical support for events organized by IGOs, including those held by the International Transport Forum on gender and sustainable transport, OECD on gender and the environment, UNDP on integrating gender considerations into NDCs and climate MRV, the United Nations Population Fund on gender, climate change resilience and the relevance of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and UN Women on the interlinkages between SDG 5 on gender and SDG 13 on climate action.

## **K. Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**

128. COP 21 established the LCIPP. Its overall purposes are to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change; facilitate exchange of experience and sharing of best practices and lessons learned on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner; and enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.<sup>93</sup> An incremental approach is taken to ensure its effective

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<sup>91</sup> See decision 3/CP.23 and annex.

<sup>92</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/workshop-on-gender-and-climate-change-june-2019#eq-1>.

<sup>93</sup> Decision 2/CP.23, para. 5.

operationalization in line with the mandate from COP 22.<sup>94</sup> The functions of the LCIPP, which relate to knowledge, capacity for engagement and climate change policies and actions, provide good opportunities for collaboration.<sup>95</sup> COP 24 established the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP to facilitate implementation of those functions, and requested the secretariat to develop related activities under the incremental approach.<sup>96</sup>

129. Considerable cooperation has taken place under the LCIPP during and since SB 50. Observer organizations participated as contributors in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Facilitative Working Group, held in conjunction with SBSTA 50 and 51, respectively.<sup>97</sup> Their contributions were welcomed by the Group, and their input was integrated into its work via breakout groups.

130. A thematic workshop was held in conjunction with SBSTA 50 on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to that of indigenous peoples, in relation to the LCIPP. Over 40 organizations were represented at the workshop.<sup>98</sup>

131. A partnership-building dialogue on work relevant to the LCIPP but outside the scope of the Convention was also held during SBSTA 50, with the participation of United Nations entities, IGOs, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. They shared recent work and mandates linked to the LCIPP and potential collaborative opportunities to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in relation to climate change policies and actions that affect their lives.<sup>99</sup> Furthermore, an informal dialogue on the development of the web portal dedicated to the LCIPP was also held at SBSTA 50, where diverse stakeholders sought to facilitate and enhance the development of the web portal and make the work under the LCIPP widely accessible.

132. At SBSTA 51, a joint event was held by the Facilitative Working Group, the AC and the LEG and under the NWP that provided participants with an opportunity to exchange experience and views in relation to enhancing integration of indigenous and local knowledge into climate adaptation action.

133. The secretariat participated in relevant activities organized by United Nations entities and IGOs. It provided training on the LCIPP as part of the UNHCR Indigenous Fellowship Programme and provided input for a seminar conducted by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

134. Through its work under the LCIPP, the secretariat serves as a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, which supports and promotes the mandate of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the United Nations system. The secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, which took place in September 2019, and provided input for the forthcoming nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.<sup>100</sup>

135. Many United Nations entities, convention secretariats and IGOs have expressed their commitment to addressing issues related to local communities and indigenous peoples. They have also expressed their willingness to foster collaborative opportunities and contribute to enhancing engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples in processes that affect their lives.

<sup>94</sup> FCCC/CP/2016/10, para. 167.

<sup>95</sup> Decision 2/CP.23, para. 6.

<sup>96</sup> Decision 2/CP.24, paras. 1, 2 and 23.

<sup>97</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/the-big-picture/introduction-to-lcipp/events-meetings-and-workshops-lcipp>.

<sup>98</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/events-meetings-and-workshops/in-session-thematic-workshop-of-the-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

<sup>99</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/LCIPP-activities#eq-2>.

<sup>100</sup> Available at <https://un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/03/UNFCC-questionnaire.docx> .pdf.

## L. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

136. The secretariat supports various activities for implementing the SDGs, with a focus on SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and is also fully engaged in activities and with relevant agencies for the achievement of SDGs 2, 4–7, 9, 11 and 15.<sup>101</sup>

137. SBSTA 45 and 46 requested the secretariat, in implementing its activities under the NWP, to explore opportunities for strengthening linkages between its activities and the SDGs.<sup>102</sup> In this regard, a number of activities took place under the NWP, detailed in the table below.

### Overview of Nairobi work programme activities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>NWP activities</i>
Goal 2: Zero hunger	Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	The secretariat supported the work of the LEG on assessing the adaptation progress of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems <sup>a</sup>
Goal 5: Gender equality	Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	A total of 46 NWP partner organizations are working on gender-related climate adaptation
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	The secretariat is collaborating with partners, including United Nations entities, IGOs, global and regional centres and networks, and universities, on addressing priority adaptation knowledge gaps in countries and subregions in the context of LAKI
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources	Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	The secretariat successfully collaborated with the thematic group of experts on oceans on co-producing a scoping paper on existing knowledge and knowledge gaps; held an expert meeting to refine the knowledge gaps and design collaborative action; and held the 13 <sup>th</sup> NWP Focal Point Forum, on oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, at COP 25, resulting in exchange of knowledge and learning and definition of collaborative action for closing existing knowledge gaps

<sup>a</sup> See <http://napexpo.org/2019/sessions/parallel-session-7-2>.

138. Given its overall purposes, functions and the principles to be taken into account in its processes,<sup>103</sup> the LCIPP can help in advancing achievement of the SDGs. It is particularly relevant to SDG 13: through facilitation of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, SDG target 13.b, promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change related planning and management for local and marginalized communities, is being addressed.

139. As an observer agency, the secretariat supports the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators<sup>104</sup> on developing the global indicator framework for

<sup>101</sup> See <http://un.org/sustainabledevelopment>.

<sup>102</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, para. 19, and FCCC/SBSTA/2017/4, para. 17.

<sup>103</sup> Decision 2/CP.23, para. 8.

<sup>104</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs>.

monitoring and reporting progress towards achieving the SDGs. The secretariat is the custodian agency for various indicators under SDG 13 and, in close collaboration with FAO, IEA, OECD, UN DESA, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO and the World Health Organization, supports the Expert Group, prepares workplans for developing indicators and provides input to the Secretary-General's annual SDG reports.<sup>105</sup>

140. The secretariat contributed to the in-depth review of SDG 13 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, held in July 2019,<sup>106</sup> in collaboration with UN DESA, UNDR, UNSD, WMO and other United Nations organizations. In preparation, the secretariat partnered with UN DESA to organize a conference on strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>107</sup> held from 1 to 3 April 2019. The second such conference was postponed and conducted virtually owing to the coronavirus disease 2019. In cooperation with the European Commission, IEA, International Renewable Energy Agency, UNEP and WMO, the secretariat contributed to an updated version of the SDG 7 policy briefs on interlinkages between energy and climate change. The development of the brief was coordinated under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Informal Multi-stakeholder Technical Group of Advisers on SDG 7.

141. The secretariat continues to be an active member of UN-Oceans, including by participating in the UN-Oceans Contact Group for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030.<sup>108</sup>

## M. Global Climate Action Agenda

142. Decision 1/CP.21 is the foundation for the work on global climate action in the formal UNFCCC process and includes several mandates, building on the Lima–Paris Action Agenda, for engaging Parties and non-Party stakeholders in scaling up climate action.

143. The serving and incoming Presidents of the COP appointed high-level champions, namely Tomasz Chruszczow (Poland) and Gonzalo Muñoz (Chile) for 2019, and Mr. Muñoz and Nigel Topping (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for 2020. The secretariat continues to support their work and the work on global climate action.

144. The high-level champions mobilize non-Party stakeholders within the framework of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,<sup>109</sup> which promotes the engagement of non-Party stakeholders, in particular with United Nations agencies and IGOs.

145. During the reporting period, work was conducted under the Marrakech Partnership to promote and enhance climate action across the non-Party stakeholder community. In addition to the thematic areas of energy, human settlements, industry, land use, oceans and coastal zones, transport, energy and water, focus areas (resilience, and SDGs 6, 7, 14 and 15) and thematic interlinkages (circular economy and the agrifood chain) were also addressed at dedicated events during COP sessions.

146. The high-level champions' work and non-Party stakeholders' efforts to further global climate action were highlighted in the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019*<sup>110</sup> and *UNFCCC Technical Expert Meetings 2019: Summary for Policymakers*<sup>111</sup> and at global climate action events at COP 25, including a high-level event chaired by the President of

<sup>105</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/> and <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2019/secretary-general-sdg-report-2019--EN.pdf>.

<sup>106</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>.

<sup>107</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies2019>.

<sup>108</sup> See <http://oceandecade.org/>.

<sup>109</sup> See

[http://unfccc.int/files/paris\\_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech\\_partnership\\_for\\_global\\_climate\\_action.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf).

<sup>110</sup> Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. 2019. *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA\\_Yearbook2019.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2019.pdf).

<sup>111</sup> UNFCCC. 2019. *UNFCCC Technical Expert Meetings 2019: Summary for Policymakers*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC\\_SPM\\_2019.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC_SPM_2019.pdf).

COP 25 and attended by the Secretary-General, among other prominent speakers. Many United Nations and other international organizations played an active role in this work.

147. As part of an overarching effort to broaden participation in the Marrakech Partnership, engagement activities were undertaken at the three regional climate weeks in 2019, where regional and international stakeholders organized and participated in dialogues on ways to enhance and implement NDCs in regional contexts. United Nations entities and IGOs supported the Marrakech Partnership in organizing some of these focused regional climate action events throughout the year.

148. The GCA portal,<sup>112</sup> which consolidates information on and raises the profile of climate action taken by cities, regions, companies and civil society organizations, and for which the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP act as data providers, was relaunched at the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Action Summit. The GCA portal is the official data repository for the 44 initiatives that were launched at the Summit and will support the critical follow-up work on each of them. The portal includes an interactive map-based interface that showcases the geographical coverage of non-Party stakeholders taking climate action around the globe. Enhanced functionalities were also added to the stakeholder pages, which help to contextualize the information and facilitate tracking progress and describing the commitments. The portal now features over 26,000 commitments and 17,000 stakeholders. Moreover, COP 25 officially mandated the tracking of progress of the climate action of non-Party stakeholders via the portal.<sup>113</sup>

149. In November 2019, the Climate Action Pathways<sup>114</sup> were published. The Pathways outline the longer-term vision for a 1.5 °C climate-resilient world and set out actions needed to achieve that future, including an overview of the transformational actions and milestones across the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership. The Pathways complement the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019* and the information on the GCA portal.

150. A strategy and road map was adopted in 2017 for the United Nations system to reach climate neutrality by 2020. By 2019, most United Nations entities reached climate neutrality, representing 95 per cent of the system's total GHG emissions, as per the *Greening the Blue Report 2019*.<sup>115</sup> The secretariat supports this effort with advocacy and technical advice. In addition, the United Nations system recognized that the meetings and conferences it organizes have a significant impact on climate and the environment in general. In this regard, the secretariat is collaborating with ICAO and the Sustainable United Nations facility, hosted by UNEP, to develop a sustainable events tool, expanding on the existing green event guidelines. The secretariat has also advised various United Nations organizations on making their events climate neutral, including the United Nations Ocean Conference, IPCC meetings and the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit.

151. Activities under the UNFCCC Momentum for Change initiative involved close cooperation with United Nations agencies during the reporting period to highlight examples of global climate action. For example, the Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, and the Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, Edward Norton, narrated two Momentum for Change videos in 2019, which were the result of coordination with UNDP and UNEP. In addition, a number of United Nations entities cross-promoted various Momentum for Change campaigns on their social media channels.

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<sup>112</sup> <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.

<sup>113</sup> Decision I/CP.25, para. 29.

<sup>114</sup> See [https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate\\_action\\_pathways](https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways).

<sup>115</sup> Available at <https://greeningthebluereport2019.org>.



## **N. Cross-cutting areas of cooperation**

### **1. Capacity-building for climate-related law- and policymaking**

152. The secretariat collaborates with many IGOs, in particular through dialogue and discussion, to enhance synergies and promote capacity-building in relation to legal and policy issues arising from the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including in respect of its impact on matters of international law.

153. The secretariat continues to maintain the Law and Climate Change Toolkit,<sup>116</sup> a joint initiative with UNEP and the Commonwealth Secretariat as key partners, in close collaboration with a number of international organizations, development banks and specialized agencies and in consultation with national experts and research institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, FAO, IEA, IPU, London School of Economics, UNHCR, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, University College London, World Bank and World Resources Institute. As an online and interactive database and global resource, the Toolkit can help countries to put in place the legal and policy frameworks necessary for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Katowice climate package, and their NDCs.

154. The secretariat collaborated with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law on several capacity-building activities, including jointly organizing and hosting a workshop on international law and governance contributions to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, specifically in the context of investments and oceans; jointly creating two knowledge products for legal capacity-building; and co-hosting a side event at COP 25 on legal innovations in relation to sustainable investment and resilient oceans, in which several expert panellists and Party representatives participated.

155. In 2019, the secretariat participated in two technical assistance workshops, including by providing training resources, organized by IPU and UNEP in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The workshops, on promoting engagement of parliamentarians in relation to climate change, included a demonstration and interactive orientation of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit. The secretariat continues to work closely with IPU on other capacity-building activities for legislators and policymakers in developing countries and regions to provide support for integrating the Paris Agreement and guidance for its implementation into domestic and regional policy and law.

### **2. Partnership for effective international rule-making**

156. The secretariat continues its participation in the OECD-led partnership for effective international rule-making.<sup>117</sup> The cross-sectoral partnership serves a variety of organizations involved in international rule-making, notwithstanding their nature or mandate. Transparent and inclusive rules and institutions and effective implementation are more essential than ever at the international and domestic level to rebuild confidence in public action and in the multilateral system. In this context, the partnership provides a platform for more than 50 peer organizations to share information and lessons learned. Its chief aim is to make international rules more relevant, with better coordination across international organizations to maximize comparative advantages; more effective, through better monitoring and evaluation of international organizations' instruments; and more inclusive, through greater transparency and consultation of stakeholders. To this end, in 2019, the secretariat participated in several virtual meetings as part of the working groups of the partnership, including reviewing the draft compendium of practices of international organizations being prepared by the partnership.

### **3. Partnerships with non-Party stakeholders**

157. In addition to working with Parties, the secretariat is committed to forming meaningful partnerships with non-Party stakeholders, including foundations, cities,

<sup>116</sup> Available at <https://climatelawtoolkit.org>.

<sup>117</sup> See <http://oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/a-partnership-for-effective-international-rule-making.htm>, where a list of the partners is available.

businesses and civil society organizations. These entities are indispensable to harmonizing efforts to address climate change, as they offer key resources such as knowledge, expertise, financing, access and outreach that accelerate progress in implementing the Paris Agreement.

158. In 2019, innovative new partnerships were initiated, resulting in projects for promoting e-mobility and cycling, developing affordable renewable energy solutions, implementing strategies to make companies climate positive by reducing their emissions, and launching a digital campaign using creative design to increase climate change awareness. A major partnership was with the Art4Climate campaign, which produced the “25x25 Time for Action” exhibition, featuring unique posters by renowned artists with the objective of encouraging more ambitious climate action and raising awareness of the climate crisis through the power of graphic design. The Art4Climate campaign also commissioned Lorenzo Quinn’s sculpture, “Support”, of two gigantic hands of a child emerging from the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy, seemingly protecting and supporting the historical Ca’ Sagredo Hotel. Quinn’s sculpture illustrates humanity’s capacity to damage the environment but also its ability to save it.

159. In 2018–2019, the secretariat engaged in around 90 partnerships with cities and subnational governments, development agencies, foundations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, United Nations entities and IGOs.

#### **4. Caring for Climate initiative**

160. The private sector has proven its potential to contribute, through technology and finance, to the fight against climate change. The secretariat continues its engagement with the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP in the Caring for Climate initiative, the aim of which is to advance the role of business in addressing climate change. The secretariat is involved in organizing the Caring for Climate Business Forum, where business and investors meet with representatives of government, civil society and the United Nations to advance the climate agenda.

### **III. Regular cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations organizations**

#### **A. Activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

161. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination is the highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system. It supports and reinforces the coordinating role of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system in social, economic and related matters.

162. The secretariat participates in several working groups under the Chief Executives Board High-level Committee on Programmes, such as that on the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action, a unifying vision of collaborative United Nations action on climate change that serves as a driver and tool for the United Nations system to reinforce and operationalize the Chief Executives Board Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action, to encourage and guide integrated action in the areas of climate change and sustainable development, to identify and foster action in key impact areas, and to ensure that coherent and, where possible, joint approaches are taken to United Nations country-level climate change action.

163. The secretariat became a member of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination High-level Committee on Management on 1 January 2019. The Committee identifies and analyses administrative management reforms with the aim of improving efficiency and simplifying business practices. It is comprised of senior administrative managers from the member organizations of the United Nations system, who meet twice a year. Since 1 January 2019, the secretariat has been involved in the work of the following four networks of the High-level Committee on Management: digital and technology, finance and budget, human resources, and procurement.

164. In 2019, as requested by the secretariat of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the UNFCCC secretariat led and coordinated the preparation and production of a joint appeal from the United Nations system to the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit for United Nations Member States to step up ambition and take action to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

## **B. Supporting the Secretary-General**

165. The secretariat greatly values its close coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The secretariat ensures sustained good communication and coordination with the Executive Office and provides input for climate-related engagements of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, including for their participation in sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies.

166. To boost ambition and accelerate action in implementing the Paris Agreement, the Secretary-General hosted the 2019 Climate Action Summit, which showcased the leap in collective national political ambition and demonstrated the massive movement in the real economy in support of the climate agenda, which sends strong market and political signals and injects momentum into the 'race to the top' among countries, companies, cities and civil society needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. The secretariat worked closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the team of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Change Summit and various United Nations system organizations in this context.

167. As a member of the Summit's Steering Committee,<sup>118</sup> the UNFCCC Executive Secretary contributed to the Summit's overall vision and to the activities in the area of mitigation strategy. The secretariat led, jointly with Chile and UNDP, the preparation and launch of the Climate Ambition Alliance: Net Zero 2050<sup>119</sup> at the Summit.

168. As in previous years, the secretariat contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/74/19.<sup>120</sup> The focus in 2019 was on sea level rise and its impacts.

## **C. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions**

169. Through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the secretariat maintains close cooperation with the CBD and UNCCD secretariats. Since SBSTA 42, the secretariats have been in collaboration, highlighting the synergies in the implementation of the Conventions on the ground and at the national level.

170. While the goals and targets of the three Rio Conventions are different, the actions needed on the ground to achieve them are complementary. In this context the secretariats of the Rio Conventions are encouraging transformative projects to be undertaken that integrate action on land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, are multisectoral (including land, water, biodiversity and energy), focus on large-scale impacts and have a comparative advantage in delivering multiple development benefits, such as ecosystem services, climate protection and increased resilience.

171. In the reporting period, the executive heads of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC secretariats agreed on increasing joint communication efforts to highlight the interlinkages and synergetic benefits of coordinated action to attain the objectives and goals of the respective intergovernmental processes.

<sup>118</sup> See <https://un.org/en/climatechange/advisory-committee.shtml>.

<sup>119</sup> See <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/views/cooperative-initiative-details.html?id=94>.

<sup>120</sup> United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/74/19.

**D. Environment Management Group**

172. The secretariat supports the United Nations system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, the Environment Management Group, in coordinating the implementation of the commitments of all United Nations organizations, funds and programmes on a variety of environmental issues, and provides guidance on relevant policy development. Moreover, it is supporting the development of the United Nations internal sustainability vision and strategy beyond 2020. The secretariat has been actively engaged in supporting the United Nations system in achieving climate neutrality and supporting agencies in compensating for their GHG emissions.

**E. Senior Management Group**

173. In the reporting period, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary remained a member of the Senior Management Group, a high-level body chaired by the Secretary-General that brings together leaders of United Nations departments, offices, funds and programmes. It is a forum for discussing policy-related matters, planning and information-sharing with respect to emerging challenges and cross-cutting issues.

**F. Executive Committee**

174. The Executive Committee is a principal-level committee established by the Secretary-General to assist him in taking decisions on issues of strategic consequence requiring principal-level attention across all pillars of work of the United Nations, informed by relevant deliberations in United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

175. In the reporting period, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary was invited to participate in the Executive Committee meetings when issues related to climate change were being discussed.

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