



United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2021/INF.1



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
21 May 2021

English only

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other international 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 international 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 international organizations since May 2020.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations and acronyms	3
I. Introduction	5
A. Mandate	5
B. Background and scope	5
C. Overview of cooperative activities	5
D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	6
II. Specific areas of cooperation	6
A. Technology	6
B. Climate finance	7
C. Capacity-building	10
D. Action for Climate Empowerment.....	13
E. Adaptation and loss and damage.....	14
F. Mitigation	20
G. Transparency.....	25
H. Response measures	31
I. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation	31
J. Gender	32
K. Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform	33
L. Global Climate Action Agenda.....	33
M. Cross-cutting areas of cooperation.....	34
III. Regular cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations entities	36
A. Activities by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.....	36
B. Supporting the Secretary-General.....	37
C. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions	37
D. Environment Management Group.....	37
E. Senior Management Group.....	38
F. Executive Committee.....	38

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
AC	Adaptation Committee
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AFB	Adaptation Fund Board
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	clean development mechanism
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
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
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GCA portal	global climate action portal (NAZCA)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
Global Support Programme	Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	intergovernmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KJWA	Koronivia joint work on agriculture
LAKI	Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NAMA	nationally appropriate mitigation action
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
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
QA/QC	quality assurance/quality control
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)
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TNA	technology needs assessment
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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.¹

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 United Nations entities and other international organizations since May 2020, when the previous information note on the subject,² prepared for SBSTA 52, was published.

C. Overview of cooperative activities

4. United Nations entities 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 an increasing number of requests from organizations and forums for advice and collaboration related to climate change.

6. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ in which the UNFCCC is acknowledged as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating 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 the 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 entities and other international organizations across all its mandated workstreams.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, para. 128.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.2.

³ 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 United Nations entities and other international organizations, and on possible approaches to undertaking such efforts, including through MOUs 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 secretariat 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 full implementation of the Convention.⁴ The Technology Mechanism has two components, the TEC and the CTCN, and serves the Paris Agreement.⁵

11. As the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC analyses technology policy issues and provides policy recommendations to countries to enhance climate technology development and transfer. The TEC 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 entities, IGOs and NGOs.

12. During the reporting period, the secretariat supported the organization of the 20th and 21st meetings of the TEC, which representatives of United Nations entities, including the GCF and the GEF, and of IGOs and NGOs participated in virtually or followed via the live webcast.⁶ Some of those organizations, including IRENA and UNEP DTU Partnership, were represented in TEC task forces and contributed to implementing the TEC rolling workplan for 2019–2022.

13. The secretariat also supported the TEC in organizing four regional technical expert meetings on climate-smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings, for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and Eastern Europe and West Asia. The meetings were organized in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction and involved experts from various organizations, including the Global Green Growth Institute and Sustainable Energy for All.⁷ Further, the TEC collaborated with FAO and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture on the Technology Day, a thematic session on innovative approaches to deploying, disseminating and scaling up technologies and solutions for climate-smart agriculture, that took place during the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020

⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 117.

⁵ As per its Article 10, para. 3.

⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/meetings.html>.

⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/events/index.html>.

with the active participation of representatives of the AFB secretariat, CGIAR and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.⁸

14. As the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism, the CTCN, hosted by UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, supports developing countries in implementing climate technologies by providing technical assistance at their request, creating access to information and knowledge on climate technologies and fostering collaboration among climate technology stakeholders.

15. The secretariat works in close collaboration with the CTCN secretariat to ensure synergy and coherence in the work under the Technology Mechanism. It participates in the meetings of the CTCN Advisory Board and held a joint meeting of the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board in April 2021. Furthermore, the secretariat supports implementation of joint TEC–CTCN activities on technology and NDCs and on technology and gender. The CTCN has engaged in various UNFCCC activities, including contributing to the organization of the KJWA workshop on improved livestock management systems held during the Climate Dialogues.

2. Technology needs assessments

16. Developing countries undertake TNAs to identify their technology priorities for mitigating GHG emissions and adapting to climate change and subsequently create technology action plans for implementing climate technologies.

17. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to collaborate with the GEF, UNEP and UNEP DTU Partnership in phases III–IV of the global TNA project, through which financial and technical support is being provided to 39 SIDS and LDCs undertaking TNAs. The secretariat organized three regional webinars, for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean alongside the launch of their regional technology briefs, to provide an overview of countries' climate technology priorities and activities for enhancing their TNA implementation;⁹ and a virtual event on technology needs and climate action held during the Climate Dialogues.¹⁰

18. The secretariat collaborated with the CTCN, UNEP and the UNEP DTU Partnership in supporting the TEC on TNA matters, including on a policy brief that identifies experience, lessons learned and good practices in conducting TNAs.¹¹

3. Technology facilitation mechanism

19. The technology facilitation mechanism was launched under the 2030 Agenda 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 entities. In 2020, 2030 Connect, a United Nations online technology platform developed in collaboration with other United Nations entities, including the secretariat, was launched under the mechanism.¹²

B. Climate finance

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

(a) Green Climate Fund

20. COP 16 designated the GCF as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.¹³ The arrangements between the COP and the GCF state that the relevant secretariats may, as necessary and subject to the direction of the GCF Board and the COP, cooperate and

⁸ See https://unfccc.int/tclear/events/2020/2020_event07.

⁹ See <https://tech-action.unepdtu.org/webinars/>.

¹⁰ See https://unfccc.int/tclear/events/2020/2020_event11.

¹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/tclear/tec/brief13.html>.

¹² See <https://tfm2030connect.un.org/>.

¹³ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 102.

exchange views on matters relevant to the operation of the Financial Mechanism, including implementation of those arrangements, coordination with other international financing channels and participation of representatives in meetings of relevant bodies. The GCF also serves the Paris Agreement.¹⁴

21. During 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. At a joint retreat, the secretariats explored ways of continuing and strengthening their collaboration and partnership. Representatives of the GCF secretariat participated in various meetings and workshops organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, including meetings of constituted bodies, KJWA workshops and an event during the UNFCCC June Momentum for Climate Change on effective delivery of needs-based climate finance.¹⁵ Furthermore, in conjunction with the Climate Dialogues, the GCF Board held its 5th annual meeting with the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement on enhancing cooperation and coherence of engagement.

(b) Global Environment Facility

22. The GEF is an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.¹⁶ The MOU between the COP and the GEF states that the relevant secretariats shall cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experience necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism in assisting Parties in implementing the Convention.¹⁷ The GEF also serves the Paris Agreement.¹⁸

23. 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, approved work programmes under the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and adopted policies relating to GEF operations. The UNFCCC secretariat also participated in the meetings of the GEF technical advisory group to discuss the eighth replenishment of the GEF. Furthermore, the secretariats conducted a meeting to explore ways of strengthening their collaboration and partnership. In turn, representatives of the GEF secretariat participated in various meetings and workshops organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, including meetings of constituted bodies, KJWA workshops and the aforementioned June Momentum event on effective delivery of needs-based climate finance.

(c) Adaptation Fund

24. CMP 3 decided that the AFB shall be the operating entity of the Adaptation Fund, serviced by a secretariat and a trustee.¹⁹ The Adaptation Fund serves the Kyoto Protocol and, as of 2019, the Paris Agreement.²⁰

25. During the reporting period, the UNFCCC secretariat participated in AFB meetings, at which decisions taken at CMP 14 and CMA 1 and by their Bureau that might affect the Fund were discussed. In addition, the UNFCCC secretariat provided inputs to the draft of the updated gender policy of the Adaptation Fund²¹ in response to the public call for comments launched by the AFB secretariat.

26. The AFB secretariat in turn participated in meetings of constituted bodies under the Convention, including the inaugural meeting of the PCCB Network as a member, KJWA

¹⁴ As per decision 1/CP.21, para. 58.

¹⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/other-events/june-momentum-effective-delivery-of-needs-based-climate-finance>.

¹⁶ As per decision 3/CP.4, para. 1.

¹⁷ Decision 12/CP.2, annex, para. 10.

¹⁸ As per decision 1/CP.21, para. 58.

¹⁹ Decision 1/CMP.3, paras. 18 and 20.

²⁰ As per decision 13/CMA.1, para. 1.

²¹ See AFB document AFB/B.35-36/8. Available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/meeting/35th-36th-intersessional/>.

workshops and the aforementioned June Momentum event on effective delivery of needs-based climate finance. The AFB secretariat facilitated the organization of an Adaptation Fund contributor dialogue in conjunction with the Climate Ambition Summit 2020.²²

27. The AFB took action to promote linkages between the Adaptation Fund and other constituted bodies, such as the AC, the CTCN, the GCF, the GEF, the PCCB and the SCF.²³ Together with the UNFCCC secretariat, it convened an event on serving the Paris Agreement by financing adaptation action, innovation and learning during the Climate Dialogues.²⁴

2. Standing Committee on Finance

28. The secretariat supports the SCF in its collaboration and outreach activities with IGOs, financial institutions and other interested stakeholders in delivering on its mandates. Notifications are issued on the UNFCCC website informing admitted IGOs about SCF meetings,²⁵ which are all webcast, while representatives of IGOs who regularly participate are contacted directly.²⁶

29. With the support of the secretariat, the SCF closely collaborates with stakeholders specialized in tracking and reporting climate finance flows and stakeholders that produce information on developing countries' needs for implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement. In 2021, various international, regional and national financial institutions, IGOs and think tanks have contributed to the technical work on the fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flow²⁷ and the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.²⁸ The contributors responded to the call for evidence launched for each report;²⁹ and participated in three stakeholder engagement webinars on the fourth Biennial Assessment, three informal regional webinars on the first report on the determination of the needs of developing countries related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, two webinars for contributors and experts in relation to the reports,³⁰ and the 22nd and 23rd meetings of the SCF.

30. During the reporting period, the secretariat facilitated SCF engagement with a wide variety of climate finance stakeholders, United Nations entities and expert organizations to prepare for the next SCF Forum, on finance for nature-based solutions.³¹ In response to a call for inputs, nearly 45 submissions were received and over 50 participants joined informal webinar discussions with the SCF on key substantive issues underpinning the SCF Forum theme.

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

31. The secretariat cooperated with climate finance experts from governments, United Nations entities, IGOs, the private sector and civil society in organizing part one of the in-session workshop on long-term climate finance, held virtually in 2020.³² Representatives of the Asian Development Bank, the Brookings Institution, the Institutional Investors Group on

²² See <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/adaptation-fund-contributor-dialogue-for-ambition-in-adaptation-finance/>.

²³ As per decisions 2/CMP.10, para. 6; and 2/CMP.14, para. 8.

²⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/event/adaptation-fund-event-serving-the-paris-agreement-through-financing-adaptation-action-innovation-and->

²⁵ See <http://unfccc.int/3153.php>.

²⁶ Further information on the meetings of the SCF, including webcasts and lists of participants, is available at <http://unfccc.int/6881.php>.

²⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance>.

²⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/needs-report>.

²⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/standing-committee-on-finance-info-repository#eq-5> and <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/needs-report/repository-of-information-on-the-needs-of-developing-country-parties>.

³⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/event/standing-committee-on-finance-scf-webinars-for-contributors-and-experts>.

³¹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/scf-forum/the-next-scf-forum-finance-for-nature-based-solutions>.

³² See <https://unfccc.int/event/in-session-workshop-on-long-term-climate-finance-part-i>.

Climate Change, OECD, Oxfam, and the South Centre participated in the workshop, which provided an overview of the state of mobilization and delivery of climate finance and related insights and lessons learned. The outcomes of the deliberations at part one of the workshop, which will be further explored in part two in 2021, will be communicated in a summary report for consideration at COP 26.

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 strategic actions.³³

33. In response, in collaboration with regional institutions, governments, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and United Nations entities, the secretariat is supporting those Parties through the Needs-based Finance project,³⁴ including their prioritization of mitigation and adaptation needs and development of strategies, pipelines and implementation plans. The work covers over 99 countries across 12 regions and is also supported by the six UNFCCC RCCs.³⁵

C. Capacity-building

1. Capacity-building framework

34. The secretariat collaborates with a number of IGOs to collect and compile the information needed by the COP, the CMP and the subsidiary bodies to monitor progress in implementing the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. The information submitted by the IGOs is uploaded to the capacity-building portal,³⁶ where, via an interactive world map, external users can search for, identify and download capacity-building information submitted since 2008 by United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations.

2. Durban Forum on capacity-building

35. COP 17 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation 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.³⁷ The overarching topic of the 9th Durban Forum,³⁸ held virtually during the reporting period, was capacity-building to support implementation of the ETF, with a focus on ensuring coherence and coordination of action and support. Key issues discussed at the Forum include:

(a) Implications of the relevant ETF modalities, procedures and guidelines for developing countries in terms of building or strengthening their capacity, with a focus on needs and gaps;

(b) Lessons learned, in relation to both actions taken and support received, in developing countries as regards capacity-building for MRV that could be useful in implementing the ETF;

(c) Assessing and improving the effectiveness of capacity-building;

(d) Promoting and improving coherence and coordination of capacity-building at the national and international level to enhance support for implementing the ETF.

³³ Decision 6/CP.23, para. 10.

³⁴ See https://unfccc.int/NBF_Project.

³⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>.

³⁶ http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/7204.php.

³⁷ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 144.

³⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/durbanforum9>.

36. In organizing the Forum, the secretariat collaborated with the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency, the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement and UNDP among others.

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 4th meeting of the PCCB, held virtually.³⁹ A notification was issued on the UNFCCC website inviting admitted IGOs to register to attend: five representatives of United Nations entities and four representatives of IGOs attended.⁴⁰ Interested stakeholders not registered for the meeting were able to follow the deliberations via live webcast.

39. In April 2020, the PCCB Network was launched as a platform for enhancing coherence and coordination of climate-related capacity-building initiatives and activities, fostering stakeholder engagement in such efforts, drawing expertise from the broad range of Network members in relation to identifying capacity-building gaps and needs of developing countries, and facilitating access to information and knowledge on capacity-building to support climate action. By the end of 2020, the PCCB Network had over 200 members, including 23 United Nations and affiliated organizations and 15 IGOs.⁴¹

40. During the reporting period, the PCCB organized the Capacity-building Knowledge to Action Day for Africa,⁴² the aim of which was to shed light on knowledge and institutional barriers, research gaps and other capacity-building gaps and needs that may weaken the science-policy interface at the national and regional level in the context of preparing and implementing NDCs and NAPs. The PCCB collaborated with a range of organizing partners, including the NAP Global Network, the NDC Partnership and the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security.

41. Owing to the postponement of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub, to be held in conjunction with COP 26, the PCCB co-organized, with the Adaptation Fund, UNDP and UNEP DTU Partnership, among others, a series of virtual events entitled “Capacity-building Momentum for Recovering Better”.⁴³ The events contributed to highlighting the urgent need for climate-related capacity-building efforts even in the circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis. A total of 250 stakeholders participated: 14 per cent representing United Nations entities and 4 per cent other IGOs; and another 750 viewers followed via live webcast.

42. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the PCCB started developing an online training course, to be launched in 2021, designed to build capacities to integrate human rights considerations into climate action.

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

43. The UNFCCC secretariat seeks input from the secretariats of the Adaptation Fund, the GCF and the GEF to 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 UNFCCC capacity-building meetings and workshops during the reporting period, including the 4th meeting of the PCCB, the 9th Durban Forum and the virtual PCCB event series “Capacity-building Momentum for Recovering Better”.

³⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/pccb/pccb-meetings-and-documents>.

⁴⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/230900>.

⁴¹ See <https://unfccc.int/pccb-network>.

⁴² See <https://unfccc.int/knowledge-to-action-day-africa>.

⁴³ See <https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/CBMomentum2020>.

5. Regional cooperation

44. During the reporting period, the secretariat worked with regional partners to promote the establishment of institutional memory and retain national capacity in various areas, particularly under the Paris Agreement, that have a bearing on mitigation action using market-based approaches.

45. Under the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action⁴⁴ initiative, a series of virtual dialogues on carbon pricing, for Latin America, the Caribbean, West Africa, East and Southern Africa, and South-East Asia, was conducted in close partnership with regional entities that have been collaborating on implementing the initiative's work programme, including MEXICO₂ for Latin America and the Caribbean, GIZ and the World Bank for Africa, and the Asian Development Bank, UNEP and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for South-East Asia. They created a peer-learning platform for countries in the regions that have an interest in carbon pricing instruments, which are crucial to helping countries green their economies. Over 100 country representatives participated, including COP negotiators, directors from ministries of environment and climate change, and UNFCCC national focal points; and the participants made important recommendations on the way forward, including institutionalizing the platform to enable regular, fruitful exchange of experience and mutual learning.

46. The secretariat and the RCCs continued their engagement with youth organizations and networks through initiatives such as the Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment training programme,⁴⁵ delivered in partnership with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa and the World Green Economy Organization. The first two webinars of a series under the programme took place, on the role of youth in green recovery in the context of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement; and the impact of climate on health, which brought together leading health-sector experts and youth representatives from the Middle East and North Africa to discuss, deliberate and consider the linkages between climate and health post-pandemic.

47. The two RCCs in Africa continued their partnership with GIZ in implementing the East⁴⁶ and West⁴⁷ African Alliances on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance. Important developments under the East African Alliance include private sector dialogue on the future of the carbon market and the adoption of a workplan and major framework documents; and under the West African Alliance the organization of two webinars on the opportunities and challenges of implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in Africa.

48. In July 2020, six leading carbon footprint programmes in Latin America, along with Climate Neutral Now, RCC Panama, UNDP and the World Bank, united to launch the Alliance of Voluntary GHG Management Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Alliance seeks to gather knowledge and experience in order to promote use of carbon pricing instruments, which are designed to support and facilitate the cost-effective reduction of GHG emissions. The Alliance is financially supported by the World Bank through its Partnership for Market Readiness and operationally supported by Costa Rica through its carbon neutrality programme, which has been involved in co-developing the initiative. In June 2020, RCC Panama, in collaboration with Climate Neutral Now, UNDP and the Partnership for Market Readiness, held a webinar on carbon footprint programmes in Latin America in order to raise awareness of the Alliance.

⁴⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-collaborative-instruments-for-ambitious-climate-action-ciaca-initiative>.

⁴⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-dubai/rcc-dubai-projects/academy-for-global-youth-leadership-empowerment-agyle>.

⁴⁶ See <https://www.carbon-mechanisms.de/en/news-details/east-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance>.

⁴⁷ See <https://www.carbon-mechanisms.de/en/news-details/west-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance>.

D. Action for Climate Empowerment

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

49. The aim of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness is to support Parties' efforts to design, initiate and undertake activities related to climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alliance did not meet during the reporting period, but it contributed to the 8th ACE Dialogue (see para. 54 below).

2. Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development

50. The aim of the UNESCO-led Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development is to foster and scale up action at all levels and in all areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. The secretariat is a member of the Programme's policy support network and has made a substantive contribution to scaling up education on climate change and sustainable development with a view to achieving SDG target 4.7.

51. During the reporting period, the secretariat participated in events designed to contribute to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development to be held virtually in May 2021.

3. Action for Climate Empowerment events

52. The secretariat is engaging closely with IGOs and United Nations entities in preparing for the review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention in accordance with the relevant terms of reference.⁴⁸ The organizations were invited to make submissions on related matters, identify speakers for the 8th ACE Dialogue (see para. 54 below) and attend the informal consultations and expert group meetings to advance discussions on the review of the Doha work programme and future work to enhance ACE implementation.

4. Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

53. COP 18 adopted the Doha work programme and requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to organize an annual in-session dialogue to enhance relevant work.⁴⁹ The ACE Dialogue provides a regular forum for Parties and other stakeholders, including IGOs and United Nations entities, to share experience, ideas, good practices and lessons learned regarding ACE implementation.

54. The 8th ACE Dialogue was held virtually in June–December 2020, consisting of two global and four regional events. It was co-organized with UNESCO and other members of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. To enhance cross-sectoral ministerial coordination, in addition to the secretariat inviting national focal points for ACE, UNESCO invited staff from ministries responsible for climate education to attend the Dialogue. Representatives of the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability participated in the Dialogue as speakers and panellists, providing recommendations and views to advance the discussions on future work to enhance ACE implementation.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ See decision 15/CP.25.

⁴⁹ Decision 15/CP.18, paras. 1 and 9.

⁵⁰ See document FCCC/SBI/2021/1.

5. Youth and climate change

55. The secretariat and the RCCs collaborate with IGOs and United Nations entities in organizing awareness-raising campaigns and training activities to empower children and youth to support and lead climate action.

56. During the reporting period, the secretariat held a virtual dialogue on the role of youth in climate action, with representatives of UNICEF headquarters in New York and UNICEF Bolivia participating as speakers on youth participation in climate change policies.⁵¹ RCC Dubai hosted two webinars under the Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (see para. 46 above). RCC Bangkok supported a regional dialogue on youth empowerment in climate action, during which a relevant platform was launched, which is co-convened by UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, among others.⁵²

6. One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

57. 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 entities 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.

58. During the reporting period, the secretariat contributed to workshops for designing a theory of change for the new phase of the e-learning platform taking into account lessons learned from the Doha work programme.

E. Adaptation and loss and damage

59. The secretariat collaborates with IGOs and United Nations entities 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. In addition, it supports work under the WIM and efforts under the NWP. In addressing adaptation and loss and damage, the secretariat cooperates with various IGOs, including the secretariats of CBD, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the GCF, the GEF, IOM, the IPCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

1. Adaptation Committee

60. 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 constituted bodies, IGOs, other United Nations entities and NGOs involved in adaptation activities.

61. During the reporting period, the AC worked with the CTCN, the FWG of the LCIPP, the GCF, the LEG, the PCCB, the SCF, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee, as well as contributing to efforts under the KJWA and the NWP, including through bilateral and multilateral coordination meetings and the AC providing inputs and participating in meetings and events.

62. The AC collaborates through its NAP task force with nominated members of the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG, the SCF and the TEC on matters relating to

⁵¹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/youth-engagement/virtual-dialogue-on-the-role-of-youth-in-climate-action>.

⁵² See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-bangkok/youth-in-asia-and-the-pacific-unite-to-fight-climate-change-ahead-of-cop26>.

national adaptation planning. The most recent meeting of the task force took place on 30 April 2021.

63. When seeking inputs from IGOs, NGOs and other United Nations entities, the AC makes use of the network of NWP partner organizations: over 400 organizations working on adaptation to climate change. The AC provides advice on the delivery of NWP mandates and on opportunities to align efforts, which is regularly communicated to the SBSTA Chair and included in the NWP annual report for consideration by the SBSTA.⁵³

64. Furthermore, the AC works directly with organizations in implementing its workplan. Official AC meetings are open to observers, whose views are invited and taken into account under all agenda items. Representatives of FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, UNDRR, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, WMO and the World Health Organization, among others, participated in the 18th and 19th meetings of the AC.⁵⁴

65. Finally, following the mandates to engage with the IPCC on two matters related to communicating information and assessing adaptation needs,⁵⁵ both in preparation for the global stocktake, the AC agreed to send an update on progress to the IPCC by 15 April 2021 with a view to identifying specific means of engagement.

2. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

66. The secretariat facilitates the work of the LEG in accordance with its mandates⁵⁶ through collaboration with various organizations, regional centres and networks. During the reporting period, the secretariat:

(a) Facilitated the mobilization of organizations to enhance their provision of technical support to the LDCs under the Open NAP initiative by making available data and information, of sources thereof, for addressing gaps; ensuring that the information contained in NAPs is relevant to their purpose; offering technical assistance to the LDCs for formulating NAPs and writing proposals for accessing finance for implementing adaptation projects from the GCF and other sources of finance; and compiling existing relevant national documents to assist the LDCs in meeting their goal of submitting their first NAPs by 2020 or soon thereafter;

(b) Facilitated the NAP technical working group in designing and providing technical guidance and support in relation to NAPs. In particular, the secretariat facilitated thematic discussions on topics such as the integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines, climate data and scenarios for NAPs, reviewing draft NAPs, tracking progress and lessons learned in relation to NAPs, and cross-cutting issues such as training, education, research and youth in relation to NAPs.

67. The LEG worked directly with organizations in implementing its 2019–2020 workplan by inviting them to participate in its official meetings and engage on specific agenda items. The LEG invited representatives of United Nations entities to the NAP champions webinars on 9 June 2020⁵⁷ and 14 October 2020,⁵⁸ and the NAP country platform on 29 October 2020.⁵⁹

68. Furthermore, the LEG continued its engagement with the GCF and the GEF in enhancing the access of LDCs to finance for formulating and implementing their NAPs as mandated by the COP.⁶⁰

⁵³ As invited in document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 19.

⁵⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/workshops-meetings-adaptation-committee>.

⁵⁵ Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 15, and decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 15–17.

⁵⁶ 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.

⁵⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/event/advancing-naps-and-climate-resilient-recovery-under-covid-19-0>.

⁵⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/event/nap-champions-webinar-advancing-adaptation-through-national-adaptation-plans>.

⁵⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/nap-country-platform-presentation-of-country-national-adaptation-plans>.

⁶⁰ Decision 19/CP.21, paras. 5–6.

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

69. The secretariat facilitates the work of the WIM Executive Committee and its thematic expert groups. The WIM Executive Committee guides the implementation of the functions of the WIM, one of which is to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders, institutions, bodies, processes and initiatives outside the Convention with a view to promoting cooperation and collaboration across all relevant work and activities.

70. Nominated members from United Nations entities, IGOs and other stakeholders directly engage in the work of the thematic expert groups of the WIM Executive Committee, whose areas of expertise correspond to the five strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan of the WIM Executive Committee.⁶¹ During the reporting period, the following meetings took place:

(a) The 2nd and 3rd meetings of the technical expert group on comprehensive risk management, to advance implementation of its plan of action for 2019–2021. Work on comprehensive risk management provides an entry point for collaboration with, among others, the disaster risk management community, systematic observation and climate services and humanitarian assistance. To that end, the group includes members representing IFRC, UNDRR, WMO and the World Food Programme, and collaborates with those and other organizations, such as the United Nations University, in implementing its plan of action;

(b) The 4th meeting of the task force on displacement, which the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and a representative of the International Law Commission were invited to attend as guest speakers to exchange views on recent developments under other global processes and initiatives closely related to the task force's work, with special emphasis on displacement in the context of slow onset events. Representatives of IFRC, ILO, IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, UNDP and civil society are among the task force members. The most recent meeting of the task force (the 5th meeting) took place on 13 April;

(c) The 12th meeting of the WIM Executive Committee, at which it adopted the terms of reference of its thematic expert groups on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support, and subsequently initiated the process of nominating experts to the groups. The expert group on non-economic losses and slow onset events held its first meetings to develop its rolling plan of action, which were subsequently endorsed at the 13th meeting of the WIM Executive Committee. The secretariat engaged relevant organizations for collaboration with the thematic expert groups:

(i) The expert group on non-economic losses includes members representing the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, SPREP, UNESCO, UN Women and youth non-governmental organizations;⁶²

(ii) The expert group on slow onset events includes a member representing IFRC and UNDP;⁶³

(iii) The expert group on action and support includes a member representing Africa Risk Capacity, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, the International Development Finance Club, the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative, SPREP and the UNEP Finance Initiative. It will hold its first meeting in May 2021 to develop its first rolling plan of action;

⁶¹ For information on the expert groups, see document FCCC/SB/2020/3, <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TEG-CRM> and <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD>.

⁶² For the full membership details, see <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/NELs/membership>.

⁶³ For the full membership details, see <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/SOEs/membership>.

(d) In the context of its strategic workstream on action and support, the WIM Executive Committee, during the reporting period, held a second dialogue with the GCF secretariat to clarify how developing country Parties may access funding from the GCF for developing funding proposals related to the strategic workstreams.

71. The secretariat supports the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, which was established to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for implementing approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.⁶⁴ The network connects vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance, knowledge and resources that they need to address climate risks comprehensively. During the reporting period, the secretariat conducted relevant outreach and engaged UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, the World Food Programme and WMO along with other multilateral institutions and regional entities.

72. All meetings of the Executive Committee are open to observers, including representatives of United Nations entities and IGOs. Representatives of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations University, WMO and the World Food Programme, among others, participated in meetings and events of the Committee during the reporting period, including in WIM-related events organized by the secretariat as part of the June Momentum and the Climate Dialogues.⁶⁵ The observers actively participated in the meetings, including in plenary and parallel working groups, and provided suggestions based on their expertise and experience. Their active involvement in advancing the 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

73. The secretariat's cooperation with various organizations continues to encourage progress in and the provision of support to developing countries for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Activities undertaken by the secretariat during 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 secretariat of the GEF and its agencies as well as the GCF secretariat in addressing gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs;⁶⁶

(b) Through the NAP technical working group, continuing to involve various organizations, including those developing supplements to the NAP technical guidelines, in developing and harmonizing technical materials on NAPs, implementing the integrative framework for NAPs and the SDGs, and developing a prototype NAP outline to guide countries in formulating their NAPs;

(c) Organizing a NAP champions webinar, which involved the active participation of organizations providing support to developing countries for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

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

⁶⁴ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 43.

⁶⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/event/the-executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-event>.

⁶⁶ As per decisions 8/CP.24, para. 17; and 7/CP.25, paras. 2–4.

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

74. In its role as a knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience, the NWP⁶⁷ connects constituted bodies, institutional arrangements and non-Party stakeholders under the UNFCCC through curation, production and communication of knowledge and establishment of partnerships for learning and collaboration on all aspects of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. In order to respond to knowledge needs identified by Parties, in particular developing country Parties, including the LDCs and SIDS, work under the NWP involves:

(a) Convening existing partners and exploring new partnerships, through an iterative and progressive knowledge-to-action approach, to collaborate on curating, packaging and sharing knowledge in order to close knowledge gaps and meet knowledge needs in various thematic areas and countries and subregions through LAKI;

(b) Supporting the LEG in assisting countries in formulating and implementing NAPs by mobilizing NWP partners to support implementation of NAP-related activities and provide support to the LDCs;

(c) Responding to knowledge needs identified by constituted bodies and providing credible knowledge relevant to other adaptation mandates arising from the Paris Agreement, such as in relation to adaptation communications and the global stocktake.

(a) Thematic work

75. One of the priority thematic areas of the NWP is biodiversity, including forests and grassland.^{68, 69} In 2020, an expert group on biodiversity, consisting of 23 representatives of well-established organizations and institutes, including several United Nations entities and IGOs (e.g. CBD, GIZ, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, IUCN, UNEP) was established under the NWP. The secretariat, in collaboration with the expert group, has identified several actions to close the knowledge gaps related to integrating forest and grassland biodiversity and other ecosystems into adaptation strategies.⁷⁰ During the Climate Dialogues, an event organized with the expert group was held that focused on how forest and grassland biodiversity and ecosystems could be better integrated into adaptation solutions at the national level.⁷¹

76. Work under the priority thematic area of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems⁷² has focused on co-designing and implementing actions to support the LDCs and SIDS. The NWP expert group on oceans, which comprises representatives of 23 well-established organizations and institutions, including several United Nations entities and IGOs (e.g. the IPCC, UNEP, UNESCO), collaborates with the constituted bodies. The NWP policy brief on oceans⁷³ is a recent highlight of their work.

(b) Prioritizing and closing knowledge gaps in subregions

77. For the West Asia–Gulf Cooperation Council and North Africa subregions, work under LAKI is conducted in collaboration with RCC Dubai, the UNEP Regional Office for

⁶⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/nwp>.

⁶⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 18.

⁶⁹ The AC invited the NWP to address the linkages between biodiversity and climate change adaptation at the 14th NWP Focal Point Forum, scheduled to be held in conjunction with COP 26; a summary of the advice of the AC is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20190411_ac15_letter%20NWP%20advice.pdf.

⁷⁰ The knowledge gaps will be highlighted in a scoping paper on biodiversity and adaptation to be published in May 2021.

⁷¹ Further details on the NWP work on biodiversity are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Biodiversity.aspx>.

⁷² Further details on the NWP work on oceans are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/oceans-page.aspx>.

⁷³ UNFCCC. 2020. *Policy brief on the ocean: Scaling up adaptation actions and co-operation to build climate resilience of the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/266434>.

West Asia and UNESCWA. During the reporting period, two virtual meetings were held to discuss and design actions for closing priority knowledge gaps in the two subregions.⁷⁴

78. In addition, in collaboration with SPREP and UNEP, a LAKI priority-setting workshop was held, where experts discussed and prioritized the adaptation knowledge gaps of Pacific SIDS⁷⁵ with a view to mobilizing adaptation experts and institutions to take action to close them.⁷⁶

79. Further, jointly with the Global Adaptation Network and UNEP, and mindful of examples from the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion and Pacific SIDS, the secretariat held a session during the 7th Asia Pacific Adaptation Network forum to share insights from across that region on how to close knowledge gaps and scale up adaptation action, including nature-based approaches.⁷⁷

(c) UNFCCC Universities Partnership Programme

80. Launched at the Climate Dialogues,⁷⁸ the UNFCCC Universities Partnership Programme is designed to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and academic institutions, especially in the global South, with the aim of addressing the knowledge gaps that remain a critical barrier to countries implementing adaptation measures.⁷⁹

81. As an NWP partner, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security has agreed to help connect the networks of universities in the global South and the global North in the Partnership Programme. In the context of the Programme, the secretariat has also collaborated with Harvard University, the University of Michigan, the University of Seychelles, Yale University and NWP partners such as the Global Water Partnership, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and IUCN.

(d) Adaptation knowledge portal

82. The adaptation knowledge portal provides free and open online access to NWP adaptation knowledge resources, including over 448 case studies and 383 tools and methods contributed by NWP partner organizations and other entities.⁸⁰ It also provides information on the diverse network of over 425 NWP partner organizations, which include several United Nations entities and IGOs, as well as opportunities for those partners to engage in the NWP and relevant work of the constituted bodies.

83. United Nations entities and IGOs participate in activities under the NWP on an ongoing basis in response to calls for submissions⁸¹ issued on the adaptation knowledge portal.

84. The AC, in collaboration with the LEG, NWP partners, and users and developers of relevant methodologies, launched a pilot inventory of existing methodologies for assessing and addressing adaptation needs, which is accessible via the portal.⁸²

⁷⁴ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/News/Pages/Coordinating-efforts-to-address-adaptation-knowledge-gaps-in-the-Middle-East-and-North-Africa.aspx>.

⁷⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/event/lima-adaptation-knowledge-initiative-laki-priority-setting-workshop-for-pacific-small-island>.

⁷⁶ Further details on LAKI for Pacific SIDS are available at [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-\(LAKI\)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-(LAKI)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx).

⁷⁷ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/News/Pages/How-to-close-adaptation-knowledge-gaps-in-Asia-Pacific.aspx>.

⁷⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/event/scaling-up-adaptation-actions-through-partnerships-addressing-knowledge-gaps>.

⁷⁹ Details on the Programme are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/university-partnerships.aspx>.

⁸⁰ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

⁸¹ See <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Search.aspx>.

⁸² See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/SearchAsses.aspx>.

F. Mitigation

1. Nationally determined contributions

85. Under the Paris Agreement,⁸³ each Party shall prepare, communicate (every five years) and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve and pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

86. The secretariat continues to play 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, various secretariat divisions have been engaged in developing collaborative activities at the international and regional level. The secretariat has actively engaged in meetings of the NDC Partnership steering committee and continues to host part of the NDC Partnership's support unit in Bonn.

2. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions

87. COP 16 called on developing country Parties to implement NAMAs 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 2020.⁸⁴

88. During the reporting period, five new NAMAs were recorded in the NAMA registry: two from the Dominican Republic and one each from Saint Lucia, Samoa and Viet Nam; of which four are seeking support for implementation and one support for preparation. These NAMAs are targeting the agriculture, energy supply, residential and commercial buildings, transport and infrastructure, industry and waste management sectors, and can be categorized as a national or sectoral policy or programme, a national or sectoral goal, or project investment in machinery. The total estimated cost of the five new NAMAs is USD 1.2 billion, USD 24.4 million of which is being sought in international support.

89. At the end of 2020, the NAMA registry contained 186 NAMAs seeking support for preparation or implementation or for recognition; and 111 (or 72 per cent of) Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention had requested and been provided with access to the registry, of which around 50 per cent had already registered at least one NAMA.

3. International Civil Aviation Organization and International Maritime Organization

90. The UNFCCC secretariat collaborates closely with the secretariats of ICAO and IMO⁸⁵ on addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

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

92. The secretariat collaborates with IMO by participating in the intersessional working group on reducing emissions from ships, supporting operationalization of the initial IMO strategy for reducing emissions from ships⁸⁶ and implementation of its programme of follow-up actions.

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

4. International Energy Agency

94. 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.

⁸³ Article 4, paras. 2 and 9.

⁸⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 48.

⁸⁵ As per decision 18/CP.5, para. 3.

⁸⁶ See <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/06GHGinitialstrategy.aspx>.

5. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

95. The UNFCCC 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 secretariats closely coordinate their work in this area and participate regularly in each other's meetings, exchanging expertise and knowledge related to different mitigation opportunities.

6. World Bank

96. During the reporting period, the secretariat strengthened collaboration with the World Bank in relation to the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action initiative, the Partnership for Market Implementation – the successor programme to the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness – and the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. In particular, as one of the institutional partners of the Coalition, the secretariat supported implementation of the Coalition's Santiago action plan, which includes actions that ministries of finance can take to integrate climate change considerations into economic and financial decisions and address knowledge and expertise gaps.

97. In previous years, the secretariat and the World Bank were key partners in delivering the Innovate4Climate conference and the regional climate weeks, which in 2020 had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, they continued to collaborate in 2020 on providing alternative platforms for stakeholders to maintain momentum and prepare for the events in 2021.

98. In addition, the secretariat supported the outreach efforts at the Designated National Authorities Forum in 2020 of both the Carbon Initiative for Development, which is a World Bank trust fund that mobilizes private finance for clean energy access in low-income countries, and the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility, which supports developing countries in establishing and implementing market-based climate change mitigation mechanisms by providing results-based financing for proven emission reductions achieved at the sectoral level.

7. Technical working group of international financial institutions

99. 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 technical working group, facilitates and provides technical support to the 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 work on methodological issues.

8. Clean development mechanism and Nairobi Framework Partnership

100. The Nairobi Framework Partnership⁸⁷ began as a collaboration between the secretariat and a number of agencies, including UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. It was established with the 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 that is focused on promoting enabling environments at the national level for regulatory mechanisms and carbon markets, including the CDM.

101. The main area of collaboration under the Nairobi Framework Partnership is the regional climate weeks, which are convened annually for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa. They are a platform for

⁸⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/nairobi-framework-partnership>.

governments and stakeholders involved in climate action to explore strategies for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

102. Nairobi Framework partners worked together to deliver a series of virtual events in 2020⁸⁸ in order to maintain momentum in lieu of the cancelled in-person regional climate weeks. The 2021 regional climate weeks will take place in hybrid format, combining virtual thematic segments with in-person ministerial sessions. In March 2021, over 1,500 representatives of national and subnational governments, cities, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society gathered for the virtual round-table launch events to discuss opportunities for climate action and how to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Regional collaboration centres

103. During the reporting period, the secretariat delivered, through the RCCs, a series of capacity-building and engagement events. These are listed on the recently launched RCC regional virtual platform,⁸⁹ alongside 30 CDM-related events, in which approximately 900 stakeholders participated. The events took the form of capacity-building workshops, knowledge-sharing events and public consultations on a wide range of issues, including standardized baselines and their application, carbon pricing, domestic and international carbon markets, climate finance, climate-smart cooling, climate negotiations, carbon neutrality, carbon footprint programmes and regional carbon footprint platforms, voluntary GHG management and MRV.

104. The RCCs are hosted by, and operate in partnership with, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Bangkok), the World Green Economy Organization (Dubai), the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (St. George's), the West African Development Bank (Lomé) and the East African Development Bank (Kampala). The UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office recently began hosting RCC Panama, which is now enhancing its collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on mitigation, adaptation and awareness-raising in the region. The 2020 RCC Global Forum, hosted virtually by the World Green Economy Organization and attended by 75 participants, provided RCC partners with an opportunity to connect and to share and establish strategies for advancing global climate action through the RCC network.

105. The RCCs continued providing support to the global coalition of international institutions working to mobilize support for ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. United Nations entities and other international organizations have been seconding staff members to RCCs in order to contribute to their work; for example, UNEP is seconding staff to RCCs to support work on MRV while GIZ seconded two staff members to work on carbon market issues. Furthermore, six United Nations volunteers whose placements are fully funded by different governments are currently assigned to different RCCs. The GCF and the NDC Partnership, in close collaboration with the secretariat, also contribute by deploying resources to different RCCs for NDC work. One GCF regional coordinator is based at RCC St. George's to support the Caribbean region, while the regional NDC coordinators of the NDC Partnership are hosted and supported by RCCs. Lastly, the RCCs created opportunities for fellows, interns and other local experts to work on climate change issues and develop their knowledge and capacity in this regard.

106. Through the RCCs and its regional partners, the secretariat provides support directly to project participants and developers for CDM activities and to designated national authorities for developing new and updating existing standardized baselines. In addition to performing their primary function of providing continuous CDM-related support, the RCCs provided in-country support for other activities related to mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and technology during the reporting period, as detailed below.

⁸⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/2020-virtual-activities-organized-by-regional-climate-weeks-partners>.

⁸⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>.

(a) Adaptation

107. Following decision 9/CMA.1 and to mobilize support for adaptation, RCC Panama targeted 15 countries for relevant training and reached over 100 country representatives. RCC Dubai provided support for LAKI (see para. 77 above), while RCC St. George's facilitated the engagement of the secretariat's Adaptation division in a regional event on integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas, organized as part of the Climate:Red summit. RCC Bangkok joined the United Nations Issue-based Coalition on Building Resilience and is facilitating contributions and inputs with the secretariat's Adaptation division (for more on issue-based coalitions, see para. 114 below).

(b) Nationally determined contributions

108. The RCCs supported the secretariat's effort in gathering information on the status of the preparation and submission of NDCs through surveys; organizing NDC capacity-building events, including virtual events on developing new and enhancing NDCs; and supporting Parties that are members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union in revising their NDCs to be more specific and ambitious. RCC Bangkok and RCC Dubai, together with collaborating partners, launched a survey on NDCs in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa and published the results in a synthesis report.⁹⁰ This collaboration has also resulted in the organization of capacity-building events and workshops.⁹¹

(c) Measurement, reporting and verification

109. RCC St. George's continued its partnerships with GIZ on capacity-building to establish the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector's GHG inventory and a green cooling action plan in the Caribbean; and with the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support Programme to support the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (see para. 147 below).

(d) Transparency

110. RCC Lomé and RCC Bangkok provided support to the CGE virtual training workshops on the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF for Africa and Asia-Pacific, respectively, which included following up on nominations of country representatives to participate in the training workshops. RCC Kampala organized webinars on lessons learned and good practices regarding national MRV systems, such as those in East and Southern Africa. RCC Dubai facilitated a framework MOU, which was signed and came into effect in November 2020, between the secretariat and UNESCWA. Three annexes to the MOU cover diverse projects focused on implementing collaborative action to close adaptation knowledge gaps in the Middle East and North Africa, improving the readiness of UNESCWA member States to implement the ETF and organizing the 2021 Middle East and North Africa Regional Climate Week in Dubai.

(e) Means of implementation

111. The RCCs are supporting implementation of the Needs-based Finance project in 12 regions, covering over 99 countries (see para. 33 above). RCC Bangkok supported the secretariat's Means of Implementation division in implementing four projects in Asia-Pacific covering the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asian LDCs, Island States in the Indian Ocean, and Central Asia and South Caucasus. RCC Lomé supported the project in the West African Economic Monetary Union; and discussions are ongoing with the Economic Community of West African States and West African Alliance on the second phase. RCC Kampala supported the organization of a project inception workshop for the East African Community, including preparing the workshop report and related articles. RCC Panama worked with the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay and the NDC Partnership to elaborate the scope of work of the Needs-based Finance project in Uruguay, supported the development

⁹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-dubai/survey-on-ndcs-asia-pacific-middle-east-and-north-africa>.

⁹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-bangkok/good-practices-in-ndc-update-and-implementation-challenges-and-lessons-learned-from-asia-the-middle>.

of a national climate finance strategy for Honduras, and initiated discussions with Guatemala and the Plurinational State of Bolivia on supporting the development of their national climate finance strategies.

(f) Technology

112. RCC Bangkok co-organized with the secretariat's Mean of Implementation division and UNEP DTU Partnership a webinar on climate technologies and TNA activities in Asia-Pacific. In addition, a series of four regional technical expert meetings were organized by the TEC, the CTCN and the RCCs with the support of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction to help harness the potential of climate-smart cooling, which showcased climate-friendly technology solutions for cooling systems in buildings and demonstrated innovative action on the ground.

(g) Migration

113. RCC St. George's is part of a programme led by IOM that targets 11 Eastern Caribbean countries and territories and is aligned with the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to countries and societies in the face of COVID-19,⁹² and the COVID-19 multisectoral response plan for the Eastern Caribbean.⁹³ As part of the programme, RCC St. George's raises awareness among national and regional practitioners on the need to address human mobility in the context of natural disasters and climate change with a focus on human security in response to the pandemic, while paying special attention to the well-being of migrants, displaced persons and vulnerable communities and advocating for the adoption of frameworks that can help in addressing this mobility in a timely, adequate and protection-sensitive manner.

10. United Nations development system

114. The United Nations has set up regional collaborative platforms to ensure greater regional coordination and coherence of activities and better cooperation between United Nations and other entities, and to be at the centre of regional collaboration within the United Nations development system for effective deployment of resources and capacities in support of national action under the 2030 Agenda. Issue-based coalitions are another important part of the United Nations' refocusing of efforts at the regional level and are expected to coordinate the United Nations response to cross-cutting challenges like climate change. Under the Issue-based Coalition on Mitigation, RCC Bangkok has joined the working group for raising climate action ambition through NDCs, which includes work on carbon pricing and markets in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. RCC Dubai is successfully raising awareness of its project portfolio among United Nations entities in the Middle East and North Africa region while also keeping abreast of recent developments via the issue-based coalitions. The other RCCs are exploring collaboration opportunities under the issue-based coalitions specific to their respective region. In addition, the RCCs have established a clear point of entry to in-country work through the Resident Coordinator Offices:

(a) The Resident Coordinator Office for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados coordinates the work of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Partner Group, of which RCC St. George's is a member of a subgroup for a sustainable and resilient Caribbean;

(b) RCC Panama regularly contributes to coordination calls between the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator Office in Panama and is a member of the latter's national climate action task force;

(c) After the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Uganda came to an end in 2020, RCC Kampala contributed to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uganda (2021–2025).

⁹² See <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19>.

⁹³ See <https://easterncaribbean.un.org/en/93557-covid-19-multi-sectoral-response-plan-eastern-caribbean-funding-appeal>.

11. Online course on the Paris Agreement

115. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued its collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College on the second edition of the online course on the Paris Agreement as a development agenda. A total of 300 participants took the six-week course, thereby enhancing their knowledge of holistic and integrated approaches to climate change and the interlinkages and interdependencies between sustainable development and climate change and building their capacity to make informed policy choices towards low-carbon and climate-resilient sustainable development.⁹⁴

G. Transparency

1. Technical support and advice

116. During the reporting period, with the support of the secretariat and RCCs, the CGE conducted seven virtual regional training workshops⁹⁵ on the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF. A total of 296 national experts from 108 developing countries attended the training. The secretariat collaborated with the CGE and the Global Support Programme on the translation of the workshop materials into the United Nations languages applicable to the regions.

117. The main objectives of the workshops were to:

(a) Enhance the technical capacity of national experts from developing country Parties involved in preparing national communications, biennial update reports and national GHG inventories to implement the existing MRV arrangements and understand the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF;

(b) Promote peer learning through exchange of experience and lessons learned, and exercises that promote understanding of the key provisions of the ETF, identify gaps and capacity-building needs in preparing for implementing the ETF, and develop an action plan for addressing the identified gaps and capacity-building needs.

118. With the support of the secretariat, the CGE organized two series of regional webinars, which attracted 404 participants, on:

(a) Transitioning from using the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for preparing national GHG inventories;

(b) Synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting in relation to MRV and the ETF, the SDGs and other international instruments.

119. In collaboration with the Global Support Programme and UNEP DTU Partnership, the secretariat launched a pilot project focused on best practices for building on and enhancing the institutional arrangements that underpin developing countries' reporting under the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF.

120. In addition, the secretariat is advancing the development of technical materials on various aspects of mitigation, including compendiums on GHG baselines and monitoring for the residential, commercial and public buildings sector (with the GIZ Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings and the Buildings Performance Institute Europe), the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector (with the Global Support Programme and UNEP DTU Partnership), the energy sector (with the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization, the Global Support Programme and UNEP DTU Partnership), as well as updating the compendium on GHG baselines and monitoring for the transport sector (with GIZ). Furthermore, in collaboration with UNEP DTU Partnership, the secretariat held, at the request of a developing country Party, a virtual workshop on GHG baselines and monitoring at the national level.

⁹⁴ See <https://www.unssc.org/courses/paris-agreement-climate-change-development-agenda-2/>.

⁹⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts/calendar-of-meetings/archive-of-meetings#eq-1>.

121. The secretariat also collaborated with the Global Support Programme on the translation of the MRV handbook for developing country Parties⁹⁶ into Arabic and Russian.

122. As part of providing technical support to developing country Parties, the secretariat, in collaboration with the RCCs and other regional partners,⁹⁷ continued to offer a series of virtual training sessions on applying further guidance on NDCs and tracking progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs under the ETF, with a view to facilitating the preparation and communication of new or updated NDCs in 2020. During the reporting period, 18 virtual training sessions were held, benefiting 930 national experts from 96 developing country Parties.

123. The secretariat also provides support to developing countries Parties through a project, in collaboration with international organizations and financed primarily by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, for strengthening the Parties' capacity to establish and maintain sustainable systems for preparing and managing national GHG inventories on a continuous basis and applying the 2006 IPCC Guidelines as a basis for effective ETF implementation.

124. The project workstreams comprise:

(a) In collaboration with FAO, undertaking QA of national GHG inventories, upon request of developing country Parties, by performing third-party checks of national GHG inventory management systems, including institutional arrangements, and all GHG inventory processes (planning, preparation and management) to ensure effective and continuous preparation and improvement of national GHG inventories;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of national experts involved in preparing national GHG inventories to apply the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the IPCC inventory software;

(c) Disseminating methods and tools for establishing sustainable institutional arrangements for preparing national GHG inventories on a continuous basis, and training developing country Party experts on the requirements for MRV and reporting under the ETF;

(d) Enhancing the technical capacity of national experts to report on mitigation actions and their effects.

125. During the reporting period, the secretariat organized, in collaboration with FAO, three in-country QA workshops for developing country Parties upon request, as well as the first and second remote regional QA workshops, for Africa and Asia, respectively. Across the workshops, 198 experts actively contributed to in-depth technical discussions on how to improve their national GHG inventories and GHG inventory management systems.

126. The secretariat supported the enrolment of two experts per developing country Party in training and certification on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines provided by the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute. For the second round of the online training, 314 nominations of participants (46 per cent female and 54 per cent male) from 100 countries were received.

127. In order to continue providing technical support to developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that key issues planned to be covered at in-person workshops in 2020 were still addressed, the secretariat organized some training for GHG experts from developing countries.

128. It organized two webinars for developing country Parties in Africa, held in English and French, on building sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines as a basis for ensuring that their GHG inventory estimates are of

⁹⁶ UNFCCC. 2020. *Handbook on Measurement, Reporting and Verification for developing country Parties*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/cge-toolbox-on-institutional-arrangements>.

⁹⁷ E.g. Alliance of Small Island States secretariat, Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa secretariat, Commission for the Forests of Central Africa secretariat, Economic Community of West African States secretariat, GIZ, Initiative for Climate Transparency secretariat, IRENA, NDC Partnership, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States secretariat, Regional NDC Hub for the Pacific, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCWA and UN Women.

the highest possible quality and prepared consistently with good practice for GHG inventory preparation and management. The webinars were attended by a total of 53 participants.

129. It also organized webinars on uncertainty analysis for national GHG inventories for developing country Parties that have undergone QA of their GHG inventory management system and GHG inventory. They were attended by a total of 88 participants and each was delivered over three sessions. During the first session, participants were trained on the requirements for reporting on uncertainty analysis in national GHG inventories under the ETF, and the theoretical aspects of the uncertainty analysis, including general approach, key concepts, terminology and basis, causes of uncertainty, and reducing uncertainties and implications for methodological choices. The second session was dedicated to data, methods and tools for uncertainty analysis, including sources of data and information, techniques for quantifying uncertainties, methods for combining uncertainties and tools for quantifying uncertainties. The third session comprised daily two-hour courses dedicated to conducting uncertainty analysis applying Monte Carlo simulation for all IPCC sectors. The knowledge gained by the participants will assist them in gathering and reporting quantitative information on the uncertainty analysis and identifying areas for improvement.

130. The secretariat co-organized two online workshops with IEA and UNEP to build developing country Parties' capacity to establish the best possible basis, particularly in relation to acquiring activity data for the key sector of energy, for reporting under the ETF and to develop targeted national mitigation policies. At the workshops, the requirements for energy data for climate reporting were discussed and representatives of institutions working on energy statistics and national GHG inventories highlighted good practices and challenges in establishing a coherent set of energy data. The workshops were attended by a total of 67 participants (34 per cent female and 66 per cent male) from developing country Parties across all regions.

131. The secretariat supported and collaborated with the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories on enhancing and testing the enhanced IPCC inventory software with a view to improving the GHG inventories prepared by developing country Parties.

132. In addition, the secretariat and partners are advancing the development of technical materials and tools for developing country Parties in relation to their GHG inventories, such as developing and hosting an interactive help desk to serve as a platform for exchanging information on GHG inventories to increase interaction among experts and provide online technical assistance on inventory-related issues; developing a GHG data collection and management tool, firstly for the energy sector; supporting use of moja global's MRV software, the Full Lands Integration Tool; and making available in Spanish the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute's e-learning courses on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

2. Strategic engagement

133. 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 fulfilling transparency and MRV requirements. The secretariat helps to ensure that the activities related to MRV and transparency are aligned with the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The secretariat participates in the annual strategic meetings of the donor steering committee and advisory committee for the Initiative, which guide and facilitate the planning and implementation of its work programme.

134. The UNFCCC Climate Action and Support Transparency Training is a capacity-building programme launched in 2017 to promote the effective and universal participation of countries in MRV and the ETF by enhancing the professional skills of their national experts. During the reporting period and as part of the programme, the secretariat:

(a) In collaboration with the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of the Republic of Korea, provided the annual training programme on GHG inventories to 34 trainees from developing country Parties;

(b) Signed a framework collaboration agreement with the United Nations Office for Project Services and collaborated with the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency, UNEP and the United Nations System Staff College on developing professional training on the ETF that combines an e-learning package with in-person workshops to assist national experts from developing country Parties in understanding and fulfilling transparency commitments, in particular under the ETF, better assessing climate policy options and their impacts, and helping their countries better formulate, improve and track the progress of their NDCs;

(c) Initiated a framework collaboration agreement with the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, the Asian Institute of Technology, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and Korea Environment Institute to develop a training programme for enhancing the technical knowledge of national experts from developing country Parties on the science, methods and tools necessary to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessment and on other adaptation topics, in order to facilitate reporting processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(d) Signed a collaboration agreement with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme to enhance the capacity of their member countries to implement their reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement and to facilitate their access to technical and financial support for implementing the Paris Agreement.

135. In addition, the secretariat is collaborating with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water and UNEP DTU Partnership to develop an assessment tool and an information system to improve understanding of developing country Parties' capacity constraints, gaps and needs associated with implementing the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF with a view to facilitating their formulation of improvement plans and informing the design and implementation of support initiatives, thereby bridging the gap between the support needed on the ground and the support made available.

3. Methodological issues

(a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

136. The secretariat cooperates with the IPCC by providing technical expertise for the IPCC emission factor database at the Editorial Board meetings and participating in the meetings of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

(b) International Energy Agency

137. The secretariat cooperates with IEA in the context of data analysis and the annual review of national GHG inventory submissions from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. The quantitative and qualitative assessments provided by IEA facilitate the initial phase of the review process. In turn, IEA participates in the annual meetings of GHG inventory lead reviewers.

(c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Climate Change Expert Group

138. The secretariat cooperates with the OECD Climate Change Expert Group by providing inputs to its meetings, capacity-building workshops and events on transparency, including a capacity-building workshop on common reporting tables on GHG inventories. The aim of the ad hoc expert group jointly convened by IEA and OECD is to support countries in their efforts to build an effective and efficient international policy response to climate change by promoting dialogue and enhancing understanding on technical issues in the international climate change negotiations and supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement.

(d) European Environment Agency

139. Cooperation between the secretariat and the European Environment Agency on transparency matters is focused on methodological work to support the reporting and review

of climate change policies and the assessment of progress towards targets. In addition, the European Environment Agency participates in the annual meetings of GHG inventory lead reviewers.

(e) United Nations Statistics Division

140. The secretariat is the official global depository for climate change data and manages the GHG data interface. As such, it cooperates with key international organizations in the area of data exchange and regularly updates the data stored on the UNdata portal⁹⁸ for dissemination within and outside the United Nations system. In addition, the secretariat is supporting the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in developing a global indicator framework for measuring and reporting on progress towards the SDGs, and provides data for the United Nations Secretary-General's annual reports thereon.

141. In response to United Nations Statistical Commission decision 49/113,⁹⁹ the secretariat has gradually increased its cooperation with UNSD: it is involved in preparing the reports of the United Nations Secretary-General on climate change statistics to the Statistical Commission; and, in order to globalize climate change statistics and indicators, is working closely with UNSD to develop a global set of climate change statistics, and continues to strengthen the link between climate change statistics and policy at the national and international level. During the reporting period, they prepared the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics to the 51st session of the Statistical Commission, which contains an update on this mandated work.

142. In addition, the secretariat actively supports UNSD in organizing events, such as a series of regional workshops bringing together the community of practitioners in environmental data and statistics.

143. Moreover, the secretariat actively participates in the meetings of the UNSD expert group on environment statistics, which was established by the Statistical Commission in 2013 to help strengthen national environmental statistical systems and enhance the collaboration of international organizations on developing methodological tools for supporting implementation of the framework for the development of environmental statistics. Since 2020, the secretariat has benefited from the participation of UNSD in the series of virtual meetings on building the ETF, which provides an open forum for interested organizations to discuss key challenges and opportunities, ensuring common understanding and identifying ways to strengthen coherence, coordination and effectiveness of support initiatives.

4. Enabling environment

144. In collaboration with the Global Support Programme, the secretariat supports an informal network of entities known as the Group of Friends on MRV and Transparency. It consists of around 120 members from 16 international organizations and 15 bilateral agencies involved in supporting developing countries in implementing the existing MRV arrangements and preparing for the ETF.

145. The secretariat is also collaborating with the Global Support Programme in support of the East and Southern African regional South–South network on MRV and transparency.

(a) Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency

146. COP 21 established the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of developing country Parties to meet the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.¹⁰⁰ Since it became operational in 2016, some developing country Parties have submitted project proposals for accessing funds

⁹⁸ <http://data.un.org/>.

⁹⁹ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/decisions-ref/?code=49/113>; see paras. (b), (c), (f) and (g).

¹⁰⁰ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 84.

under the Initiative, in particular for strengthening their institutional and technical capacity to implement the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF.

(b) Promoting transparency in small island developing States

147. 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 secretariat and the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation co-host the MRV Hub at RCC St George's. The Hub is funded by the Government of Germany and supported by other partners such as the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support Programme. It is a sustainable and country-driven partnership that enables Caribbean Community countries to cooperate on addressing technical challenges in mitigating climate change. The Hub is expected to foster regional technical excellence and ensure stronger policy-relevant carbon accounting.

5. Koronivia joint work on agriculture

148. Continuing their long-term collaboration, the secretariat and FAO jointly provide technical support and expertise to countries on matters relating to the KJWA. FAO 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 ETF.

149. The secretariat collaborates with other organizations to enhance countries' capacity to report on their agricultural activities. It is a member of the NDC Partnership thematic working group on agriculture, food security and land use, and is 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. The secretariat supports the work of the task team for the inter-convention nitrogen coordination mechanism on implementing the resolution on sustainable nitrogen management adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

6. Forests and REDD+

150. The secretariat contributes in a number of ways to enhancing the coordination and consistency of MRV for REDD+. 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. In 2020, the secretariat contributed to the development of an FAO online training module and webinars on forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement by providing information on the ETF. 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, and follows, as an observer, the work related to REDD+ of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank and the GCF. Furthermore, the secretariat participates in the methods and guidance document advisory group of the Global Forest Observations Initiative.

151. The secretariat participates in, and contributes to, forest-related activities as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,¹⁰¹ including those of the consultative group of the XV World Forestry Congress, to take place in 2022. It is also an active partner in several forest-related initiatives of FAO and UNEP, including the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations working group on turning the tide on deforestation.

¹⁰¹ 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.

152. The secretariat supports the REDD+ activities of all Parties by maintaining the REDD+ web platform,¹⁰² which contains relevant information from Parties, organizations and stakeholders.¹⁰³ The platform encompasses the Lima REDD+ information hub, which contains information on REDD+ results, including those for which payments have been received.¹⁰⁴

H. Response measures

153. 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.¹⁰⁵ In May 2020, the secretariat contributed to the organization of a training session on managing just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, organized by the ILO International Training Centre. The secretariat and ILO contribute on a regular and 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

154. The secretariat supports knowledge-sharing between the science community and policymakers, including on research and systematic observation, engagement with the IPCC, the periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

155. During the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with United Nations entities (e.g. the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, UNEP and WMO), the IPCC and international and regional scientific programmes, agencies and organizations to inform the international climate regime and national and regional climate policy, and in supporting mandated events and aligning the work of the agencies and organizations with the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The following events took place:

(a) The annual meeting of the SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group, to ensure coordination and exchange information on mutually relevant activities and changes in reporting cycle timelines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to supporting implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The secretariat also liaised with the IPCC, the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC, throughout the reporting period;

(b) The twelfth meeting of the research dialogue,¹⁰⁶ which explored the scientific research and understanding of moving towards net zero global anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and building resilience to the unavoidable impacts and risks of climate change in that context;

(c) Earth Information Day 2020,¹⁰⁷ which included an update on the state of the global climate system, updates on the Global Climate Observation System, and discussion on recent advances in Earth observation technology and data processing to support decision-making;

(d) The first part of the 1st meeting of the structured expert dialogue of the second periodic review, the aim of which was to enhance Parties' understanding of the long-term global goal under the Convention and scenarios towards achieving it, progress in addressing information and knowledge gaps, and challenges and opportunities in relation to achieving

¹⁰² <http://redd.unfccc.int>.

¹⁰³ As per decision 2/CP.13, para. 10.

¹⁰⁴ As per decision 9/CP.19, para. 19.

¹⁰⁵ See decision 7/CMA.1, annex.

¹⁰⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/research-dialogue/twelfth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

¹⁰⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2020>.

the long-term global goal on the basis of the three IPCC Special Reports published in 2018–2019.^{108, 109, 110}

J. Gender

156. 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 actively participates in activities related 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) Organizing, with the support of the RCCs, a series of five regional workshops on integrating gender into national climate policies, plans and actions¹¹¹ in accordance with the five-year Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan.¹¹² The workshops were enriched by contributions from Parties and observers including IUCN, OECD, UNDP, UNEP and UN Women on action taken and lesson learned;

(b) Preparing, with contributions from Parties and observers, an overview document that serves as a virtual marketplace for services and support for integrating gender in climate action, with a view to supporting regional collaboration, cooperation and knowledge exchange by bringing together international and regional actors working on gender and climate change;

(c) Organizing, with the support of national gender and climate change focal points and organizations including the European Forest Institute, IUCN and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, virtual workshops, in lieu of the postponed in-session workshop, to discuss and clarify the role and work of the national gender and climate change focal points;¹¹³

(d) Forming an international consortium with IUCN, OECD, UNDP and UNEP to co-lead the Feminist Action for Climate Justice action coalition under the Generation Equality Forum, which is a civil-society-centred global gathering for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the Governments of France and Mexico;¹¹⁴

(e) Contributing to events on gender and climate change organized by IGOs such as UNEP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UN Women.

¹⁰⁸ IPCC. 2018. *IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5 °C above Pre-industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty*. V Masson-Delmotte, P Zhai, H-O Pörtner, et al. (eds.). Geneva: World Meteorological Organization. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.

¹⁰⁹ 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://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>.

¹¹⁰ 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://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcl/>.

¹¹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/virtual-workshops-gender-integration-into-national-climate-actions>.

¹¹² Decision 3/CP.25, annex.

¹¹³ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshops-dialogues/virtual-workshops-role-of-the-national-gender-and-climate-change-focal-points-0>.

¹¹⁴ See <https://forum.generationequality.org>.

K. Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

157. The LCIPP was established to promote exchange of experience and best practices, build capacity for engagement, and harness the power of diverse knowledge systems and innovation to address climate change challenges in a holistic way. The cooperative work under the LCIPP makes the voices of indigenous peoples and local communities heard as part of the global effort to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

158. During the reporting period, entities under and outside the Convention mapped and reported on existing policies and practices, as well as funding opportunities, for promoting participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of climate change related bodies and processes under and outside the Convention, and contributed to implementing activities in the LCIPP initial two-year workplan¹¹⁵ by sharing their views through submissions, responding to LCIPP surveys and participating in LCIPP events and meetings.

159. With the support of the FWG of the LCIPP, the secretariat designed and developed, with inputs from United Nations entities and international organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations, a dedicated web portal to make the work of the LCIPP widely accessible.

160. The FWG convened several stakeholder dialogues, meetings and training webinars to facilitate exchange of experience and good practices and enhance the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate change related processes that affect their lives.¹¹⁶

L. Global Climate Action Agenda

161. Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 122–124 and 134–137, 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.

162. The secretariat supports efforts to engage non-party stakeholders to catalyse climate action in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.¹¹⁷ These efforts include supporting the advocacy work of the high-level champions; implementing the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action; providing direct outreach through the Climate Neutral Now initiative; supporting sectoral partnerships in fashion, sports, and tourism and travel, and the Global Climate Action awards; tracking climate commitments by non-party stakeholders in the GCA portal; and contributing to the efforts towards climate neutrality of the United Nations System.

163. This work is, to a large extent, delivered in cooperation with other United Nations entities and IGOs:

(a) Several United Nations entities and IGOs, such as FAO, IEA, ILO, IRENA, OECD, UNDP, UNEP and the United Nations Secretary-General's office participate in and contribute substantive expert knowledge to the work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and sectoral initiatives. Outputs of such collaboration include the Climate Action Pathways,¹¹⁸ the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2020*¹¹⁹ and the Race to Zero campaign;¹²⁰

¹¹⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/the-big-picture/lcipp/initial-workplan-2020-2021-of-the-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

¹¹⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/the-big-picture/lcipp/events-meetings-and-workshops-lcipp>.

¹¹⁷ See decision 1/CP.21 and decision 1/CP.25, paras. 26–29.

¹¹⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate-action-pathways>.

¹¹⁹ UNFCCC. 2020. *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2020*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/267246>.

¹²⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>.

(b) The climate commitments of non-Party stakeholders are tracked on the GCA portal, covering 16,690 non-Party stakeholders representing 28,863 actions as at May 2021, many of which are coordinated or enabled by United Nations entities or IGOs;¹²¹

(c) The secretariat participates in the Greening the Blue initiative under the United Nations Environment Management Group.¹²² The initiative is coordinated by UNEP and supports climate neutrality and sustainable management of all United Nations entities. In addition to applying agreed principles and actions under the UNFCCC, the secretariat supports other United Nations entities in identifying and using credible offsets to compensate for unavoidable emissions;

(d) Sectoral initiatives, such as the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action¹²³ and the Sports for Climate Action Framework,¹²⁴ are carried out in close coordination with related projects and activities. Joint United Nations outputs include the advocacy brief *Recovering Better: Sport for Development and Peace – Reopening, Recovery and Resilience Post-COVID-19*.¹²⁵

M. Cross-cutting areas of cooperation

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

164. 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.

165. The Law and Climate Change Toolkit, which was developed by the secretariat in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNEP as a global resource to help countries establish the legal frameworks necessary for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement, was advanced in the reporting period to effectively function as an online platform allowing Parties user-friendly access to climate-related legislation across the globe, use of interactive online tools to help them assess their own legislative needs and priorities and access to examples of how such matters have been addressed in other countries. Additional partners have contributed to the development of the Toolkit's sector-specific modules, including FAO for a module on legislation relating to agriculture, including crops and livestock, fisheries and forestry, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for a module on urban planning.

166. Two capacity-building modules – one on developing sustainable investment and finance regulations and the other on oceans and coastal management – were developed in cooperation with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, an external partner. In addition, a series of three climate legislation webinars was organized in collaboration with the Centre and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

167. Furthermore, the secretariat is a contributing agency within the Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment established by the United Nations Environment Management Group, under its leadership, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNEP.

2. Partnership for effective international rule-making

168. The secretariat participates in the OECD-led partnership for effective international rule-making.¹²⁶ The cross-sectoral partnership provides a platform for more than 50 diverse organizations involved in international rule-making, regardless of their nature or mandate, to

¹²¹ See <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.

¹²² See <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/>.

¹²³ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/fashion-for-global-climate-action>.

¹²⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/sports-for-climate-action>.

¹²⁵ United Nations. 2020. *Recovering Better: Sport for Development and Peace – Reopening, Recovery and Resilience Post-COVID-19*. New York: United Nations. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/recovering-better-sport-for-development-and-peace.html>.

¹²⁶ See <http://oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/a-partnership-for-effective-international-rule-making.htm>.

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.

169. During the reporting period, the secretariat contributed alongside other partners to developing a compendium of practices for international rule-making.

3. Partnerships with non-Party stakeholders

170. The secretariat is committed to forming meaningful partnerships with non-Party stakeholders, including foundations, cities, businesses and civil society organizations, which 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.

171. During the reporting period, the secretariat formalized eight innovative partnerships¹²⁷ with United Nations entities, IGOs, NGOs, development agencies, foundations and the private sector.

172. The secretariat launched the Climate Voices initiative,¹²⁸ developed in partnership with the network of worldwide advertising agencies WPP, to raise awareness of the urgency of the climate crisis. It brought together leaders from across the world to raise their "climate voices" in a series of short inspirational videos to deliver one common, emphatic message: "Now is our moment to take action on climate change".

173. Furthermore, three special events at the Climate Dialogues featured non-Party stakeholder partners of the secretariat: one addressed the role of philanthropies in green recovery, during which Bloomberg Philanthropies and other leading philanthropic organizations discussed how their funding support can best be leveraged to address the climate crisis;¹²⁹ the second featured Iberdrola's Moving for Climate NOW initiative, promoting e-mobility and cycling and including discussion on how to ensure green recovery after COVID-19; while the third involved a discussion on how climate data from satellites, artificial intelligence and big data can be made more accessible and actionable.¹³⁰ A call for partnerships is open¹³¹ in accordance with the UNFCCC partnership guidelines.¹³²

174. The secretariat is collaborating with the University of Oxford to provide a public, searchable, structured database of resources on moving towards climate neutrality, including guidelines, policies, tools and best practice examples.

175. The secretariat's MOU with Airports Council International was extended to support the Council's work through its Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, encouraging and supporting airports to move towards climate neutrality.

176. The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development of Qatar signed an agreement with the secretariat to co-develop and launch a freely accessible sustainable events tool for use by event organizers across the world with a view to planning, executing and reporting on more sustainable and climate-friendly events.

177. The secretariat has partnered with the NGO Positive Impact to promote climate action in the events sector globally, with a particular focus on meetings and conferences. The collaboration has focused thus far on raising awareness of the urgency of climate action and the tools available for such action, and exploring support for establishing a sector-wide climate action and sustainability initiative.

¹²⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/un-climate-change-partnerships>.

¹²⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/cd2020/climate-voices>.

¹²⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/climate-change-green-recovery-and-the-role-of-philanthropies>.

¹³⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/climate-change-data-using-satellites-ai-and-big-data-a-multi-stakeholder-perspective>.

¹³¹ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships>.

¹³² Available at <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/how-to-partner>.

178. Through its partnership with Real Betis Balompie, a Spanish football club, the secretariat is aiming to demonstrate climate action at the level of organizations and through community engagement, while using the significant communication power of sport to raise awareness about the need for climate action and set a good example.

179. Through its collaboration with, for example, the NGO W-Foundation in the Republic of Korea and the Chinese technology company Lvdoaya, the secretariat aims to increase the awareness and facilitate the climate action of individuals in those countries.

180. The secretariat is supporting plans to develop additional tools for non-Party stakeholders to act on climate change by playing an advisory role in the development of the upcoming international standard on carbon neutrality; a net zero database by The Climate Registry; a net zero initiative in France; and the Race to Zero campaign led by the high-level champions.

181. Furthermore, the secretariat is collaborating with national Governments to support their voluntary GHG management initiatives for the private sector, including the Development and Climate Alliance in Germany and the Alliance of Voluntary GHG Management Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

4. Caring for Climate initiative

182. 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 UNEP and the United Nations Global Compact 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.

5. Coordination on ocean

183. The secretariat is an active member of UN-Oceans and supported the preparation of the implementation plan for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

184. During the reporting period, the secretariat supported the organization of the ocean and climate change dialogue held during the Climate Dialogues. The dialogue provided a space for Parties, United Nations entities and non-Party stakeholders to discuss how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action in the area of ocean and climate change, drawing on the knowledge and scientific findings contained in the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere and submissions from Parties, United Nations entities and non-Party stakeholders.¹³³

III. Regular cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations entities

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

185. 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.

186. The secretariat participates in several working groups under the Board's 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

¹³³ See <https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue>.

climate change that serves as a driver and tool for the United Nations system to reinforce and operationalize the Board's 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.

187. The secretariat has been a member of the Board's High-Level Committee on Management since 1 January 2019, which identifies and analyses administrative management reforms with the aim of improving efficiency and simplifying business practices.

188. During the reporting period, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary attended two meetings of the Board, at which specific attention was paid to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all areas of work of the United Nations.

B. Supporting the Secretary-General

189. 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 communication and coordination with the Executive Office and provides input for climate-related engagements of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

190. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary is a member of the United Nations Climate Core Group, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, which provides advice to the Secretary-General for his strategy on climate change. The secretariat keeps the Secretary-General informed on the progress of the UNFCCC process and any development related to its climate change conferences.

C. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions

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

192. 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 promoting implementation of transformative projects 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.

193. During the reporting period, meetings of the Joint Liaison Group were convened at the Executive Secretaries level, which resulted in the planning of the following joint deliverables at the level of the secretariats that will enhance implementation of the Rio Conventions and foster transformative change:

- (a) Shared advocacy, outreach and strategic communications;
- (b) Capacity-building to overcome cooperation and implementation bottlenecks;
- (c) Cross-fertilization of ideas and collaboration on aligned work priorities;
- (d) Coordination of activities at the global and regional level.

D. Environment Management Group

194. The secretariat supports the Environment Management Group, the United Nations system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, 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, the secretariat, through the Environment Management Group, 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 as a measure additional to reducing and avoiding those emissions.

195. During the reporting period, with the support of the secretariat, 97 per cent of its reported non-avoided GHG emissions were offset by the United Nations system, bringing it close to its target of being fully climate neutral by 2020; and, furthermore, a science-based emission reduction target was established and coordinated as part of the overall environmental management strategy for the United Nations system.

E. Senior Management Group

196. During 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.

197. At its session on 3 March 2021, the Senior Management Group discussed the interlinkages between the different United Nations “summits”, including between COP 26 and the sessions of the Conferences of the Parties to CBD and UNCCD.

F. Executive Committee

198. The Executive Committee was established by the Secretary-General to assist in taking decisions on issues of strategic consequence requiring high-level attention across all pillars of work of the United Nations, informed by relevant deliberations in United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

199. The secretariat participates in the Committee by invitation. During the reporting period, the Executive Secretary participated in a session that included discussion on the initiative of the Secretary-General on the common agenda to protect the planet and be prepared.
