

**UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020**



United Nations
Climate Change

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

This report encompasses the key achievements under the UNFCCC intergovernmental process and the activities of the secretariat in 2020, particularly the impacts of those activities in support of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

In this publication, “UN Climate Change” refers collectively to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or Convention), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and their bodies, institutional arrangements and organs, including the secretariat.

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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

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FOREWORD BY ANTÓNIO GUTERRES



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

The past year has been a particularly challenging one, with people around the world experiencing the serious consequences of COVID-19. In the midst of the pandemic, another global crisis – the climate emergency – continues to worsen and make its impacts felt worldwide, demanding a similarly urgent collective global response.

This is a make-or-break year for people and planet. The world is facing mounting weather extremes, with heatwaves, wildfires, storms and floods leaving a trail of devastation and threatening lives and livelihoods.

Arctic sea ice is disappearing faster than we imagined possible and the continued degradation of the environment has led to an

unprecedented loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems. As with the pandemic, it is the most vulnerable in society who are most at risk from the impacts of climate disasters.

We are aware of what is happening to our planet and the urgency of the task at hand could not be clearer. If we do not change course in the months ahead, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us.

The good news is that with smart policies and the right investments, we can chart a path that brings health to all, revives economies, builds resilience, avoids polluting our planet, and rescues biodiversity.

We know what we need to do: Accelerate the transition to low-emission economies driven by renewable energy, sustainable food systems and nature-based solutions. And we know how to do it: achieve net zero emissions by 2050, cut global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 from 2010 levels, and support developing countries in achieving a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy-based economies.

Net zero must be the new norm not only for countries, but also companies, cities, sectors and financial institutions, with commitments underpinned by robust strategies, solid targets, concrete timelines and corroborated by near-term action.

At the same time, we need to see a breakthrough in the other equally important, but often neglected, part of the climate equation, namely, adapting to the worst impacts of climate change and building resilience among those most affected. Crucially, we need to deliver on multilateral commitments by providing climate finance at the necessary scale and through financial instruments that do not overstretch already limited fiscal space of developing countries in debt distress to drive the transition to a zero-emission, climate-resilient future, along with technology and capacity building.

I continue to call on donor countries and development finance institutions to allocate at least 50 per cent of their climate finance to adaptation. This is of the utmost importance to address mounting developing countries' needs, particularly in those sectors that do not generate returns and for which commercial alternatives are not feasible, such as those for adaptation.

2021 offers an unprecedented opportunity to shape this transition, as nations build forward from COVID-19. The recovery must be aligned with the Paris Agreement - a historical roadmap for countries to shape a greener

future through their national climate action plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As the annual report shows: despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, 2020 was not a lost year, with important work continuing virtually to lay the groundwork for a successful United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November in Glasgow.

I urge all governments to present more ambitious, solid and credible NDCs by COP26, starting now with concrete steps: to put a price on carbon; to end subsidies and financing for coal and other fossil fuels; and to reinvest those funds in renewable energy and a just transition.

Over the past 6 months the global coalition committing to net zero emissions has grown much larger. Countries representing 73 per cent of global emissions and 70 per cent of the global economy have announced net zero targets by mid-century.

This is encouraging, but still falls short of what's required to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

Finally, a word on climate finance. We need developed countries to deliver on, and surpass, the \$100 billion goal with new pledges for the period of 2021-2025. This is a matter of trust, and a first but crucial step to advance on the path to shifting the trillions in the financial system to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

We are all in this climate crisis together and only by working closely together, in inclusive multilateralism, can we achieve our goals. Multilateralism is not only a matter of confronting shared threats, it's about seizing common opportunities.

Let's seize this pivotal opportunity to set the world on track to solving the global climate emergency and securing a healthy, sustainable future for all.

MESSAGE FROM PATRICIA ESPINOSA



PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UNFCCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

2020 was a challenging year for people throughout the world as we responded to COVID-19 and its effects on our health and our economies. At the same time, the climate emergency, which we have observed worsening over decades, continues to threaten our existence on this planet.

Despite pandemic lockdowns, greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere continued to rise in 2020. Together with 2016, it was the joint warmest year on record and concluded the hottest decade on record. The impacts, from rising sea levels to increasing weather extremes, are threatening lives and livelihoods worldwide.

As an international community, we must respond without further delay. What COVID-19 makes clear is that global emergencies know no borders. And just as the international community has come together to fight the COVID-19 crisis, we must join forces through multilateralism to turn the tide on the climate crisis. The axiom “No one is safe until everyone is safe” holds true in both cases.

2021 is set to be the most important year for the international response to climate change since the inception of the UNFCCC. Efforts made throughout the year will culminate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, which must be a success. Building on experience gained in

2020, the secretariat stands ready to provide support to all Parties and stakeholders towards a meaningful outcome in Glasgow.

Notwithstanding the challenges of 2020, climate action was not put on hold. With creativity and determination, through remote working arrangements under sometimes challenging conditions, and in virtual meetings, the secretariat overcame the difficult circumstances and continued to deliver on its mandates, as reflected in this report. Many delegates and United Nations staff went beyond the call of duty.

Notable activities were the UNFCCC *Climate Dialogues 2020*, a series of more than 80 virtual events held over a two-week period that provided a platform for countries and stakeholders to make and showcase progress on climate action, despite global challenges. More than 8,000 participants, including more than 3,000 delegates, joined the *Climate Dialogues*, thereby building critical momentum towards implementing the Paris Agreement.

Seventy-five Parties, representing about 40 per cent of Parties to the Paris Agreement, submitted NDCs in 2020 as planned. The secretariat analysed the submissions and compiled an initial *NDC synthesis report*, which sounded another alarm bell on the state of our planet.

To achieve the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C, the world must cut global emissions by 45 per cent from the 2010 level by 2030. The initial NDC synthesis report shows that Governments are nowhere close to the level of ambition needed to achieve that goal. Never have global expectations and political commitments been so far apart. And it is now time to close that gap.

We are in a race against the clock to reach net zero emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts.

The task may seem formidable, but it is possible. More countries and entities must put forward plans to achieve net zero emissions with stringent, credible interim goals.

With the final NDC synthesis report due to be published in September 2021, Governments must deliver enhanced NDCs showing greater ambition. We need to raise ambition not only for reducing emissions, but also for adapting to the impacts of climate change and building resilience, with financial support representing the key to unlocking that ambition. Raising ambition is crucial for setting the stage for a successful Glasgow Conference in November.

Success at the Glasgow Conference is imperative to re-establishing trust and leadership in the climate change process. Promises made must be promises kept, particularly the commitment by developed countries to provide USD 100 billion annually in financial support to developing countries.

And we must show solidarity. To address the most significant threat to our collective future, we must stand united and leave no voice or solution behind.

The time has come to conclude outstanding negotiations and collectively implement the Paris Agreement with the necessary financial and technical support provided to the most vulnerable countries. Unleashing its full potential will not only address climate change, but also help the world build forward from COVID-19 to create net zero, sustainable and resilient post-recovery economies. The COVID-19 recovery is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

Let us build a global coalition to achieve net zero emissions and strengthen climate resilience in every nation, every region, every city and every industry, and let us leave a legacy for future generations that we can be proud of.

C H A P T E R 1

CLIMATE CHANGE & COVID-19

© PHOTO BY EBERHARD GROSSGASTEIGER/UNSPLASH



The year 2020 was going to be critical for global climate action. Countries were expected to submit new or updated NDCs, substantially raising their level of ambition. Developed countries were to honour their pledge to mobilize USD 100 billion annually to support developing countries and deposit their instruments of acceptance of the Doha Amendment.

Around the world, local initiatives for climate action were multiplying, entire industries were looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint, and numerous cities, companies, organizations and investors were joining the race to zero emissions.

The year 2020 was also going to be decisive in accelerating efforts to put a stop to humanity's uncontrolled interference with the planet's climate system. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and slowed these efforts.

As the global health crisis unfolded, travel and in-person meetings became difficult, and climate change negotiations had to be postponed. As a result, efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 °C were further delayed. New, remote ways of working and collaborating helped the secretariat to continue working closely with Parties, and many UNFCCC processes went forward as planned using online collaboration tools. However, virtual gatherings lacked the dynamics of in-person decision-making meetings and came with their own logistical challenges.

The scientific community continued to call for urgent action. According to the *World Meteorological Organization*, global greenhouse gas emissions and the global mean temperature increased in 2020, making it one of the two hottest years on record in the hottest decade in human history.

Rising global temperatures have contributed to more frequent and severe weather events that have impacted people in every corner of the world. If nothing is done, the United Nations Environment Programme estimates that the global temperature is set to increase by more than 3 °C this century.

As the United Nations Environment Programme reminds us, COVID-19 and climate change are interconnected: as natural habitats shrink, in part owing to climate change, humans and animals come in contact more frequently, giving viruses, parasites and bacteria more opportunities to jump from one species to another and spread. The crises are also similar: both are global in nature, and both require emergency responses and adjustments to medium- and long-term planning. Neither crisis knows borders, and both impact everyone. Both crises affect the most vulnerable people the most. And the remedy to both crises requires not only science-based approaches, but also international cooperation and responsible behaviour at all levels of society.

As this report goes to print, the pandemic continues to cause havoc and the two urgent crises are still competing for attention and funds. Climate action cannot be ignored while we grapple with the more immediate threat of the pandemic. Climate action and the green economy must be at the centre of the COVID-19 recovery. The recovery from the pandemic needs to include a new, planet-friendly economic model. Investments in low-emission development, clean energy production, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable production and consumption need to benefit people, nature and climate.

The COVID-19 pandemic curtailed progress towards implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We now have a unique opportunity to redouble efforts, channel financing and accelerate action to build a more resilient, sustainable world. We must use this opportunity to emerge from the global health crisis and create a positive, inclusive, sweeping and lasting transformation on a global scale.

“

The only way forward is to build on the point of convergence that we know exists between COVID-19 and climate change...Never has a generation had the opportunity to change so much in so little time. But it will require an incredible amount of work to accomplish. We must move quickly, and we must get it right.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

C H A P T E R 2

**WE ARE
UNCLIMATE
CHANGE**

© PHOTO BY MATTHEW HARRIS/UNSPLASH



© PHOTO BY UN CLIMATE CHANGE/JAMES DOWSON

The UNFCCC secretariat is the United Nations entity supporting the global response to climate change. The Convention process engages governments, organizations, businesses and individuals to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. Respect for human well-being, the health of the Earth's myriad ecosystems and the need for sustainable development guide the mission of UN Climate Change.

The UNFCCC has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement, whose aim is to keep the global average temperature rise this century below 2 °C, and as close as possible to 1.5 °C, above pre-industrial levels. The Convention is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and its Doha Amendment, adopted in 2012.

The secretariat was established in 1992, when States adopted the Convention. Its headquarters are located in Bonn, Germany. In 2020, under the leadership

of Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa, the secretariat staff body consisted of 381 staff members from over 100 countries.

The secretariat supports a complex architecture that serves to advance the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Throughout the year, it works with countries to build technical expertise and capacity, develop national climate change strategies for mitigation and adaptation, facilitate access to finance, share knowledge and technology, support the reporting and review of information for transparency, and operate the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. The secretariat provides legal oversight for the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and supports policymaking in the context of these legal instruments. It also creates a space for thousands of stakeholders and coalitions to dialogue and draw on wide-ranging

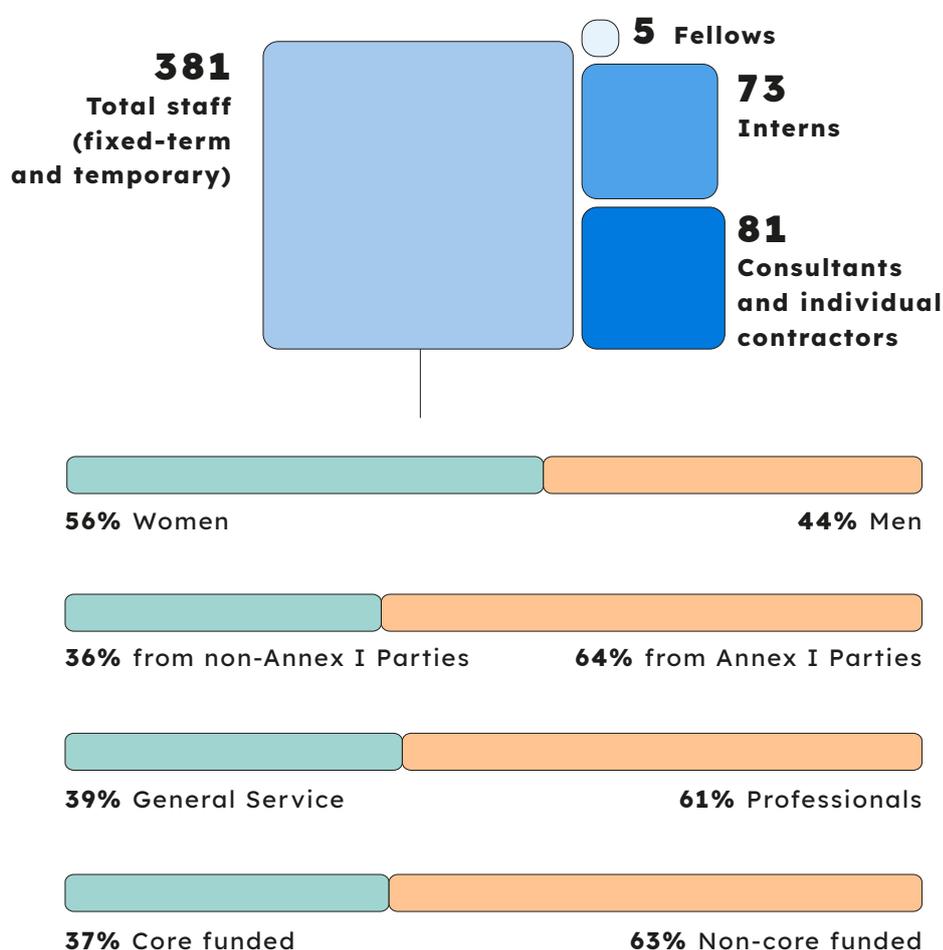
expertise to design cutting-edge climate solutions.

The secretariat generally organizes two negotiating sessions each year. In 2020, these were postponed owing to the challenge of holding such ambitious, inclusive meetings in the midst of a global pandemic. The 2020 United Nations Climate

Change Conference, which was to be held in Glasgow, was rescheduled to November 2021. The COVID-19 outbreak also affected many meetings and workshops that the secretariat typically organizes throughout the year for the constituted bodies, expert groups and work programmes that it serves.

Staff composition in numbers

As at 31 December 2020:



The climate change intergovernmental process is made up of:

3 Governing bodies and the Bureau

○
Conference
of the Parties (COP)

○
Conference of the Parties serving
as the meeting of the Parties to
the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)

○
Conference of the Parties serving
as the meeting of the Parties to
the Paris Agreement (CMA)

2 Subsidiary bodies

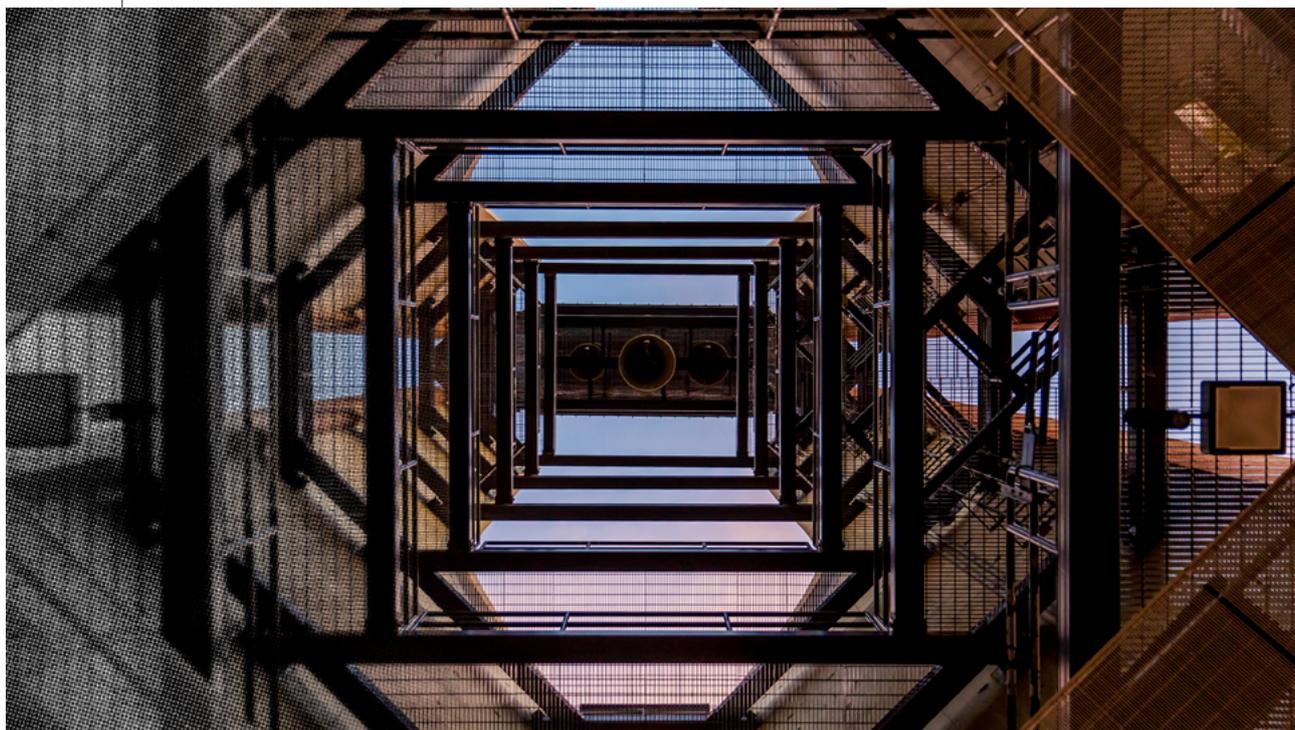
○
Subsidiary Body for Scientific
and Technological Advice
(SBSTA)

○
Subsidiary Body for
Implementation (SBI)

13 Constituted bodies

- Adaptation Committee
- Compliance Committee
- Consultative Group of Experts
- Executive Board of the clean development mechanism
- Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
- Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
- Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee
- Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures
- Least Developed Countries Expert Group
- Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee
- Paris Committee on Capacity-building
- Standing Committee on Finance
- Technology Executive Committee

UNFCCC
secretariat



STAYING FOCUSED IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL CRISIS

A NEW STRUCTURE TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES

Just as the pandemic was starting to take hold, the secretariat completed its restructuring process. The resulting new structure is flexible, agile and service-oriented, and is better equipped to respond to requests from Governments and other stakeholders, including in a virtual environment.

Taking full advantage of its upgraded information technology infrastructure, the secretariat moved into remote-working mode as soon as the Bonn offices entered lockdown. It was able to continue its work under the new, challenging conditions as it had a digital workspace in place well before the pandemic. This includes a cloud-based data centre, trained and equipped staff, a virtual broadcasting

and production team, and meeting rooms fitted for hybrid online–on-site meetings. The adaptability of staff to the new working arrangements also greatly contributed to the flow and quality of the secretariat’s work.

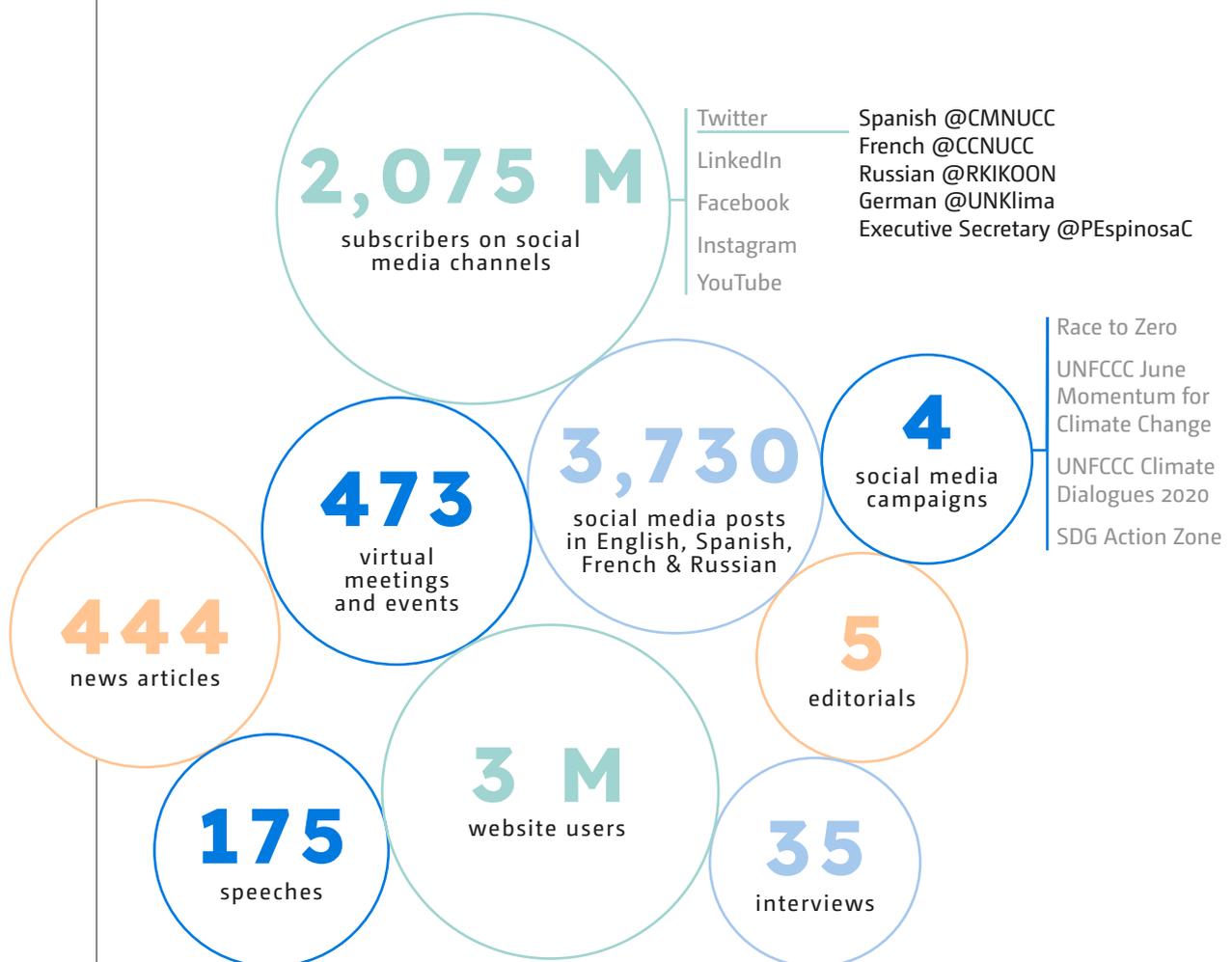
To ensure continuity in the processes supported by the UNFCCC, in 2020, the secretariat organized 473 virtual meetings and events, and continued to strengthen the accessibility and security of its data collection, storage and dissemination systems, in particular, the UNFCCC data warehouse and the clean development mechanism information system. Furthermore, other critical Kyoto Protocol infrastructure components, including the international transaction log and the clean development mechanism registry system, were available at all times.

The secretariat worked closely with users (Party representatives, review experts and other event participants) who experienced connectivity issues in order to find solutions on a case-by-case basis. The secretariat also offered to provide support to ensure access to reliable Internet connections, equipment or facilities, and eligible participants were compensated for excess connectivity expenses.

In the absence of in-person meetings, the secretariat increased its digital outreach to present key climate

change information to Parties, non-Party stakeholders and the public in a more dynamic and transparent way. The UN Climate Change website, available in English, French, Spanish and, since 2020, Russian, reached 3 million users in 2020, while social media channels increased their number of subscribers to a total of more than 2 million. In 2020, the secretariat also launched *Climate Hub 360*, an online calendar of all climate-related events leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

A year of record outreach



IMPROVING THE WEBSITE

The main UNFCCC website serves as a core tool for information- and document-sharing and also generally provides transparency to all the work conducted under the UN Climate Change process. In mid-2020, the secretariat launched a project to improve the user experience of the website. End-user needs were at the centre of this project.

Functional enhancements and a new look and feel for all key areas of the website were identified, based on findings from thorough user-needs research conducted with external and internal audiences. The improvements – which will be implemented iteratively in 2021 – will enhance the functionality of the document search function, menus, conference and session pages, and workstream-based sections.

In addition, the secretariat launched a series of online videos to explain and highlight key concepts of the UN Climate Change process using accessible language. The series is designed to be an easily understandable entry point to the more complex aspects of the climate change process. The first video, *What is the Paris Agreement and how does it work?*, was the most viewed media piece on UNFCCC channels in 2020.

A RELIABLE PARTNER IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

The secretariat, guided by the Bureau of the COP, the CMP and the CMA and the Chairs of the constituted bodies, responded with great care and creativity to the challenges posed by the extreme restrictions on travel and in-person meetings implemented across the world to contain the spread of COVID-19.

To ensure maximum participation and inclusiveness, the secretariat employed different approaches

for online meetings and activities, such as remote simultaneous interpretation and one-to-one engagement with partners to collaborate, co-design and implement actions. Large meetings were often transformed into smaller, more targeted or regional activities.

Virtual meetings provided new opportunities for participation. A total of 106 meetings were held during the UNFCCC June Momentum for Climate Change and the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020. Thousands of Party and observer delegates, representatives of non-Party stakeholders and interested members of the public were able to take part in these online meetings to submit pre-recorded video statements, pose questions to participants via chat or observe the broadcasts.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the secretariat continued to provide legal advice and entered into various types of partnerships and other legal relationships established through, for example, memorandums of understanding, commercial contracts, exchanges of letters and contribution agreements. In this regard, in 2020, the secretariat finalized 124 legal instruments, including 29 agreements with other United Nations agencies, and provided 100 legal consultations. These figures are similar to those seen in previous years, except the number of agreements finalized with other United Nations entities, which increased compared with in 2019.

Working in virtual mode has its challenges; for example, poor connectivity may be an issue and interactions between participants and presenters are limited overall. Organizing and coordinating meetings across many time zones proved particularly complicated. However, the experiences have shown that, with some flexibility and creative thinking, much can be accomplished, even under extraordinarily challenging circumstances.

CHAPTER 3

2020 IN REVIEW

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STRENGTHENING ACTION AND MOBILIZING SUPPORT

All UNFCCC processes continued to move forward in 2020, albeit in virtual mode. The secretariat continued to support Parties in developing their medium- and long-term commitments to zero greenhouse gas emissions and in assessing the impact of national climate responses. The secretariat worked closely with countries on adaptation measures, including by channelling financing and expertise to adaptation initiatives and sharing knowledge and experience. The secretariat also supported Parties on issues related to climate finance, carbon markets,

technology transfer, capacity-building, transparency, reporting and reviews, including the review of the second periodic review of the long-term global temperature goal under the Convention. In addition to ongoing virtual workshops and meetings, in lieu of formal sessions, the UNFCCC June Momentum for Climate Change and the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020 gave Parties the opportunity to advance work under the subsidiary bodies and the COP in a virtual setting, thereby paving the way for a successful United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

APRIL**BUREAU MEETING**

1 APRIL — VIRTUAL

MAY**BUREAU MEETING**

28 MAY — VIRTUAL

JUNE**JUNE MOMENTUM**

1-10 JUNE — VIRTUAL

BUREAU MEETING

22 JUNE — VIRTUAL

JULY**BUREAU BRIEFING**

8 JULY — VIRTUAL

AUGUST**BUREAU MEETING**

25 AUGUST — VIRTUAL

SEPTEMBER**HEADS OF DELEGATION
CONSULTATIONS**

1-30 SEPTEMBER — VIRTUAL

NYC CLIMATE WEEK

21-27 JUNE

OCTOBER**BUREAU MEETING**

15 OCTOBER — VIRTUAL

NOVEMBER**RACE TO ZERO DIALOGUES**

9-19 NOVEMBER

CLIMATE DIALOGUES

23 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER — VIRTUAL

DECEMBER**BUREAU MEETING**

21 DECEMBER — VIRTUAL

**5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PARIS AGREEMENT**

12 DECEMBER

*In addition, over 150 workshops,
training, constituted body meetings
and other events took place*



NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

SUBMISSION OF NEW OR UPDATED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

The submission of NDCs was substantially delayed in 2020 in many countries owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. As at 31 December 2020, 48 NDCs had been received from 75 Parties. Thirty-eight submissions were updated NDCs whereas the other 10 were new.

SYNTHESIS REPORT

With the Glasgow Conference rescheduled to 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic interrupting the process for submitting NDCs, the secretariat decided to publish the NDC synthesis report in two stages: an *initial version* in February 2021 on the basis of the 48 submissions received, and a *final version* before the Glasgow Conference.



© PHOTO BY DALLAS FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

MITIGATION

SETTING LONG-TERM NEUTRALITY GOALS

Under the Paris Agreement, Parties were encouraged to formulate and submit long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies by 2020. As at 31 December 2020, 28 Parties had submitted their strategies; of these, 14 submitted their strategies in 2020, as compared with 4 in 2019. Of those 14 Parties, 9 set a goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions, carbon neutrality or climate neutrality by 2050, 1 set its goal for 2035, 1 for 2045, and 1 for “as soon as viable”.

Key definitions

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

“Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period.”

Carbon neutrality, or net zero carbon dioxide emissions

“Net zero carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are achieved when anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are balanced globally by anthropogenic CO₂ removals over a specified period. Net zero CO₂ emissions are also referred to as carbon neutrality.”

Climate neutrality

“Concept of a state in which human activities result in no net effect on the climate system.”

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

The regional approach adopted by the secretariat through the establishment of six regional collaboration centres has enabled fast, efficient and coordinated delivery of climate action by a broad range of actors across regions. The regional collaboration centres host the regional coordinators of the NDC Partnership, who work with a global coalition of countries and international institutions to mobilize support for ambitious climate goals.

Smaller, region-specific and more focused sessions kept Parties engaged in the UNFCCC process in 2020. In a series of virtual regional events in 2020, the regional collaboration centres offered partner countries a broad range of support on all aspects of the response to climate change, including adaptation, mitigation, technology, transparency, finance and capacity-building. They organized a series of virtual regional dialogues in five regions on collaborative instruments for ambitious climate action for countries that have an interest in using carbon-pricing instruments to green their economies. In addition, the regional collaboration centres held several webinars on lessons learned and good practices regarding national monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

They also continued to engage with youth organizations and networks to build momentum for climate action.

NAIROBI FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

The coordination and regional activities of the Nairobi Framework Partnership, which supports developing countries in preparing and implementing their NDCs, focused on enhancing the capacity of designated national authorities to become fully operational; building national capacity to develop clean development mechanism project activities; promoting investment opportunities for projects; improving information-sharing, outreach and training; and strengthening inter-agency coordination. Two meetings of the core partners (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, UNFCCC and World Bank) to address possible disruptions of activities owing to the COVID-19 pandemic

were held online. The partners agreed to create a repository of online meetings held in 2020 that otherwise would have taken place during the four regional climate weeks (which were postponed to 2021). In 2020, the Nairobi Framework Partnership also published its Annual Report 2019.

ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF RESPONSE MEASURES

The Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures met once virtually in 2020 to kick-start delivery of its workplan and define a strategy to implement future activities. Two informal events were held at the Climate Dialogues on the workplan of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures. A pilot study was also undertaken in Kenya and Senegal on using a computable general equilibrium model to assess cross-border impacts of response measures.

“

The infrastructure and partnerships that have been developed by the regional collaboration centres in just under a decade have helped build a strong pathway to addressing climate change, and the valuable lessons learned along the way will help the regional collaboration centres better support countries moving forward.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA

UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



© PHOTO BY PAOLA GALIMBERTI/JUNSPASH

ADAPTATION

In 2020, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group maintained its direct support to countries through virtual dialogues to monitor progress, identify challenges and help target technical assistance. It provided technical guidance and support to four countries, through the Open NAP initiative, for formulating their first national adaptation plans and started to develop a self-paced online training course, to be launched in 2021, for the least developed countries on navigating and addressing the many elements of the Paris Agreement.

The 2020 progress report on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans was published in November 2020. The report documents measures

undertaken by developing countries, as well as technical and financial support provided and received for the process, and serves as the basis for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation assessment of progress on national adaptation plans.

The Least Developed Countries Expert Group also met with Parties in the first quarter of 2020 to take stock of progress in achieving its mandate. It presented the results and an associated synthesis report at outreach events at the June Momentum and the Climate Dialogues, where there was broad agreement on the need to strengthen the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in supporting countries to create national adaptation plans.

The Open National Adaptation Plans initiative...

...is an open-ended collaboration, led by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, designed to mobilize inputs from all interested actors and stakeholders to support the least developed countries and other interested developing countries in developing their national adaptation plans. The initiative seeks to build on the collective experience, expertise and intelligence that exist beyond national borders to design adaptation solutions to common vulnerabilities and risks associated with climate change.

Building on efforts to systematically involve the private sector in adaptation planning and action, in collaboration with the National Adaptation Plan Global Network, the Adaptation Committee published a toolkit for engaging the private sector. The toolkit proposes methods and approaches that countries can use to strengthen partnerships with business entities and create a more inclusive and participatory national adaptation process.

The first two deliverables of the Adaptation Committee in support of the Paris Agreement were launched in 2020:

- **How developing countries are addressing hazards, focusing on relevant lessons learned and good practices**
A synthesis report geared towards recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing countries
- **Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation**
An online inventory of methodologies to serve as a centralized information hub of tools for assessing adaptation needs

The Adaptation Committee also initiated analytical work on the global goal on adaptation and launched its

technical paper on data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales. The publication is intended to help Parties and adaptation practitioners navigate the complex landscape of data sources that support adaptation.

The technical examination process on adaptation ended in 2020, after five years of work. For the first time, the annual technical expert meeting included a visual art competition for children 17 years and under, which showcased their vision of a resilient future. Youth 18 to 30 years were invited to participate in a policy case competition, where they proposed innovative solutions to an adaptation challenge that they felt passionate about.

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Knowledge gaps prevent many countries from scaling up adaptation action. The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change was designed to address the knowledge needs of Parties in the areas of adaptation and resilience. In 2020, the Nairobi work programme served as a bridge between partners and experts, constituted bodies and Parties on topics such as oceans, coastal areas, and biodiversity of forest and grassland ecosystems. Work under the programme involved engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and many other partners. Specific outputs of the programme include a scoping paper and a policy brief on oceans and adaptation. Making the most of its relationships with academic institutions, the UNFCCC secretariat, through the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, continued to involve researchers and students in developing climate scenarios to support national

decision-making and policymaking. In 2020, the programme brought together students from the University of Michigan and the Government of Seychelles to develop a climate scenario planning toolkit.

SCALING UP ACTIONS AT THE SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

In partnership with the World Green Economy Organization, the Regional Collaboration Centre Dubai (serving countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia), the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia, and the United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Western Asia, the UNFCCC is working with countries in West Asia, the Gulf Cooperation Council and North Africa to close persistent adaptation knowledge gaps identified through the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative.

In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the UNFCCC kicked off the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative for the Pacific Subregion with a workshop on knowledge gaps for 14 small island developing States.

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Better land management can contribute significantly towards tackling climate change. Sustainable management of land can improve soil health and increase crop production and food security, and nature-based solutions can protect biodiversity and build resilience.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LIMITING CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS

The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism further strengthened its institutional set-up to better support developing countries in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with catastrophic climate-

related impacts and slow, incremental climate processes. It focused on providing technical support on risk management approaches and climate-related human mobility, and increased cooperation in relation to slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support. The Executive Committee's five expert groups also engaged with

representatives of many institutions and networks, the private sector, research entities, non-governmental organizations and other institutions, to channel knowledge and resources on climate risk management options in a coordinated manner. In 2020, the

Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism published jointly with the Technology Executive Committee a policy brief on technological solutions to address climate change risks in coastal zones.

Adaptation in numbers

6

international meetings

7

workshops

6

webinars

30

publications & reports

125 of 154



developing countries in the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans.



© PHOTO BY MICHELE HENDERSON/UNSPLASH

CLIMATE FINANCE

Progress was made on the critical issue of climate finance even in the absence of formal intergovernmental negotiations. The secretariat supported the COP 25 Presidency and the incoming COP 26 Presidency in their outreach and bilateral consultations on climate finance, which involved all key negotiating groups in the intergovernmental process. Thematic issues, such as finance and investment for a sustainable recovery, needs-based climate finance, the work of the Standing Committee on Finance and the pledge by developed countries to mobilize USD 100 billion annually, were discussed by Parties and observer organizations at six events organized during the June Momentum and the Climate Dialogues.

UNLOCKING ADAPTATION FINANCING

Significant steps were taken in 2020 to start unlocking access to

finance. In line with a decision made at COP 25 in December 2019, the Green Climate Fund is continuing to provide for activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage due to climate change. The secretariat supported the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism in its 2020 dialogue with the Green Climate Fund secretariat on clarifying how developing countries may access funding from the Green Climate Fund.

In response to the challenges of the pandemic, the Adaptation Fund took immediate measures to give flexibility to projects. It was the first climate fund to hold a virtual board meeting and approve projects virtually; it also conducted project visits and training sessions online and held webinars. Addressing increased adaptation funding needs among developing countries impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, the Adaptation Fund approved a new dedicated funding window for

enhanced direct access and raised USD 116 million in new pledges after raising its annual resource mobilization target by one third, to USD 120 million.

The Standing Committee on Finance continued to work on the preparation of its two flagship reports:

- The fourth biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, which will map, for the first time, efforts to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development
- The first report on the determination of the needs of developing country parties, which is of critical importance to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Preparations for the next Standing Committee on Finance forum gained momentum. The forum is

planned for 2021, on the topic of finance for nature-based solutions. Input from Parties, climate funds, intergovernmental organizations and experts was used in a consultation session to facilitate deeper discussion of the key themes of the forum and inform its design and preparation.

RESPONSIVE FINANCING TO COVER COUNTRIES' SPECIFIC NEEDS

Progress continued on the Needs-based Finance project, which consists of national and regional initiatives to facilitate access to and mobilize climate finance for mitigation and adaptation projects in developing countries. In 2020, the secretariat, in collaboration with the regional collaboration centres, supported the assessment of the needs and flows of climate finance in more than 100 participating countries. Further, the secretariat helped develop three climate finance strategies, two project pipelines and arrangements for implementation with partners.





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TECHNOLOGY

Technology development and transfer is crucial for building resilience to climate change, adapting to its inevitable impact and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Technology Executive Committee, supported by the secretariat, hosted three events at the June Momentum and the Climate Dialogues, together with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, to update Parties on the implementation of the technology framework and discuss how the work of the Technology Mechanism and climate technology can contribute to global efforts to recover better.

With support from the secretariat, through the regional collaboration centres in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and West Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the Technology Executive Committee organized four virtual regional

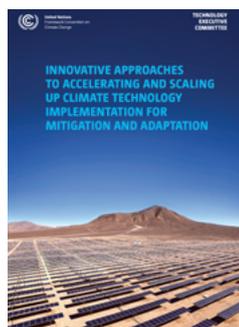
technical expert meetings on climate-smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings. The events explored new sustainable solutions for cooling that take into consideration climate impacts and new societal needs, policies that should be developed to optimize the use of energy and resources, and challenges faced by the sector.

The Technology Executive Committee also organized a deep-dive session on innovative approaches for climate adaptation technologies as part of the 4th Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community Conference. The event featured innovations in key aspects of adaptation technologies, including peer-to-peer learning, knowledge-sharing and the participatory planning process.

Technology Executive Committee 2020 publications



Brief #13: Enhancing implementation of the results of technology needs assessments



Innovative approaches to accelerating and scaling up climate technology implementation for mitigation and adaptation



Joint policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones

Published in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism

ASSESSING TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

Together with the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Environment Programme and Technical University of Denmark Partnership, the secretariat helped developing countries plan and implement climate actions. It continued to promote the global technology needs assessment project, which supports developing countries in assessing their climate technology needs through various

climate briefs, brochures and events. The secretariat also monitored the implementation of technology action plans in developing countries and shared success stories, including at an event organized during the Climate Dialogues. In addition, the secretariat published a synthesis report on technology needs identified by developing country Parties, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. The report summarizes information contained in the technology needs assessment reports of 53 developing country Parties that participated in the global technology needs assessment project.

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The twin crises of COVID and climate change are crying out for innovation - and in many cases technological solutions.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



© PHOTO BY LUIS FIGUEROA/UNSPLASH

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Capacity-building lies at the heart of efforts to strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation and cuts across all areas of work at the secretariat. In 2020, the secretariat focused on strengthening the coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as supporting the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in successfully concluding activities under its first workplan and preparing its second workplan.

The PCCB Network, launched in 2020, serves as a critical tool to increase the reach and impact of capacity-building efforts under the Paris Agreement. The Network's activities align with and complement the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building. They include technical exchanges and peer-learning

activities, communication and outreach activities, and engagement and networking activities in the area of climate-related capacity-building.

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building organized, with support from the Network, the *Capacity-building Momentum to Recover Better* initiative, a series of four virtual events organized to discuss issues like capacity-building for enhancing resilience at the local level, the “dos, don’ts and doubts” of virtual capacity-building, capacity-building needs related to enhancing NDCs, and the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in 2020 and going forward.

In 2020, together with the United Nations System Staff College, the secretariat organized an online course titled “The Paris Agreement on Climate

Change as a Development Agenda". The course offered a holistic and integrated approach to climate change to 300 development practitioners from the United Nations system, Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia whose work relates to climate change and

sustainable development. The course demonstrated the interlinkages and interdependencies between sustainable development and climate change, and had the objective of preparing participants to make informed policy choices that favour low-emission and climate-resilient development.

Capacity-building Momentum to Recover Better

PARTICIPANTS

600+

registered

250+

participated

750+

watched online

PARTNERS

8

organizing partners

32

collaborating partners

IN EACH EVENT (on average)

67

participants

30

countries

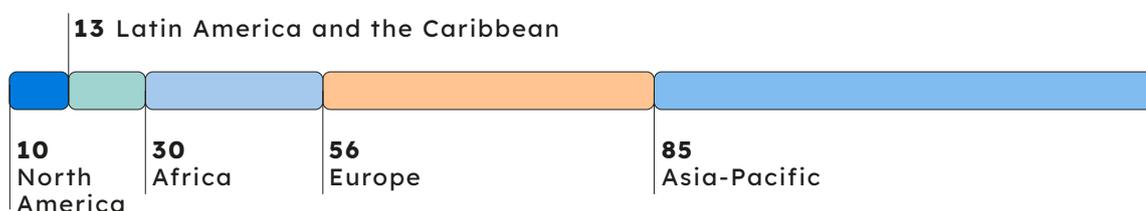
45

organizations

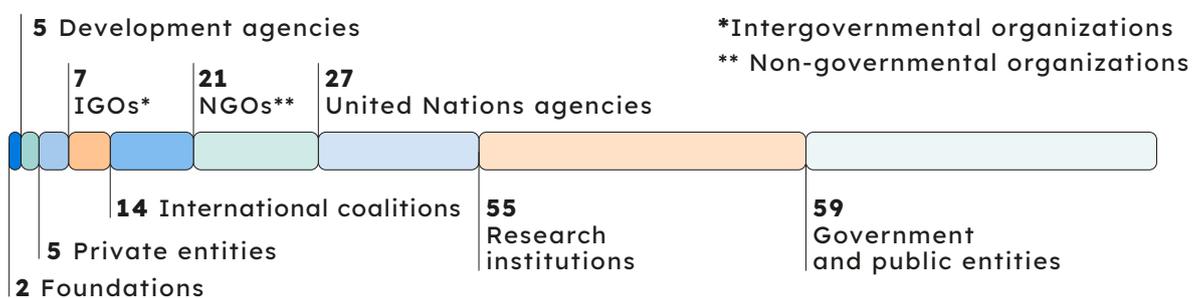
1.4

female/male participants ratio

LOCATION



INSTITUTIONS



FOCUS ON LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

Capacity-building activities on legal matters gained momentum owing to the ease with which virtual meetings and webinars could be organized. The secretariat's capacity-building efforts in 2020 resulted in:

- The production of three guides on legal and procedural advice for presiding officers, Bureau members and other participants in UNFCCC negotiating processes
- An annotation and compendium of practice on the draft rules of procedure
- The further development of the law and climate change toolkit to support the establishment of national climate change legislation
- The development of two capacity-building modules on assisting countries with the development of sustainable investment and finance regulations, as well as ocean and coastal management
- The development of an online training course titled "Orientation to facilitation of implementation and promotion of compliance

under the Paris Agreement", which is available on the UNFCCC Learning Management System platform and was made available to the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee

- A three-part climate legislation webinar series

The secretariat has been engaged in various partnerships and collaborations with academic institutions and international organizations on building capacity to promote implementation. This engagement has included contributing to the draft compendium of international organizations' practices for effective international rule-making, which was developed as a part of the Partnership of international organisations for effective international rulemaking established by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as a voluntary platform of international organizations, academics and its Regulatory Policy Committee delegates to exchange good practices and promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact in international rule-making.

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There can be no collective climate ambition – true participation by all nations – unless we first build capacity.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA

UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING AND REVIEW

Transparency of climate action and support is a central pillar of the Paris Agreement and is a key factor in building mutual trust and confidence among Parties. In 2020, the secretariat continued to support Parties in implementing the existing measurement, reporting and verification system, including by conducting reviews and technical analyses and organizing meetings of lead reviewers. It also continued to lay the groundwork for Parties' implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The secretariat provided training to 1,147 developing country experts – almost twice as many as in 2019 – on transparency in relation to their national greenhouse

gas inventories, and prepared and published the Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.

The secretariat organized annual meetings of lead reviewers for the review of biennial reports and national communications and for reviews of greenhouse gas inventories of developed country Parties. In total, 214 leading transparency experts analysed and agreed on further guidance on how to operationalize the review processes and further improve its quality, efficiency and consistency, including through the review practice guidance 2020.

The secretariat also continued supporting the Consultative Group of Experts to successfully implement its *workplan* in 2020. This included training 296 experts through seven regional workshops on measurement, reporting and verification and the enhanced transparency framework, and 409 experts through six regional webinars on guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Consultative Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, prepared and published various resource materials, including an enhanced transparency framework technical handbook, a handbook on institutional arrangements to support measurement, reporting and verification and transparency, introductory videos on supporting measurement, reporting and verification and the enhanced transparency framework, and a technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing national communications and biennial update reports.

Enhancing ambition is essential to ensuring that Parties meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, while improving transparency is expected to build mutual trust and confidence, and promote effective implementation. 2020 saw a drive for Parties to submit their new or updated NDCs. In that context, the secretariat, in collaboration with partner organizations, organized 1 in-person and 18 virtual training workshops to support developing country Parties in formulating their NDCs and preparing to implement and track progress. More than 950 experts from 103 developing countries participated in the events. The next step will be for Parties to execute their plans and, in doing so, develop robust processes and methods for tracking progress towards their targets so that they are

ready to submit their first biennial transparency report under the enhanced transparency framework by the end of 2024.

The secretariat launched the Universal Participation in the Enhanced Transparency Framework initiative, which serves as a platform for the international community to collaborate, mobilize and act. The aim of the initiative is to generate global momentum to build capacity for collecting and reporting climate data and information for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Climate data are also relevant for achieving other global and national sustainable development goals.

The secretariat completed 91 technical reviews, analyses and assessments of annual greenhouse gas inventory submissions, biennial reports and biennial update reports, including REDD+ results and REDD+ forest reference emission levels. It published 112 reports on the reviews of those submissions. The secretariat organized reviews of 26 greenhouse gas inventories, which included the participation of 142 experts from developing and developed countries. The secretariat also organized virtual multilateral assessment workshops for 10 developed countries and a presentation of biennial update reports – also known as facilitative sharing of views – for 17 developing countries. The international assessment and review of the fourth biennial reports was also undertaken in 2020. A total of 124 experts from 66 Parties participated in the review process for 30 biennial reports.

Participating in the current reporting and review processes under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol serves as the best preparation for implementing the enhanced transparency framework. Reviews are a capacity-building opportunity for climate experts from all countries. The peer-to-peer review process

facilitates in-depth knowledge-sharing of data and methodologies and the application of guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Hosting a review or technical analysis also raises the profile of the UNFCCC reporting and review process in a country, which generates positive support and momentum to improve measurement and reporting processes. Increasing related capacity in all countries will be a key determining factor for the successful implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.

Since 2014, the secretariat has coordinated the assessment of progress of 50 developing countries in reducing deforestation, based on 60 submissions of forest reference levels. The [Lima REDD+ Information Hub](#) contains verified emission reductions from REDD+ activities, which amounted to just over 8 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent at the end of 2020. On the basis of their success in addressing drivers of deforestation, improving sustainable management of forests and transparently showing their results, eight countries have

been granted results-based financing by the Green Climate Fund amounting to USD 500 million.

TOOLS AND TRAINING

The secretariat trained experts on the review of national communications and biennial reports and on the technical analysis of biennial update reports, as well as on the annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. In 2020, the secretariat developed an alternative workplan to conduct training for greenhouse gas inventory reviewers and administer their final examinations online.

The secretariat continued to enhance all systems and tools to improve their user-friendliness and facilitate reporting and review processes, and regularly updated its [greenhouse gas data interface](#) to publish the most recent data from Parties. The secretariat also initiated an analysis of possible design and infrastructure options for the tools required to support the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.



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CARBON MARKETS

CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

The secretariat continued to support the work of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism, provide updates on regulatory developments to participants in the mechanism and assist them in planning their activities. In 2020, the clean development mechanism issued 70.9 million certified emission reductions (or carbon credits) to the developing countries hosting clean development mechanism activities. This is the highest volume since 2013 and represents a 40 per cent increase from 2019. Countries also submitted a large number of requests for renewal of ongoing clean development mechanism activities. It was particularly notable that the voluntary cancellations of clean development mechanism carbon credits as related to private companies' corporate social responsibility programmes, citizens' climate actions and conversion of certified emission reductions into other schemes saw an 80 per cent increase compared with in 2019.

The Executive Board of the clean development mechanism ensured

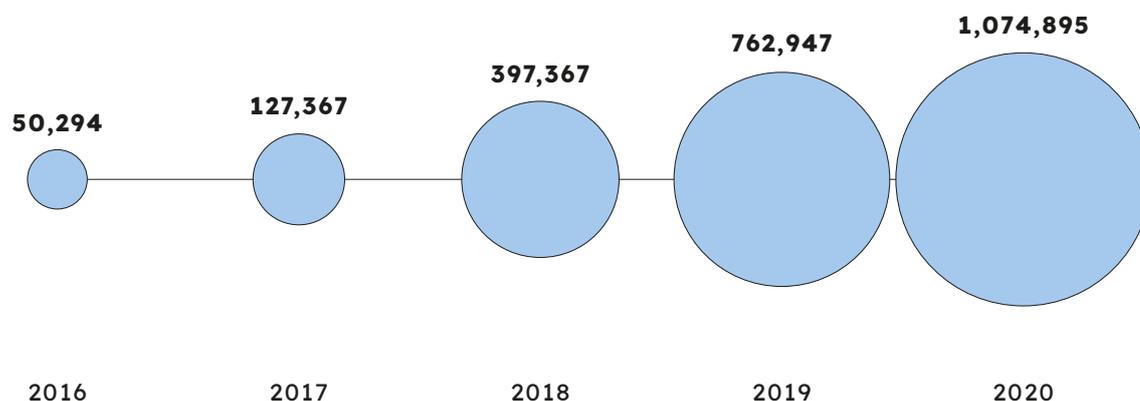
business continuity during the pandemic by adapting its working methods, holding all three of its meetings virtually and using electronic decision-making procedures to address urgent matters. In March 2020 the Accreditation Panel and the Methodologies Panel of the clean development mechanism switched to virtual platforms to conduct their meetings. The Executive Board considered what implications the postponement of CMP 16 would have on the operations of the clean development mechanism after the second commitment period and agreed on temporary measures to apply to clean development mechanism activities generating emission reductions after 31 December 2020, pending guidance at CMP 16 in November 2021.

To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on project participants, the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism also introduced flexible measures with respect to on-site inspections requirements, adherence to the monitoring plan, accreditation procedures and deadlines for submitting post-registration change requests.

During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to enhance and offer access to open-data sources through its website to assist carbon market participants in their choices regarding CDM activities they may wish to engage in, as well as to aid researchers and market analysts. The secretariat reached out to entrepreneurs, project developers and the public to help them better understand the carbon credit market

and identify opportunities for reducing emissions and offsetting those that could not be reduced. The United Nations carbon offset platform, which allows the public to offset its emissions through the online purchase of certified emission reductions for voluntary cancellation, cancelled over 1 million carbon credits in 2020, which is the equivalent of reducing the collective carbon footprint by 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Certified emission reductions sold in the Voluntary Cancellation Platform by year



FOCUS ON UNDERREPRESENTED REGIONS

The secretariat continued to work through the regional collaboration centres to advocate for investing in sustainable development through the clean development mechanism, identify prospective projects and assist in their design, and offer opportunities to reduce transaction costs. In 2020, the regional collaboration centres conducted 31 regional and national capacity-building workshops, knowledge-sharing events and public consultations and launched a regional virtual platform to centralize and share information. Online meetings featured discussions on standardized baselines and their applications, carbon pricing and

domestic and international carbon markets, climate-smart cooling, climate negotiations and carbon neutrality, carbon footprint programmes and regional carbon footprint platforms, voluntary greenhouse gas management, and measurement, reporting and verification.

JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

The Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee, whose mandate is to supervise the verification of emission reductions or removal enhancements generated by projects under Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, met virtually in October 2020, and agreed on its annual report to CMP 16.



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SCIENCE-BASED ACTION

The secretariat collaborates closely with a wide range of stakeholders across the international scientific community to facilitate the science-policy interface under the UNFCCC process. It continued to strengthen its engagement in support of science-policy knowledge-sharing, including on the state of the global climate system and its observation, modelling, research and climate services in support of mitigation and

adaptation action and reporting, and input to the second periodic review of the long-term global temperature goal and preparatory efforts for the global stocktake. As part of this engagement, a number of events were held at the June Momentum for Climate Change and the Climate Dialogues 2020, including in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

VIRTUAL PROCESS, TANGIBLE RESULTS

SUPPORTING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

To ensure the continued functioning of the intergovernmental process in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the secretariat intensified the support provided to the COP 25 Presidency, the incoming COP 26 Presidency, the Bureau of the COP, the CMP and the CMA, and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to help them guide the UNFCCC process in a manner that maximizes progress and minimizes delays.

The secretariat provides substantive, legal and procedural support to the Bureau, which in turn provides advice and guidance to Parties regarding the ongoing work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and the organization of their sessions and the operation of the secretariat, especially at times when the COP, the CMP and the CMA are not in session. The Bureau therefore played a critical role in 2020 to help keep the process on track while the secretariat helped ensure that the timelines of mandates, planned meetings and

events, and submission deadlines for reports were maintained to the extent possible. In keeping with these requirements, 49 pre-session official documents and 10 reports on the sessions held at COP 25 were made available on the UNFCCC website.

The postponement of the negotiating sessions gave rise to a wide range of legal issues, including related to the UNFCCC electoral process. The secretariat quickly stepped in to provide legal advice to the COP 25 Presidency and incoming COP 26 Presidency, Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, Parties and United Nations system entities on issues relating to the postponement and to forward planning. It also provided legal advice related to the entry into force of the Doha Amendment.

To keep the virtual process as inclusive and transparent as possible, the presiding officers jointly convened a series of consultations with Parties and observer constituencies in September and October 2020 to hear views on how to pave the way for a successful COP 26.

Given the postponement of in-person sessions, and in an effort to keep Parties and stakeholders engaged, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, in collaboration with the COP 25 Presidency and the incoming COP 26 Presidency, convened two series of virtual meetings: the UNFCCC June Momentum for Climate Change, held from 1 to 10 June 2020, and the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, held from 23 November to 4 December 2020. Formal negotiations and decision-making procedures were not part of these events. The secretariat worked tirelessly to overcome technical and logistical obstacles and make these virtual events a success.



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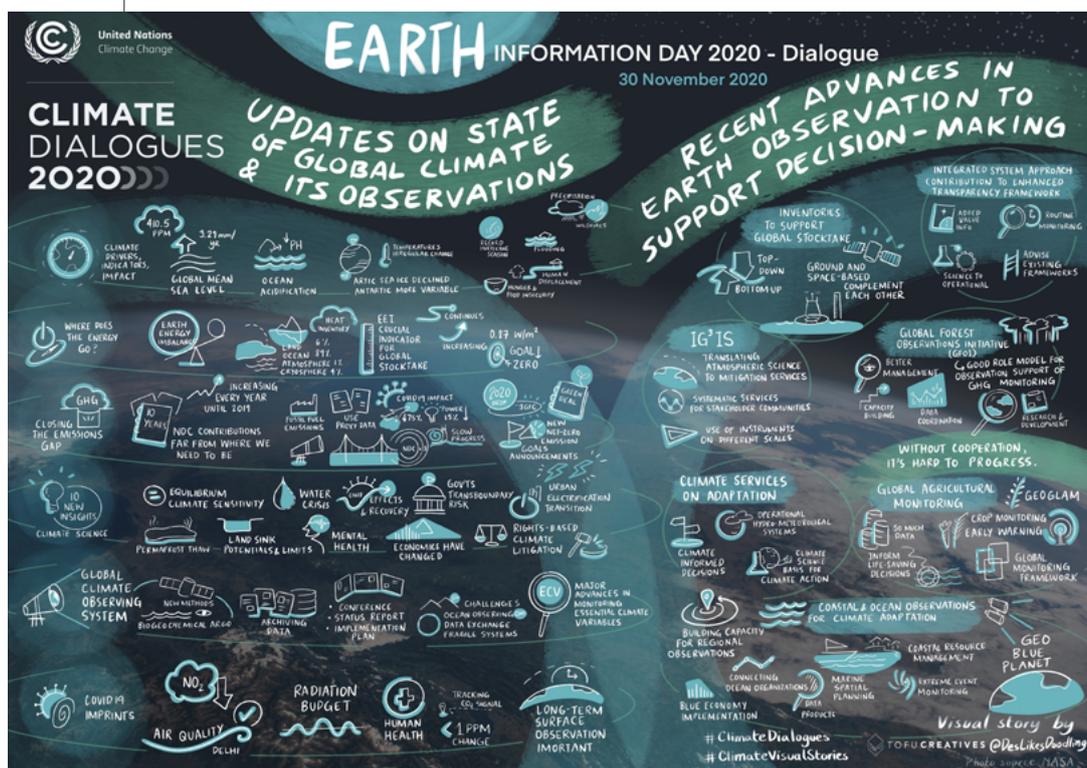


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UNFCCC JUNE MOMENTUM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The aim of the June Momentum was to showcase progress on climate action despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The 23 virtual meetings led to active exchanges among Governments, experts and relevant stakeholders around the world and was an opportunity to enhance understanding of climate change, climate action and the negotiation process. The June Momentum helped advance technical work under the constituted bodies and provided a platform for information

exchange and engagement on other work being done under the UNFCCC, including on adaptation, mitigation, science, finance, technology, capacity-building, transparency, gender, Action on Climate Empowerment, and the preparation and submission of NDCs. It also featured an event with the scientific community to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on science observation and research, including on changes in greenhouse gas emissions and concentrations.



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CREATED DURING EARTH INFORMATION DAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2020

UNFCCC CLIMATE DIALOGUES 2020

The Climate Dialogues provided a platform for Parties and other stakeholders to showcase progress in 2020 and exchange views and ideas to pave the way for a successful Glasgow Conference.

With a total of 83 meetings, the Climate Dialogues was one of the largest virtual events on the United Nations agenda in 2020. Over 8,000 registered participants attended the meetings and interacted with the presenters and other participants at the virtual venue.

Key events featured at the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020

Science-policy nexus:

- The twelfth meeting of the research dialogue explored scientific research and understanding of ways to move towards net zero carbon dioxide emissions and build resilience to the impacts and risks of climate change in this context
- Earth Information Day 2020 provided an update on the state of the global climate system and its observation, and featured a discussion on recent advances in Earth observation technology and data processing to support decision-making



- The first meeting of the structured expert dialogue under the second periodic review of the long-term global goal contributed to Parties' understanding of the long-term global goal, possible scenarios for achieving it, and progress made, and included an assessment of the aggregated effect of the steps taken by Parties in order to achieve the goal

Ocean and land dialogues:

- The ocean and climate change dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action featured a discussion between Parties and a wide range of stakeholders on how to create synergies and strengthen action on mitigation and adaptation
- The dialogue on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation related matters brought together Party and non-Party stakeholders to explore existing practices and possible ways to enhance action on land management and climate change adaptation

Implementation:

- The round table on pre-2020 implementation and ambition provided an opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to share evidence and lessons learned on progress towards implementation and ambition, and its summary report will inform the second periodic review of the long-term temperature goal
- During the Climate Dialogues 2020, an event on The Importance of Compliance: lessons learned and best practices as input into the effective functioning of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee was convened to bring together representatives from Parties as well as chairs of different compliance committees to share their experiences and promote implementation and compliance with the Paris Agreement. This event helped foster a deeper level of engagement, knowledge-building and information exchange among the implementation and compliance committees of various multilateral environmental agreements to assist the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee in further developing its rules of procedure
- Two workshops held by the subsidiary bodies on the impacts of the implementation of response measures explored the social and environmental aspects of a just transition, decarbonizing the energy sector, diversifying the economy to other sectors such as tourism, and the circular carbon economy. Workshop participants underlined the need to identify innovative ways to address the impact of response measures, including by developing tools for quantitative and ex post analysis of these measures

Technology:

- The discussions at the launch of Technology Day and the thematic session on climate smart agriculture, hosted by the Technology Executive Committee, promoted innovative approaches to deploy, disseminate and scale up adaptation technologies in various key sectors
- At the panel discussion on climate change data using satellites, artificial intelligence and big data, participants debated how enabling technologies can enhance climate action by making information on greenhouse gas emissions more transparent, accessible and actionable



Capacity-building:

- The capacity-building talk on monitoring and evaluating capacity-building marked the launch of a new public event series to exchange knowledge and share best practices on capacity-building within the UNFCCC process

Transparency:

- Discussions at the informal forum of the Consultative Group of Experts on support for measurement, reporting and verification and for the enhanced transparency framework, which had more than 300 participants, reiterated that developing country Parties require continued technical support to enhance their knowledge and technical capacity, in particular to prepare for the enhanced transparency framework
- Two information events and three informal technical dialogues were held for Parties on methodological issues under the Paris Agreement and to facilitate progress of work in 2020

Leveraging partnerships:

- At the panel discussion *Moving for Climate NOW – 5 years building momentum together for the Paris Agreement*, participants highlighted that a more holistic approach that amalgamates adaptation, mitigation and resilience is necessary for sustainable recovery plans, with a focus on building the motivation to fight back, as has happened with the pandemic
- The event *Climate Change, Green Recovery and the Role of Philanthropies* included representatives of leading philanthropic organizations to discuss how their funding support can be best leveraged to address the climate crisis

Koronivia joint work on agriculture:

- Two workshops, on improved livestock management systems and the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector, had significant engagement from Parties, constituted bodies, financing entities and observer organizations to advance the Koronivia joint work on agriculture

The event also served as a space for engaging the public. The winners of the 2020 Adaptation Youth Policy Case Competition were announced at the Climate Dialogues 2020. The winning team, whose project was titled *Clima de Eleição*, developed a free online course on climate change and cities for candidates in Brazil's 2020 municipal elections.

CLIMATE VOICES

In a series of short inspirational videos, the secretariat brought

together leaders from across the world to raise their voices to deliver one common, emphatic message: "Now is our moment to take action on climate change!" The videos feature strong statements from key players in the intergovernmental climate change process, as well as non-governmental constituencies, delegates and climate leaders. Together they deliver a unified call for increased ambition through green economic recovery to secure a climate-neutral and -resilient future.

PURSuing HIGHER AMBITION



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ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DOHA AMENDMENT

The Doha Amendment, which established the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol in 2012, entered into force on 31 December 2020. The Doha Amendment strengthens the emission limitations or reduction commitments of developed countries, including countries with economies in transition, and sets an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 18 per cent compared with the 1990 level in 2013–2020.

RESILIENCE FRONTIERS

Under the Resilience Frontiers initiative, a two-year collective intelligence process to design novel visions for long-term resilience, a number of webinars exploring the social, political, economic, environmental and technological challenges and opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution were held in 2020. The discourse covered the evolution of regenerative production and consumption practices, as well as of restorative design fuelled by ancient and indigenous knowledge. Resilience Frontiers is an inter-agency effort that engages United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, research institutes and youth networks, among others.



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The COVID-19 pandemic has further emphasized the need for **multilateral cooperative action towards addressing the climate emergency**. The Doha Amendment’s entry into force is a strong signal of a unified, multilateral commitment to address climate change.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



© PHOTO BY ROD LONG/UNSPLOSH

The secretariat collaborates closely with a wide range of partners (Parties, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders) to support knowledge-sharing of initiatives on science, technology and policy. It provides technical support for capacity-building; information and data on the state of the global climate system; sharing climate services requirements for mitigation and adaptation action and reporting; and feeding the input of the scientific community into the global stocktake. The secretariat also collaborates closely on response measures with various United Nations agencies and engages with a variety of academic institutions and international organizations to build Parties' capacity on legal matters related to their implementation. On climate finance, the secretariat collaborates with climate funds, multilateral development banks, United Nations entities and the broader financial community.

The secretariat continued to collaborate with the United Nations system

to support regional collaborative platforms, climate finance, issue-based coalitions and common country analyses. Through the regional collaboration centres, the secretariat has joined the new regional virtual platform of the United Nations established to ensure greater regional coordination and coherence in activities and better cooperation among United Nations and non-United Nations entities. This central platform helps to ensure the effective deployment of resources and capacities in support of national actions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Similarly, the secretariat has joined issue-based coalitions, which are an important part of the regional refocusing initiative of the United Nations, and will be expected to coordinate the United Nations response to cross-cutting challenges, such as climate change. Through these coalitions, the secretariat is raising awareness about its various workstreams among United Nations agencies in the regions while also keeping abreast of the latest developments.

MOVING THE NEEDLE ON GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

© PHOTO BY MAREK PIWNICKI/UNSPLASH



The secretariat catalyses climate action on a global scale across a range of initiatives and areas. In 2020, the secretariat achieved a step change in innovation towards more concrete,

more visible and more effective ways to engage non-Party stakeholders, including observer organizations, in the UNFCCC process.



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RECORDING VOLUNTARY CLIMATE ACTION

Over 18,000 companies, cities, regions, investors and organizations are engaged in climate action, either through individual commitments or through participation in one of the 149 cooperative initiatives registered in the [global climate action portal](#). By the end of 2020, more than 27,000 climate actions were registered in the portal. Answering the request made at COP 25 for better tracking of these actions, the secretariat,

in partnership with the [data and analysis community](#), developed a set of progress metrics that could be incorporated into the portal and used to analyse and report on voluntary climate action. The work conducted in 2020 has facilitated progress tracking and enhanced the transparency of non-Party stakeholder action, thus providing the foundation for improving the global climate action portal in 2021.



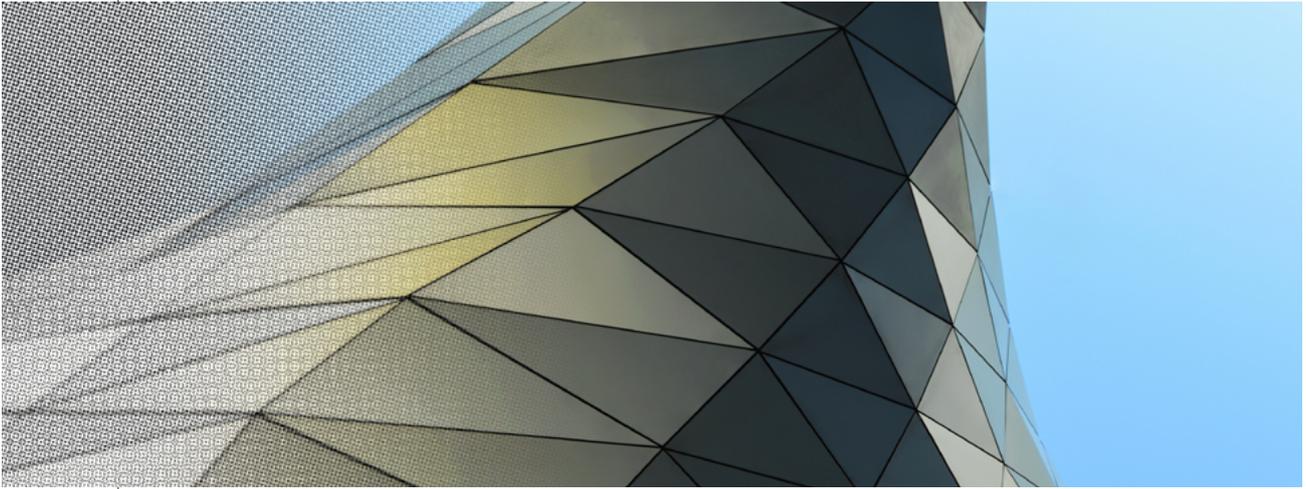
A CALL TO MAXIMIZE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNFCCC PROCESS

The high-level champions for climate action – Gonzalo Muñoz from Chile and Nigel Topping from the United Kingdom – continued to reach out to and consult with Parties and non-Party stakeholders on ways to improve collaboration under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and immediately lower emissions and increase resilience against climate impacts. A summary of their consultations and a summary of key priorities and principles for the future of the Marrakech Partnership were published to pave the way for continued work on engaging non-Party stakeholders in climate action in 2021 and beyond.

The champions also launched *Race to Zero*, a campaign to mobilize non-government actors to join the Climate Ambition Alliance. The campaign advocates for a carbon-free recovery from the pandemic and is backed by 454 cities, 23 regions, 1,397 businesses, 74 of the biggest financial investors and 569 universities, all united in the aim of meeting the Paris Agreement goals while preventing future threats and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

Other key initiatives in 2020 involving the collaboration of the champions and the Marrakech Partnership included:

- The 10-day virtual *Race to Zero Dialogues* to reflect on progress in mitigation and adaptation and to chart how entire sectors are already rapidly transitioning to a net zero emissions future
- The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2020*, which features an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 with a view to influencing recovery plans and reflecting on societal changes and how they affect climate action and progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement
- A revision of the *Climate Action Pathways*, thanks to the feedback received from the scientific community. The *Climate Action Pathways* outline sectoral visions of a 1.5 °C, climate-resilient world in 2050 and concrete sets of actions needed to achieve that future



© PHOTO BY LUCAS GALLONE/UNSPLASH

CLIMATE NEUTRAL NOW

The Climate Neutral Now initiative engaged more than 400 organizations, governments and citizens in 2020, encouraging them to accelerate the transition to global climate neutrality by addressing their climate footprint. For example, the secretariat initiated new collaborations with companies from the events sector to support efforts to make the industry sustainable and low emission.

In 2020, through the initiative, expertise was provided for developing new climate neutrality related standards under the International Organization for Standardization (such as ISO 14068) and support was offered to the high-level champions' Race to Zero campaign and initiatives on carbon neutrality and net zero commitments of The Climate Registry and Oxford University.

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION AWARDS

In 2020, 13 projects for climate solutions received Global Climate Action Awards for their innovative, scalable and practical climate actions. Winners of the Global Climate Action Awards included projects that are bringing people together to take action against climate change from rural villages in developing countries to large companies in developed countries. They featured the Caribbean's only carbon-neutral

hotel, the world's first platform fully dedicated to green bonds and the first all-women solar energy construction team in Lebanon.

Winners were celebrated through the first-ever online award ceremony, a series of special online events at the Climate Change Dialogues and a social media campaign to draw attention to the groundswell of climate action under way around the world.

2020 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards Winners

Climate Neutral Now

- Interface | Global
A pioneering flooring manufacturer that is transforming its business to have zero negative impact on the planet
- Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort | Aruba
The Caribbean's first – and only – hotel to achieve carbon neutral certification is now working towards becoming carbon negative
- Signify | Global
A multinational lighting company that has reduced its carbon footprint by more than 70 per cent and achieved carbon neutrality across its global operations
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport | United States of America
The first carbon-neutral airport in North America, now implementing a renewable natural gas initiative

Financing for climate-friendly investment

- Payments for Environmental Services Program | Costa Rica
A financial mechanism that promotes forest ecosystem conservation, the first of its type in the country and the region
- The Luxembourg Green Exchange | Luxembourg
The world's first platform fully dedicated to green bonds has expanded to include social and sustainability bonds, and responsible investment funds
- Global Himalayan Expedition | India
One of the world's first organizations to use tourism to finance solar energy for remote communities
- C40 Cities Finance Facility | Global
A facility that enables cities in developing countries and countries with emerging economies to develop finance-ready projects that address climate change

Women for results

- Elemental Excelerator | Global
The first organization to apply a technology accelerator model to address climate change and invest in start-ups to decarbonize economies
- Nature-Based Solutions to Increase Urban Adaptability | Thailand
A landscape architect builds innovative landscape solutions, making Bangkok more resilient to climate change
- Health in Harmony | Indonesia, Madagascar, Brazil
An organization that reverses deforestation by meeting the health and economic needs of local communities through women-led innovation
- Bioplanet Programme | Brazil
A project of the Brazilian company Biotechnos that reuses residual kitchen fats to produce biodiesel
- RISE2030 | Lebanon
An initiative that launched the first community-led, all-women solar energy team in Lebanon to challenge gender stereotypes in the male-dominated construction sector



© PHOTO BY PERSNICKETY PRINTS/JUNSPLOSH

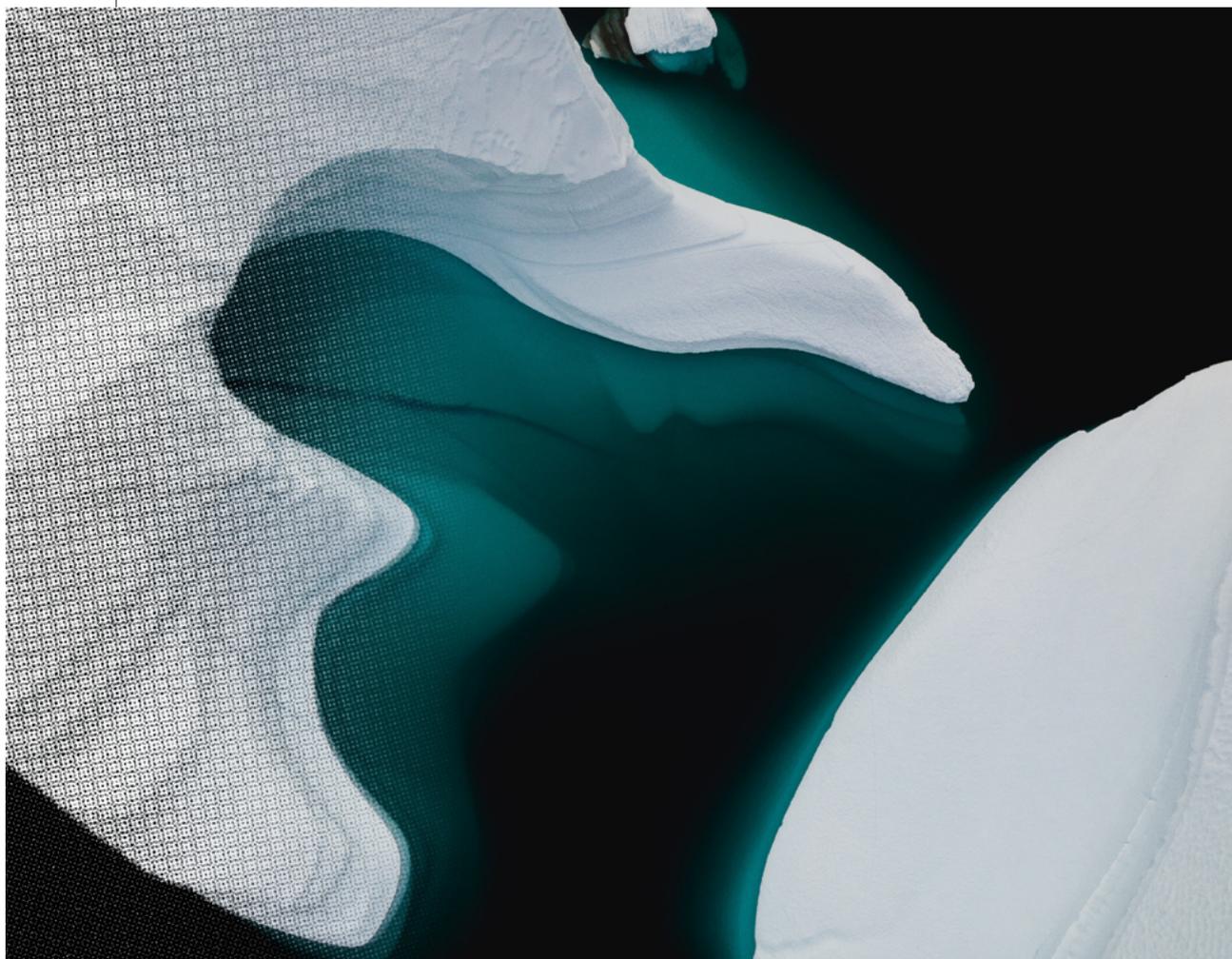
ENGAGING OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2,500 observer organizations accredited by the UNFCCC continued to actively engage in the UNFCCC process throughout the year. They made more than 100 submissions on various agenda items and were invited to 16 meetings of constituted bodies and work programmes. Throughout the year, the secretariat communicated periodically with constituencies' focal points and observers when planning events in order to mitigate the challenges related to online settings.

Furthermore, the incoming COP 26 Presidency hosted the first virtual

open dialogue between observers and Parties, with over 100 participants, on the topic of facilitating ambition within a green recovery, while non-governmental organizations organized 20 special events during the Climate Dialogues for all meeting participants.

The postponement of COP 26 resulted in an extended window for observer applications, which led to a record number of almost 800 new accreditation requests, exceeding the average volume of accreditation requests by almost 300 per cent.



A NEW COMMUNICATION CHANNEL WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Building on the discussions held with some non-governmental organization constituencies at COP 25 and aiming to collaboratively find ways to enhance the engagement of all observer organizations in the UNFCCC process, the Executive Secretary launched an open channel for communication with non-governmental organization constituencies in 2020, in partnership with the COP 25 Presidency, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the incoming COP 26 Presidency. In this

regard, the secretariat organized three workshops and a series of bilateral meetings between constituency focal points and the COP 25 President, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the Executive Secretary to exchange views on a wide range of topics, including observer support for enhancing NDCs, observer engagement with the work of the subsidiary bodies, and enhancing the coordination of safety operations at UNFCCC sessions.



© PHOTO BY ABIGAIL KEENAN/UNSPLASH

ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

Action for Climate Empowerment refers to work on climate education, training, public awareness, access to information and participation, and international cooperation, with children and youth as a cross-cutting focus. This work has taken place under the Doha work programme, which ended in 2020. To prepare for the review of the Doha work programme, the secretariat collected inputs from Parties and other stakeholders, produced two reports and convened the 8th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment. These activities also aimed to identify ways to enhance implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment and enable everyone to contribute to the urgent and needed transition to just,

low-emission and climate-resilient economies.

Nearly 900 participants joined the two virtual global events and more than 500 participants attended the four regional dialogues, with the number and diversity of participants far exceeding those of the previous annual dialogues under the work programme. Thanks to UNFCCC partners at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, national ministries of education also took part in the 8th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment – an important step towards fostering greater collaboration between the education and the environment sectors.

CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

BETTER INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

As natural areas are under increasing pressure globally, those managed by indigenous peoples and local communities are declining less rapidly than others. These groups, however, have yet to gain full and effective participation in the

international climate policy process that affects their lives. Through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and its ambitious workplan, their voices are being raised, and heard.

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform...

...was established in 2015 as an open and inclusive space to share experiences and best practices on mitigation and adaptation. The Platform brings together people and their knowledge systems to build a climate-resilient world for all, where the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected, promoted and considered.

The secretariat worked closely in 2020 with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and its Facilitative Working Group to implement the Platform's workplan 2020–2021, develop a dedicated web portal, and address the challenges of working remotely with members across different time zones and with varying levels of access to

technology. The Platform hosted several virtual events, including at the June Momentum for Climate Change and the Climate Dialogues 2020, where indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders shared local and indigenous knowledge and practices.

Despite the challenges of convening participants all over the world, in 2020 there was an increase in the number of people joining Platform meetings, and better engagement and coordination between the Platform and UNFCCC constituted bodies and processes as well as external partners, such as climate finance institutions, United Nations organizations, indigenous peoples organizations and non-governmental organizations.



© PHOTO BY SHENA CECIL/UNSPLASH

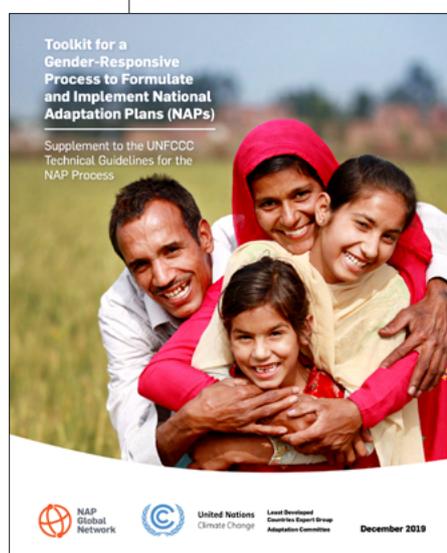
GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Increasingly, the nexus between gender and climate change is being recognized as key to ensuring and safeguarding women's and girls' rights and to ensure fair and effective climate action. COVID-19 highlighted the many ways in which crises, including the climate crisis, affect people differently and that a transformation of our value systems, societies and economies is needed to ensure a fair and healthy future for all.

Following up on its efforts to mainstream gender considerations

in all aspects of its work, the secretariat reached out to Parties throughout 2020 to disseminate the *Toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*, a joint publication of the NAP Global Network, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee.

The five-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan commenced in 2020, with the secretariat organizing a dynamic virtual event series consisting of five regional workshops, five skills workshops and two global events, in collaboration with United Nations entities and other organizations actively working on gender and climate change. Many events focused on integrating gender into national climate actions, while others helped strengthen the skills of national gender and climate change focal points. Participants provided useful tools and insights to enable Parties and other stakeholders to raise ambition by applying a climate and gender lens to post-pandemic recovery packages.





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DISABILITY INCLUSION

In 2020 the secretariat participated in the first stocktaking exercise on disability inclusion across the United Nations system in the areas of management, inclusiveness, programming and organizational culture. As a result, the secretariat identified key action areas to improve disability inclusion in the UNFCCC, including finalizing a comprehensive internal strategy

on gender, diversity and inclusion; outreach to and dialogue with individuals and organizations of persons with disabilities; planning for enhanced accessibility at the secretariat premises, the COP, other UNFCCC events and virtual meetings; identifying and contributing to capacity-building materials; and considering substantive linkages between disability and climate change.

C H A P T E R 4

LOOKING AHEAD

© PHOTO BY ANNIE SPRATT/UNSPLASH

Raising ambition to address climate change by urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change based on the best available science and ensuring climate financing are critical areas of focus going forward. The Race to Resilience – a sibling campaign of Race to Zero – will kick off in 2021 to catalyse businesses, investors, cities and civil society to invest in a resilient world where people and nature can thrive. Starting in 2021, the Global Climate Action Awards will focus on transformational projects that are moving us closer to tackling climate change.

BROADER, DEEPER ENGAGEMENT

Across the secretariat, technical teams will continue to engage with broader audiences to better communicate progress and share solutions. Technical teams will also step up their outreach to Parties to support the development and implementation of national climate goals, share solutions for a successful transition to a post-2030 world, and respond to their technological, technical, capacity-building needs.

The secretariat will identify and pursue new opportunities to partner with United Nations entities, academia, research organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses and civil society to expand collaboration on common themes and channel financing for climate action. It will also work closely with those whose voices are often muffled in global conversations, but for whom climate change has distinct and serious impacts: indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and people with disabilities.

CLIMATE FINANCE

Financing for adaptation, resilience-building and capacity-building, and

for continuous upgrading of the tools developing countries use to collect and manage data, generate emissions estimates and report their greenhouse gas inventories, is fundamental. More resources will also be needed to support the secretariat's outreach, coordination and support to Parties.

TRANSPARENCY

Transitioning to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement is a major undertaking. For the first time, technical expert reviews will be conducted for all Parties, building on the current review and technical analysis processes. The secretariat has been engaging with Parties and experts on ways to ensure the new system will be efficient and practical, and how to best meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The secretariat has been identifying options to transition the existing systems, tools and applications under the current measurement, reporting and verification system to fit the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework. However, it will only be able to finalize this work when the outstanding guidance on common reporting tables and formats, report template outlines and the training programmes for experts participating in the technical expert review teams is agreed by CMA 3. Initial estimates show that approximately 1,500 qualified and available experts will be required on a biennial basis, meaning that a significantly larger number than usual of qualified experts must be nominated and approved to become part of a technical expert review team. The secretariat will strengthen the dialogue with Parties to explore ways to ensure a sufficient number of experts are nominated in order to successfully undertake the technical expert reviews under the Paris Agreement.

GROUNDING IN SCIENCE

Sound climate science will continue to inform global and national policy. The sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, expected in 2021–2022, will provide input relevant to the UNFCCC process on the latest assessed scientific knowledge on pathways compatible with a climate-neutral and resilient world. The report will provide important input into the global stocktake, focusing on how to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as on the ongoing work on the second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention.

PAVING THE WAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW

Our vision for 2021 is a successful Glasgow Conference, based on

collaboration, in the true spirit of multilateralism. This means that pledges Parties made before 2020 must be honoured, particularly the pledge by developed countries to mobilize USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing countries. This also means that we must wrap up outstanding items and negotiations and fully implement the Paris Agreement, including Article 6 on market mechanisms. And this means that we urgently need to close the emissions gap and raise ambition on adaptation and resilience. Delivering on these commitments will not only help us address climate change, but it will also allow us to build a resilient and sustainable world in the wake of COVID-19.

As we move closer to 2030, we cannot afford to slow down. Global efforts to address climate change must accelerate and increase in scope if we are to avoid the worst impacts of the inevitable, dramatic changes ahead.

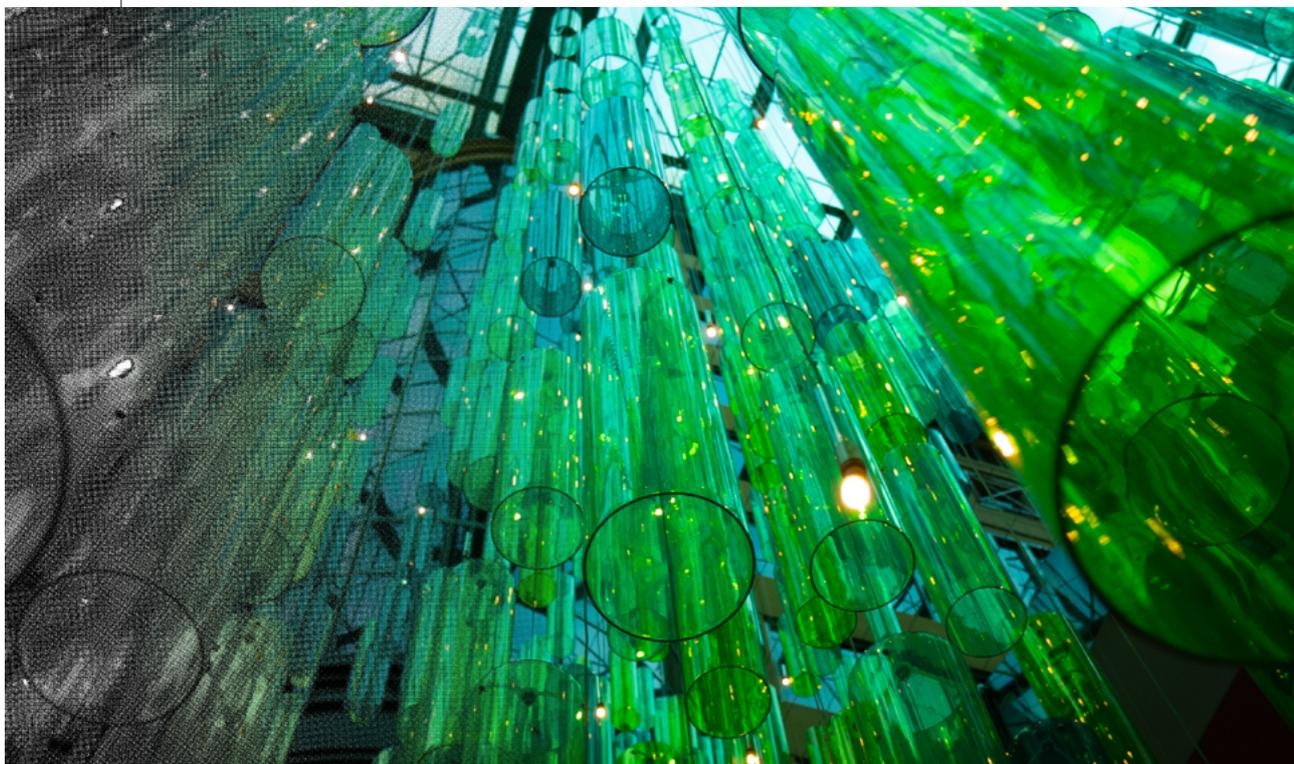
C H A P T E R 5

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

© PHOTO BY TOMOKO UJI/UNSPLASH

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

© PHOTO BY PAT WHELEN/UNSPLASH



The UNFCCC is financed by payments from Parties to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement; fees received for services

provided by the organization; and voluntary contributions from Parties and other entities.

TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE OF FUNDING

(I N U S D M I L L I O N S)

36 Trust Fund for the Core Budget
of the Convention

2¹ **17** Trust Fund for
Supplementary Activities

2² **17** Trust Fund for the Clean
Development Mechanism

3⁴

1³

¹ Trust Fund for the Special Annual Contribution from the Government
of Germany (Bonn Fund)

² Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process

³ Trust Fund for the International Transaction Log

⁴ Special account for conferences and other recoverable costs

78 TOTAL

*Note: The amounts reflected in this report
are drawn from the draft 31 December 2020
financial statements and reflect only income and
expenditure for the year.*

2 0 2 0 F I N A N C I A L P E R F O R M A N C E

EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY

(I N U S D M I L L I O N S)

56 Staff**11** Contractual
services**1**¹**1**²**4** Operating
and other
expenses¹ Travel² Depreciation and amortization

73 TOTAL

Note: The amounts reflected in this report are drawn from the draft 31 December 2020 financial statements and reflect only income and expenditure for the year.

EXPENDITURE BY SOURCE OF FUNDING

(I N U S D M I L L I O N S)

27 Core budget

2¹

20 Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities

1²

18 Trust Fund for the Clean
Development Mechanism

6³

Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process: 0

¹ Trust Fund for the Special Annual Contribution from the Government of Germany (Bonn Fund):

² Trust Fund for the International Transaction Log

³ The special account for conferences and other recoverable costs

74 TOTAL

Note: The amounts reflected in this report are drawn from the draft 31 December 2020 financial statements and reflect only income and expenditure for the year.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a general delay in the receipt of contributions for core and supplementary funds in 2020.

The secretariat initiated a collection campaign that resulted in an increase in the total amount of outstanding core contributions received in 2020 to EUR 9.1 million as compared with EUR 1.7 million received in 2019.

For supplementary funding, several Parties including Austria, Belgium,

Canada and New Zealand increased their voluntary contributions in 2020 as compared with 2019. Moreover, the share of non-Party contributions to the total supplementary funding received in 2020 increased to 25 per cent as compared with 19 per cent in 2019.

The donor base expanded in 2020 to include 10 non-Party organizations that did not contribute in 2019. The secretariat also explored new sources of funding from foundations and from individuals through the implementation of an online donation platform.

Party contributors to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities

(in alphabetical order)

Australia

Austria

Belgium

Canada

European Union

Finland

France

Germany

Ireland

Japan

Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

Republic of Korea

Saudi Arabia

Sweden

Switzerland

Other contributors to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities

(in alphabetical order)

BNP Paribas

EIT Climate-KIC

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

European Investment Bank

Facebook

FMO Netherlands Development Finance Company

German Agency for International Cooperation

Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization

Iberdrola

IKEA Services B.V.

Korean Environment Institute

Microsoft Corporation

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

World Bank

Abbreviations and acronyms

Annex I Parties	<i>Annex I Parties are those listed in Annex I to the Convention. Annex I includes the industrialized countries that were members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1992, plus countries with economies in transition, including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States</i>
CMA	<i>Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement</i>
CMP	<i>Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol</i>
COP	<i>Conference of the Parties</i>
COVID-19	<i>coronavirus disease 2019</i>
NDC	<i>NDC</i>
non-Annex I Parties	<i>non-Annex I Parties are all Parties that are not listed in Annex I to the Convention</i>
REDD+	<i>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)</i>
Warsaw International Mechanism	<i>Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts</i>

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