

BONN DIARIES



REPORT ON **2026** JUNE CLIMATE MEETINGS (SB 64)



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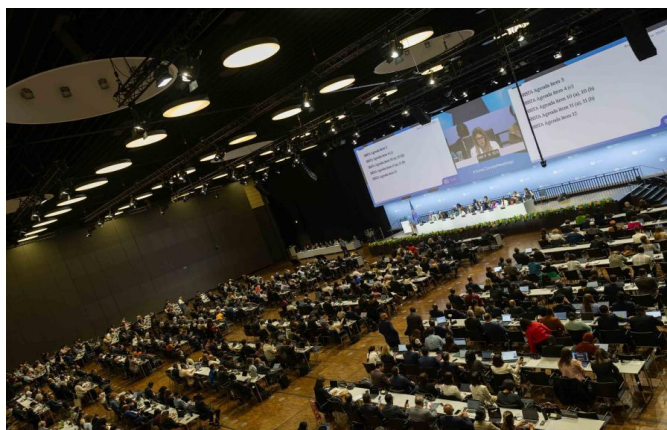
PEOPLE &
INCLUSION

Report on the 2026 June Climate Meetings (SB 64)

Executive Summary

The 2026 June Climate Meetings (SB 64) convened from 8-18 June 2026 in Bonn, Germany, against a challenging geopolitical backdrop marked by the Strait of Hormuz blockade and warnings of a particularly strong El Niño effect. While the Subsidiary Bodies managed to swiftly adopt their agendas on the first day, the positive momentum did not persist. Negotiations on critical issues including the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), the transition of the Adaptation Fund, just transition, and research and systematic observation were particularly fraught. On many agenda items, divergences were so significant that Parties could not even agree to forward documents capturing progress made in Bonn to serve as a basis for continued engagement at the next session in Antalya, Türkiye. The meeting registered 9,206 participants, including 4,198 party delegates, 2,960 observers, and 134 media representatives.

A notable achievement was Parties' agreement to select the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue serving as the host of the Climate Technology Centre (CTC), ensuring continued technological support to developing countries in 2027. Parties also agreed on terms of reference for the review of the Just Transition Work Programme, outlined future steps for considering linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, and concluded several review processes related to capacity-building. However, the inability to reach consensus on multiple critical agenda items, coupled with procedural disputes and what many described as obstructive negotiation tactics, left the meeting with limited substantive outcomes and a palpable sense of disappointment among delegations.



Procedural Matters

Unlike previous years, the Subsidiary Bodies managed to swiftly adopt their agendas and launch substantive negotiations on the very first day of the June meetings. However, this positive early momentum did not persist throughout the remainder of the meetings. The procedural efficiency at the outset gave way to increasingly contentious negotiations as Parties grappled with deeply entrenched positions on multiple agenda items.

The meeting's procedural dynamics were characterized by frequent disputes over mandates, rules of procedure, and the appropriate basis for continuing negotiations. Parties repeatedly invoked points of order, challenged the authority of Co-Facilitators, and debated whether specific documents could serve as the foundation for future discussions. The Secretariat's legal officers were in high demand across multiple contact groups and informal consultations,

as delegations sought clarification on procedural matters and the interpretation of previous decisions.



These procedural debates often became proxies for substantive disagreements, with Parties using procedural arguments to delay or block progress on issues where they lacked consensus on content. The SBI Chair and SBSTA Vice-Chair were frequently called upon to provide guidance on procedural questions, and in some instances, Heads of Delegation meetings were convened in an attempt to resolve outstanding procedural and substantive disagreements. Despite these efforts, multiple agenda items could not be concluded, with the SBs agreeing only to continue consideration at the next session, often without any formal documentation of the progress achieved in Bonn.

Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

The Mitigation Work Programme, established at COP 26 to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade, was one of the most contentious agenda items at SB 64. The mandate at this session was to continue discussions on the MWP's operation and to consider how it can contribute to accelerating ambition and action.

Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Julia Gardiner (Australia) and Matti Nummelin (Finland), building on work from SB 63. The discussions were complicated by the existence of three different documents: a Co-Facilitators' "reflections paper," a draft SB conclusions text, and an informal note summarizing discussions at SB 63. Divergent views emerged immediately regarding which documents should serve as the basis for continued discussions.



The G-77/China, supported by the African Group and the Like-Minded Group of Developing Countries (LMDCs), argued that only the informal note from SB 63 should be forwarded, contending that the reflections paper did not adequately capture the full range of views expressed by all Parties and contained elements outside the MWP's mandate. They

emphasized that the MWP's mandate is to enhance ambition and implementation "in this critical decade" and that any future work must remain within this scope. Conversely, developed countries and some developing country groups, including the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the European Union, the Republic of Korea, Canada, New Zealand, and Norway, supported retaining all three documents and expressed willingness to engage with them.



As Parties were unable to reach agreement on which documents to forward to CMA 8, the SB Chairs convened a Heads of Delegation meeting on the evening of 18 June to try to resolve outstanding issues. Ultimately, however, Parties were unable to reach consensus. During the closing plenary, numerous delegations expressed disappointment at the inability to conclude consideration of this agenda item. AILAC underscored

that while the MWP's mandate covers both ambition and implementation, decisions have often focused on procedural matters rather than on how the MWP can contribute to accelerating ambition and action. AOSIS highlighted the MWP as the only space with a mandate to discuss mitigation ambition and implementation in a manner that complements the GST, and urged continuation of the programme. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) expressed deep concern at the inability to capture progress and called for COP 31 to achieve a strengthened MWP that can deliver tangible results and increased ambition. Brazil noted that a positive outcome under the MWP is possible and crucial, stressing that the MWP is the only space dedicated to mitigation in the UNFCCC process. The African Group emphasized the criticality of mitigation ambition and called on developed countries to take the lead by facilitating the implementation of NDCs. The LMDCs highlighted some common ground among Parties, including the desire to increase ambition and accelerate implementation with matching support and enablers, as well as an unwillingness to reopen CMA 7 decisions.

Outcome: The SBs could not conclude consideration of this matter and agreed to continue consideration at SB 65.

Arrangements for Funding Infrastructure, Processes, and Capacity-Building for Implementing Paris Agreement Article 6.2

Article 6.2 provides a framework for Parties wishing to pursue voluntary bilateral cooperation in the implementation of their NDCs, specifically for the trade of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. At SB 64, this issue was considered in SBI informal consultations co-facilitated by Peer Stiansen (Norway) and Pacifica Achieng Ogola (Kenya).



Discussions focused on the sufficiency and stability of funding for the operation and maintenance of the Article 6.2 infrastructure, technical expert review, and capacity-building,

as requested by CMA 7. Parties considered the Secretariat's updated technical paper on funding options, which set out four options: core funding in future biennium programme budgets; supplementary funding; usage-based fees; and user fees levied on participating Parties. The Secretariat reported that approved expenditures for Article 6.2-related activities amount to approximately USD 10.7 million, with USD 2.1 million currently available, leaving a shortfall of USD 8-9 million within the biennium 2026-2027. They noted that 48 cooperative approaches have been submitted to the Centralized Accounting and Reporting Platform and 67 Parties have expressed interest in engaging with the international registry.



Views diverged significantly on the appropriate funding mechanism. The African Group supported funding through the UNFCCC core budget and suggested using supplementary funding through voluntary contributions to cover the current shortfall. AOSIS opposed funding through the core budget and supported a combination of supplementary funding, user fees, and usage-based fees, with exemptions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Arab Group supported voluntary contributions only. The European Union expressed preference for Article 6.2 to ultimately become self-financing through fees. The Coalition for Rainforest Nations supported a combination of supplementary funding and usage-based fees. The Philippines suggested exploring the creation of a trust fund or a dedicated window for Article 6.2 within existing UNFCCC trust funds.

Strong opposition emerged to the option of charging usage-based or user fees. The Arab Group and AILAC opposed additional burdens on participating Parties. AILAC, the LDCs, and the African Group recalled that the international registry was developed to support the participation of Parties without access to a registry and underscored that charging a user fee defeats this purpose. AOSIS highlighted that finance for capacity-building and technology would be expected to flow to, not from, developing countries. The LDCs stated that usage-based or user fees are not suitable for capacity-building activities fundamental to participation in cooperative approaches.

Outcome: In its conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2026/L.2), the SBI requested its Chair to prepare an informal document including textual proposals, informed by Parties' views at SB 64, for consideration at SBI 65 with a view to recommending a draft decision to CMA 8. The SBI took note of the significant funding gap identified, expressed concern regarding the implementation of Article 6.2 infrastructure and processes, and urged the Secretariat to strengthen its funding efforts. The Secretariat was requested to include detailed information on funding assumptions in its annual report to the CMA.

Paris Agreement Article 6.8 (Non-Market Approaches)

Article 6.8 defines a framework for non-market approaches (NMAs) aimed at assisting Parties in the implementation of their NDCs and promoting mitigation and adaptation ambition in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches (GCNMA) held its ninth meeting in conjunction with SBSTA 64, co-chaired by Charles Hamilton (The Bahamas) and Angela Friedrich (Austria). The SBSTA welcomed the constructive use of a spin-off group with six group discussions at GCNMA 9 and requested

the Secretariat to make use of different modalities, including quizzes, in its Article 6.8 capacity-building webinars.

The SBSTA also initiated the review of the work programme under the NMA framework, as requested by CMA 3 and CMA 7. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Charles Hamilton and Angela Friedrich. Outcome: The SBSTA took note of the Co-Facilitators' informal note capturing Parties' views and requested the SBSTA Chair to prepare an informal document for consideration at SBSTA 65.



Emissions from Aviation and Maritime Transport

This agenda item was considered in SBSTA informal consultations co-facilitated by Jakob Wiesbauer-Lenz (Austria) and Sonam Tashi (Bhutan). The International Civil Aviation Organization and International Maritime Organization discussed their ongoing efforts in reducing emissions. Outcome: The SBSTA agreed to continue consideration of this matter at SBSTA 65.

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

The Global Goal on Adaptation, established under Paris Agreement Article 7, aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. At CMA 5, Parties established the GGA Framework with thematic and dimensional targets, and at CMA 7, they adopted 59 indicators. At SB 64, informal consultations were co-facilitated by Peter Gerard Wittecock (Belgium) and Ricardo Delano Marshall (Barbados), picking up discussions on the basis of work undertaken at CMA 7.

The discussions reflected on four key areas: the establishment of a two-year policy alignment process on integrating GGA targets and indicators into reporting; technical work on improving metadata and methodologies for the indicators, including establishing a technical taskforce; the first phase of the "Baku Adaptation Roadmap" (BAR), focusing on organizing two workshops per year and preparing a technical paper; and the development of terms of reference for the review of the GGA Framework, including the indicators.



Regarding the GGA indicators, AOSIS and the African Group called for the workstreams on policy alignment and on metadata and methodologies to support one another, while the LMDCs opposed this, emphasizing the need for a two-track approach. Parties maintained diverging views on the composition of the taskforce. Grupo Sur, AILAC, LMDCs, the African Group, and the Arab Group emphasized that the taskforce should be party-driven, while

the EU, Norway, and Japan preferred it to be expert-driven. Proposals related to the number of taskforce members, balance between developed and developing countries, regional representation, the participation of constituted bodies and UN regional commissions, and the

process for selecting experts. Indigenous Peoples Organizations called for an Indigenous Peoples' representative on the taskforce to support the inclusion of lived experiences, knowledge systems, and governance practices.

With regard to the BAR, Parties reflected on possible workshop topics and expected outputs, with developing countries supporting a focus on implementation challenges and means of implementation. The Arab Group supported considering adaptation according to different temperature scenarios. With limited time for engagement, many Parties favored taking up the development of the review terms of reference at SB 65.



Proposals for draft text outlining future work on the GGA sparked strong disagreement. The African Group, AOSIS, LDCs, Grupo Sur, AILAC, LMDCs, and the Arab Group supported references to work being implemented in accordance with the principles of the Convention and Paris Agreement. They also urged ensuring access to predictable, accessible finance to support adaptation implementation and supported explicit reference to a tripling of adaptation finance, noting that without significant scaling up, the GGA will remain beyond reach. The EU, UK, Canada, and Japan opposed these proposals, noting that adaptation finance is already addressed under other agenda items.

On 16 June, the Co-Facilitators introduced a revised draft text and suggested Parties take it up in informal-informals. The G-77/China expressed disappointment and urged removing brackets around paragraphs on the GGA being implemented in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and Paris Agreement, and on urging full and urgent delivery of the call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035. The EU, supported by Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, and the UK, expressed concern and called for no-text options for paragraphs referencing tripling of adaptation finance.



Given persistently diverging views, some Parties suggested focusing discussions only on paragraphs pertaining to the technical taskforce, while others preferred to work on the entire text. On 17 June, Parties were presented a further revised draft text that introduced verbatim references to previous decisions as alternative options for contentious paragraphs on finance. On 18 June, Parties engaged in informal-informals throughout the day, but in the evening, the SB Chairs, noting

that bridging proposals had not been successful, issued a revised draft text under their authority. India, Japan, the EU, and the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) expressed disappointment with the text and how it was developed but stated that, in the interest of progressing work, they could support forwarding the text for further consideration. Grupo Sur

and the African Group requested the matter be taken up by Heads of Delegation, who met in the evening but were also unable to reach agreement.

During the closing plenary, numerous delegations expressed profound disappointment. AILAC lamented the lack of progress and argued that delaying progress on adaptation "sends the wrong political signal." AOSIS declared the outcome "completely unacceptable" and stated that their trust in the process had "diminished." Pacific SIDS and LDCs voiced regret that the GGA had stalled at a time when outcomes and guidance are urgently needed.



The African Group and EU expressed concern over the manner in which negotiations were conducted, with the African Group emphasizing the need for a transparent, inclusive, and party-driven process. The Arab Group highlighted that not having an outcome "causes real delays in the real world" and called for reflection on moving forward. Mexico expressed concern about the lack of consensus, stressing that Parties had failed vulnerable communities and ecosystems. The LMDCs highlighted the consensus among all groups that addressing adaptation is a "profound task," and that supporting adaptation today will enable Parties to have the capacity to advance mitigation tomorrow.

Outcome: During the closing plenary, the SBI Chair and SBSTA Vice-Chair noted that Parties were unable to come to an agreement. In line with Rules 10(c) and 16 of the draft rules of procedure, this item will be included on the SB 65 agenda.

Guidance Relating to Adaptation Communications



Discussions under this agenda item focused on Parties' experience with the application of guidance on adaptation communications adopted at CMA 1, and the CMA's decision to take stock of and potentially revise the guidance. At SB 64, Co-Facilitators Marie Wien Fjell (Norway) and Thomas Lelekotien (Kenya) convened informal consultations. Parties continued to diverge on the timing of activities aimed at informing the stocktaking and potential revision.

Grupo Sur, the LDCs, and AOSIS supported a timeline that includes Parties' submissions and a synthesis report for consideration at SB 66 (June 2027), and draft conclusions by SB 68 (June 2028) for CMA 10 (November 2028). AILAC noted that such a timeline would allow Parties to include experiences in using new adaptation indicators and coincide with the update of the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the ETF and GST 2. The EU, UK, and Japan argued that consideration of revising the guidance should only take place after the review of the MPGs. The Arab Group preferred a longer timeline, proposing the synthesis report for SBI 70 (June 2029) and draft conclusions for CMA 11 (November 2029). The LMDCs and African Group emphasized that adaptation communications should not be explicitly tied to the MPG

review process. Outcome: The SBI agreed to continue consideration at SBI 65 on the basis of the informal note from SBI 64.

Least Developed Countries

The LDC Expert Group (LEG), established in 2001 to support developing countries in formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), had its mandate extended multiple times. At SB 64, the mandate was to initiate the stocktake of the LEG and its terms of reference and recommend draft COP and CMA decisions. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Ephraim Shitima (Zambia) and Rik den Hoedt (the Netherlands).

Parties discussed the LEG's work programme for 2026-2027, the NAP Expo 2026, and the updated NAP technical guidelines developed by the LEG in 2025. The Arab Group opposed reference to the updated guidelines, stating that the LEG did not take into consideration all inputs provided by Parties. Noting that matters related to LDCs is a COP item, the Arab Group and LMDCs expressed concern about consideration of draft CMA decision text and requested legal clarity. The Secretariat clarified that the COP had invited the CMA to conduct a stocktake of the LEG's progress and that the SBI has a clear mandate to develop a draft CMA decision.



The LDCs highlighted constraints in implementing NAPs and called for developing adaptation investment pipelines and enhancing access to existing finance mechanisms. The Arab Group called for adding references to developed countries' financial obligations under Paris Agreement Article 9.1 and the impacts of unilateral trade measures on LDCs, which the EU and UK could not accept.

Outcome: The SBI adopted conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2026/L.5) welcoming the LEG's work programme for 2026-2027, expressing concern about unfunded adaptation proposals, and agreeing to continue consideration of the stocktake at SBI 65 with a view to recommending draft decisions for COP 31 and CMA 8.

Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation



The NWP, established in 2005, assists all Parties in improving understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Lina Yassin (Sudan) and Luke Millar (Australia). Parties diverged on whether to "welcome" or "note" progress and on references to private sector engagement, university partnerships, and the GGA Framework's thematic targets guiding new priority thematic areas.

Outcome: The SBSTA (SBSTA/2026/L.4) welcomed progress, noted the Secretariat's efforts, requested consideration of new priority thematic areas guided by Parties and their needs, noted adaptation challenges in mountain regions, requested the Secretariat to strengthen engagement with universities particularly in developing countries, and recalled the urging of support for NWP implementation.

Workshop under the Baku Adaptation Roadmap

On 9 June, a mandated workshop assessed how the UNFCCC's "adaptation architecture" supports implementation of the GGA and means of implementation for adaptation, including barriers and priority actions.

Second Review of the Standing Committee on Finance

The SCF, established in 2010, provides recommendations related to the Financial Mechanism, coherence among operating entities, expert input into reviews, and biennial overviews of climate finance flows. COP 27 adopted terms of reference for the second review, but Parties have been unable to agree on a way forward due to disagreement over the CMA's role. SBI 63 deferred consideration to SBI 64, which in turn deferred consideration to SBI 65.



Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund, established in 2001 to finance adaptation projects in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, has been serving the Paris Agreement since 2016 and is expected to "exclusively serve" the Paris Agreement once share of proceeds under Article 6.4 becomes available. At SB 64, SBI informal consultations were co-facilitated by Isatou Camara (The Gambia) and Koosje Beumer-van der Loo (the Netherlands).

Parties agreed to conduct the fifth review of the Fund after the transition has taken place. The key point of contention was whether progress on the Fund's transition to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement, including arrangements to monetize the share of proceeds from Article 6.4 activities, should be linked to agreement on the composition of the Adaptation Fund Board.



The G-77/China emphasized that transition arrangements, Board membership, and the fifth review should be treated separately, calling for separate decision texts and urging consideration of the transition first to ensure swift monetization. Switzerland, the EU, UK, Canada, and Norway called for addressing Board membership as part of the transition arrangements.

The Arab Group invoked Rule 34 (point of order) to call for a ruling on whether there is consensus on the transition arrangements text. The UK and Norway noted that while there are no amendments proposed to the transition arrangements text, there is no consensus on forwarding it without text on membership. The legal counsel clarified that draft rules of

procedure are applied in plenary settings, texts are forwarded if there is consensus, and when in doubt, elected officers should be consulted.

On 18 June, Co-Facilitators reported no agreement in a Heads of Delegation consultation and proposed procedural conclusions continuing consideration at SBI 65. Parties engaged in lengthy debates, eventually reaching agreement on conclusions after many rounds of amendments.

Outcome: In its conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2026/L.10), the SBI stated that it continued consideration of three separate mandates: transition arrangements, the Fund's fifth review, and Board membership. It noted progress on transition arrangements and initiation of the fifth review, agreed to continue consideration at SBI 65 on the basis of work and draft texts from SBI 64, and noted that these conclusions do not prejudice final outcomes at SBI 65.

Dialogue on Finance Flow Alignment and Climate Finance Work Programme

Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement establishes the overarching goal of making finance flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. A mandated event on this item took place on 9 and 10 June. Additionally, a Climate Finance Work Programme engagement workshop on 8 June invited views on scope and modalities. The G-77/China rejected the work plan prepared by the Co-Chairs, opposing its



use as the basis for discussions, and underlined that enhanced financial support through Paris Agreement Article 9.1 is the main focus. The EU, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, and other developed countries stressed the programme's scope is climate finance, including Article 9.1 in the context of Article 9 as a whole, calling for a focus on implementation of the NCQG.

The LDCs called for consideration of the quality of finance, particularly the proportion of grants and the balance between adaptation and mitigation finance. The Arab Group suggested discussing burden-sharing arrangements among developed countries. AOSIS called for a practical plan to enhance provision and access to finance. On modalities, AILAC, the Arab Group, LMDCs, and others emphasized that the work programme must remain a CMA agenda item for consideration at CMA 8.

Reporting

Greenhouse Gas Data Interface

Under the Convention's and Kyoto Protocol's reporting requirements, Parties submit GHG inventories. The GHG data interface is an online tool facilitating access to information provided by Parties. SBSTA 61 and 62 had requested the Secretariat to further develop the interface. At SB 64, Parties expressed diverging views on what was agreed at SB 62 regarding the interface's development, specifically the flexible queries modules. The Arab Group, supported by China, stressed that the flexible queries module alters the context under which Parties agreed to submit data as it would allow users to compare Parties. The EU, UK, and Norway reiterated support to retain all modules.

Outcome: Parties were unable to reach agreement, and this item will be included in the SBSTA 65 agenda.

Support for Non-Annex I Reporting under the Convention



This item relates to support for non-Annex I Parties in implementing measurement, reporting, and verification arrangements under the Convention. SBI informal consultations were co-facilitated by Sandra Mothswandei (South Africa) and Ole-Kenneth Nielsen (Denmark). The UK noted that the reporting architecture has evolved and BTRs are now central, suggesting reduced frequency of consideration to avoid duplication. The

G-77/China cautioned that not all countries are reporting under the Paris Agreement, with the African Group pointing to flexibility for LDCs and SIDS.

Parties debated whether to agree on procedural conclusions and forward text to inform further discussions. The G-77/China opposed procedural conclusions without forwarding text. The UK and Japan opposed forwarding text that includes a paragraph noting with deep concern the 27% reduction in resources for the climate focal area between GEF-8 and GEF-9.

Outcome: Parties were unable to reach agreement, and this item will be included in the SBI 65 agenda.

Support for Developing Country Reporting under the Paris Agreement

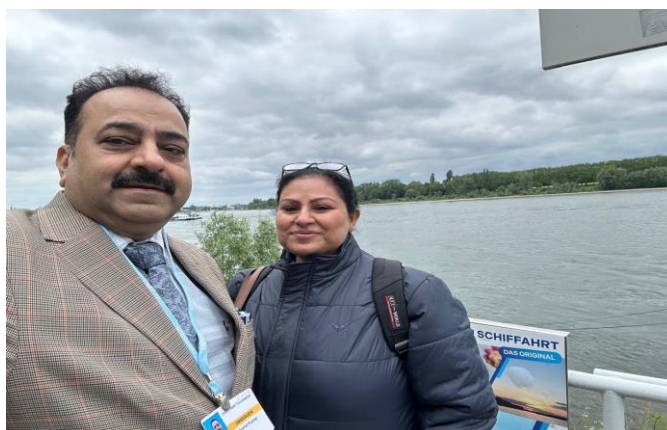
This item relates to financial and technical support to developing countries for implementing reporting obligations under the ETF. SBI informal consultations were co-facilitated by Sandra Mothswandei (South Africa) and Ole-Kenneth Nielsen (Denmark). The G-77/China called for using insights on challenges and lessons learned to tailor supporting activities. The African Group opposed text proposing that, if additional resources are needed, developing countries may draw from their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources allocation. The UK, supported by the EIG, EU, Norway, and Canada, opposed text expressing "deep concern" that GEF-9 resources are insufficient.

Outcome: Parties were unable to reach agreement, and this item will be included in the SBI 65 agenda.

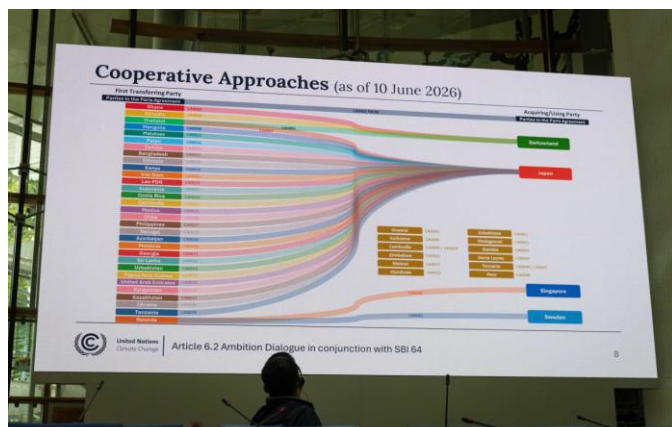
Technology

Host of the Climate Technology Centre

The CTC, established in 2010 as the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism and hosted by UNEP, provides technology solutions and capacity-building. COP 30 and CMA 7 extended the CTC's term until the end of 2041 and decided that the process for selecting the new host shall be



launched upon conclusion of SBI 63. At SB 64, discussions were based on the evaluation panel's assessment of proposals.



Most Parties supported selecting UNEP as the new host, with the G-77/China suggesting that UNEP should seek a partnership with the consortium between UNIDO and UNOPS as the other shortlisted candidate. UNEP highlighted commitment to partnerships and noted such an agreement could be arranged after finalization of the hosting MoU. The Arab Group underscored they were not in a position to move forward due to unequal treatment of their group's

proposals in other technology-related negotiations, emphasizing the need for equal treatment of technology items.

Outcome: The SBI recommended UNEP as the CTC host and encouraged UNEP to seek collaboration with potential partners. The Secretariat was requested to prepare the draft hosting MoU for consideration at SBI 65.

2025 Joint Annual Report of the Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network

The TEC and CTCN prepare a joint annual report on their respective activities. At SB 64, informal consultations were co-facilitated by Ashabrick Nanteg (Uganda) and Elfriede More (Austria). Parties debated whether to "welcome" or "note" the report, text on providing financial support, and reference to the GST. On 18 June, Parties converged on recommending draft COP and CMA decisions based on agreement reached in informal-informals, removing from the draft CMA decision the reference to a synergistic response to technology-related outcomes of GST 1.

Outcome: The SBs recommended draft decisions for COP 31 and CMA 8 welcoming the joint annual report, welcoming with appreciation implementation efforts and progress, and encouraging enhanced coordination and collaboration.

Second Periodic Assessment of the Effectiveness and Adequacy of Support to the Technology Mechanism

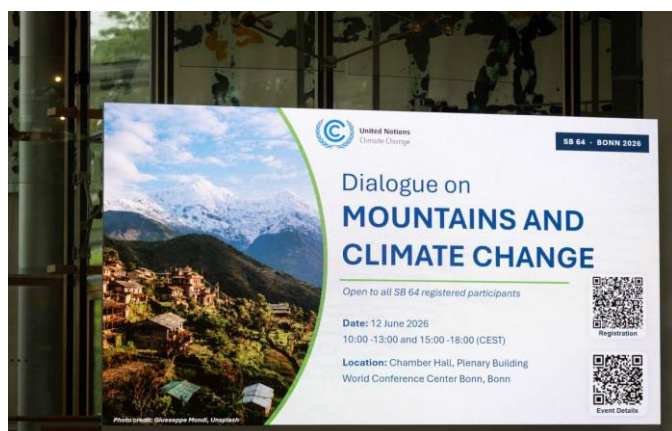
CMA 4 requested SBI 64 to initiate the second periodic assessment of support to the Technology Mechanism. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Penny Gasela (South Africa) and Stephen Minas (Cyprus). Several Parties provided suggestions for the assessment, while the EU and Japan cautioned against reopening the scope and modalities.

Outcome: The SBI noted initiation of the assessment, recalled its purpose and input to the GST, requested the Secretariat to prepare an interim report



for consideration at SBI 66, and specified areas for the Secretariat to consider in preparing the interim report.

Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism



COP 30 requested SBI 64 to continue consideration of this matter. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Céline Phillips (France) and Omar Alcock (Jamaica). On 17 June, delegates resolved the last remaining differences. The G-77/China underscored that this was the first time in five years concrete progress was made on this item.

Outcome: The SBI recommended a draft COP decision welcoming

collaboration between the TEC, CTCN, GEF, and GCF, recognizing the wide range of views on successes, gaps, and challenges, and acknowledging the importance of strengthening collaboration among national designated entities.

Just Transition Work Programme

The JTWp, established in 2022, recognizes that sustainable and just solutions must be founded on meaningful social dialogue and participation. At SB 64, the contact group, co-chaired by Joseph Teo (Singapore) and Federica Fricano (Italy), had three main tasks: finalizing terms of reference for a review of the JTWp at CMA 8, reflecting on the fifth dialogue, and advancing operationalization of the Just Transition Mechanism.

Initial exchanges focused on how to operationalize the JTM, with differing views on form and function. Women and Gender said the mechanism should be a constituted body, India said it should support means of implementation, and the UK opposed creating a new constituted body or financial mechanism. On the terms of reference for the review, the LMDCs, Arab Group, and Russian Federation opposed text on the relationship between the JTWp and other relevant instruments and processes.

On 17 June, the Co-Chairs proposed a "package" of text including SB conclusions, the terms of reference, and an informal note. Most Parties accepted the package, but the LMDCs wanted to amend the informal note to clarify it does not represent consensus. The Co-Chairs proposed alternative language calling for inputs to include areas of complementarity and coherence "if any," which Parties accepted.



Outcome: The SBs adopted conclusions (FCCC/SB/2026/L.2) welcoming the fifth dialogue, agreeing on the terms of reference to conduct the JTWp's review at SB 65 with a view to informing continuation of the work programme at CMA 8, and requesting the Secretariat to prepare a report on submissions.

Response Measures



Discussions on response measures address the side effects of climate action, particularly socioeconomic consequences of mitigation measures. At SB 64, a contact group co-chaired by Veronika Skolasztika Bagi (Hungary) and Peter Govindasamy (Singapore) considered case studies in the KCI's 2025 annual report, input for the technical assessment component of GST 2, and building awareness about analyzing and reporting on impacts.

The G-77/China emphasized that response measures must not impose a new burden on developing countries and expressed concern at significant delays in the KCI's work. The Arab Group and China said response measures should not create trade barriers. The Co-Facilitators prepared an informal note capturing discussions, but Parties were unable to agree on forwarding it. Disagreement arose over a paragraph requesting the KCI to prepare a synthesis report for GST 2. Despite further discussions, Parties were unable to reach agreement.

Outcome: The SBs could not conclude consideration and agreed to continue at SB 65.

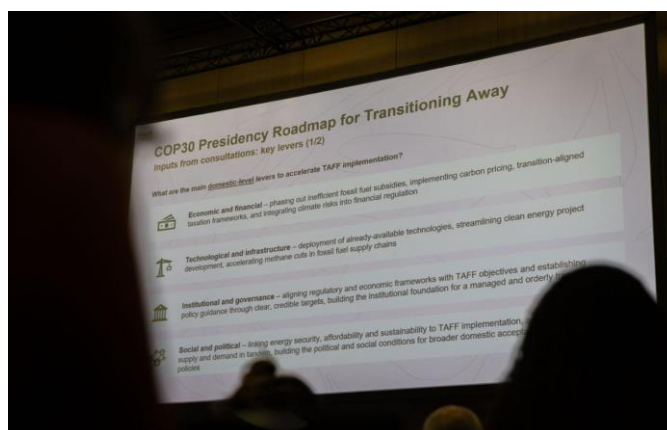
Dialogue on Opportunities, Challenges, and Barriers in Relation to Enhancing International Cooperation Related to the Role of Trade

This mandated event took place on 13 June as the first in a series of three trade dialogues. The Arab Group suggested fostering corrective action to end unilateral measures, cooperative action to ensure concerns are addressed, and remedial action if neither is achieved. The LMDCs called for operationalizing Article 3.5 of the Convention in a practical manner. China said the dialogues should clarify indicators of a supportive and open international economic system, map relevant climate-trade measures, and evaluate compliance with the Convention and Paris Agreement.

Following the dialogue, the SBI Chair convened a follow-up meeting to respond to Parties' questions on next steps. She shared the Secretariat's legal guidance that the Global Mutirão decision does not provide for a report or other formal follow-up from the Dialogue sessions. The Arab Group, African Group, and LMDCs called for a written report, while the EU observed that a report was mandated only after the three Dialogues and high-level event. The SBI Chair noted that the SB Chairs would prepare an "informal note under their own authority and with no legal status" as a record for incoming SB Chairs.

Capacity-Building

The SBI monitored implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries and economies in transition. At SB 64, these matters were taken up in informal consultations co-facilitated by Abze Digma (Burkina



Faso) and Marie Vadorinck (France). Outcome: The SBI adopted conclusions noting that further efforts are needed to address current and emerging capacity-building gaps and needs related to implementing the Paris Agreement in developing countries, and emphasizing the importance of the Durban Forum on capacity-building.

The SBI also recommended draft COP and CMP decisions on the fifth review of the capacity-building framework for developing countries under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol, respectively, as well as on the sixth review for economies in transition.

Agriculture



The joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security was taken up in informal consultations co-facilitated by Claudia Heidecke (Germany) and UnaMay Gordon (Dominica). The Arab Group proposed additions to draft text on the workshop held at SB 62, including on developed country support, technology transfer, and capacity-building. Views diverged on the future of the agenda item, with some Parties supporting

consideration at SBI 66 and others at SBI 65.

Outcome: The SBs could not conclude consideration and agreed to continue at SB 65.

Action for Climate Empowerment

At SBI 64, Parties were mandated to initiate a midterm review of the ACE work programme. Informal consultations were co-facilitated by Carol Simon (Panama) and Arne Riedel Escobar (Germany). Parties and observers highlighted inputs to inform the midterm review and activities for the new action plan, including improving accessibility and availability of financial and technical support, supporting attendance of national ACE Focal Points, and providing teacher training.

Outcome: The SBI adopted conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2026/L.4) welcoming the 2026 ACE Dialogue and technical workshop, agreeing to continue consideration of the midterm review on the basis of the informal note, inviting submissions on the informal note, and requesting the Secretariat to prepare a compilation for SBI 65.

Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings

Discussions on increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process and enhancing observer engagement were undertaken in a contact group co-chaired by Kaveh Guilanpour (Georgia) and Felix Wertli (Switzerland). On future sessions, the G-77/China called for including the climate finance work programme on the CMA 8 agenda, and the Arab Group called for an agenda item on NAPs. Parties debated limiting the number of



delegates, with the Arab Group, African Group, and China opposing encouraging Parties to limit Party overflow delegates to no more than 500.



On observer engagement, the Disability Caucus requested recognition as a full constituency and urged strengthening accessibility. Indigenous Peoples Organizations and Environmental NGOs called for a zero-tolerance approach to intimidation, harassment, reprisals, and violence against delegates.

Outcome: The SBI adopted conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2026/L.6) requesting the Secretariat to take note

of Parties' views regarding possible elements for the COP 31, CMP 21, and CMA 8 provisional agendas, highlighting the importance of participants abiding by the Code of Conduct, urging Parties to respect and support the role of presiding officers, and agreeing to continue consideration of increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process at SBI 66.

Cooperation with Other International Organizations

SBSTA informal consultations on enhancing synergies among the Rio Conventions were co-facilitated by Sara Victoria Gonzalez (Dominican Republic) and Heloise van Houten (the Netherlands). The EU, EIG, UK, AILAC, Mongolia, Canada, and Japan underscored the need to enhance synergies. The Russian Federation highlighted risks such as mandate creep and duplication. The Arab Group underlined that cooperation is already taking place through the Joint Liaison Group.

Outcome: Parties were unable to reach agreement, and this item will be included in the SBSTA 65 agenda.

Administrative, Financial, and Institutional Matters

The SBI developed draft decisions for COP 31 and CMP 21. Parties were briefed on the financial impact of the US withdrawal from the UNFCCC, which will cut core contributions by 21% or EUR 16.9 million over the 2028-29 biennium. The Secretariat also briefed Parties on budget implications of decisions taken at SB 64, noting additional total costs of approximately EUR 90,000 in 2026 and a slightly lower amount in 2027.

Outcome: The SBI recommended draft decisions for COP 31 and CMP 21 urging Parties that have not made contributions in full to do so without further delay, expressing concern at the level of outstanding contributions, expressing appreciation for contributions to trust funds, and requesting the Executive Secretary to continue taking measures to recover outstanding contributions.



Closing Plenary



The closing plenary on 18 June 2026 was marked by expressions of disappointment from numerous delegations about both the substance and the tone of the negotiations. The G-77/China expressed deep concern about progress on the GGA and regret at the lack of progress in agriculture talks, while welcoming the selection of UNEP as CTC host. The EU recognized some progress but said the pace is insufficient to meet the scale of the challenge, urging a focus on keeping 1.5°C within reach and expressing extreme disappointment at the GGA negotiations.

The EIG underscored science as the foundation of the UNFCCC process and stressed that science is not negotiable. The Umbrella Group stressed that climate action must be guided by the best available science and expressed disappointment at the lack of substantive conclusions on research and systematic observation. The Mountain Group highlighted the centrality of mountains to global climate issues and urged support for institutionalizing a mountain platform.

The LMDCs stated that equity and common but differentiated responsibilities are guiding principles for implementation. AOSIS expressed concern that "incremental progress" would not be enough for success in Antalya, regretting the lack of constructive discussion on finance and keeping 1.5°C within reach. The African Group said their hopes for a "shared sense of urgency and ambition" had not been met, regretting Parties "stonewalling" on adaptation.

BASIC expressed concern about declining financial support for developing countries and called for inclusion of the climate finance work programme in the CMA 8 agenda. The LDCs stressed they are looking not for promises but for action, calling for the highest climate ambition and condemning the lack of progress on GGA and MWP. AILAC lamented negotiation tactics standing in the way of implementation and argued that efforts to cast doubt on the best available science amount to "obstruction."

The Arab Group asserted that some developed countries have not honored adaptation funding obligations and expressed regret at inadequate progress on response measures, objecting to "politicization" and "selectivity" on climate science. P-SIDS expressed concern that the

negotiating process is putting 1.5°C under threat, asserting that there have been "subversive efforts to undermine science."

Turkiye, incoming COP 31 Presidency, highlighted COP 31 as a COP of implementation, turning commitment into action, and action into results. Australia, incoming COP 31 Presidency of Negotiations, expressed commitment to ensuring a transparent, inclusive, and predictable COP 31.

India's Position at SB 64



India played a prominent role at SB 64, aligning with the Like-Minded Group of Developing Countries (LMDCs) and the G-77/China on several critical issues while also asserting independent positions on specific agenda items.

On the Mitigation Work Programme, India firmly opposed forwarding the Co-Facilitators' "reflections paper" on the grounds that it did not adequately reflect the full range of views expressed by all Parties and contained elements outside

the MWP's mandate. India argued that the MWP's mandate is to enhance ambition and implementation "in this critical decade" and insisted that only the informal note from SB 63 should serve as the basis for continued discussions. This position aligned with the LMDCs and the African Group, creating a significant impasse with developed countries and other developing country groups that supported retaining all three documents. India emphasized that the MWP should not be expanded beyond its original mandate and that any future work must remain focused on the specific objectives established when the programme was created.

On the Global Goal on Adaptation, India's position reflected the broader developing country stance on the need for adequate means of implementation. India supported references in the GGA text to the Paris Agreement principles and provisions, and backed the call for a tripling of adaptation finance. India expressed disappointment with the revised draft text introduced by the Co-Facilitators and called for the removal of brackets around paragraphs concerning the GGA being implemented in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and Paris Agreement, as well as the paragraph urging full and urgent delivery of the call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035. India's insistence on these references reflected the broader developing country concern that adaptation cannot be effectively addressed without commensurate financial support, and that the GGA negotiations should not proceed in isolation from discussions on means of implementation.

On the Just Transition Work Programme, India advocated for the Just Transition Mechanism to support means of implementation. India opposed the creation of a new constituted body or financial mechanism for just transition, preferring to focus on how the mechanism can facilitate

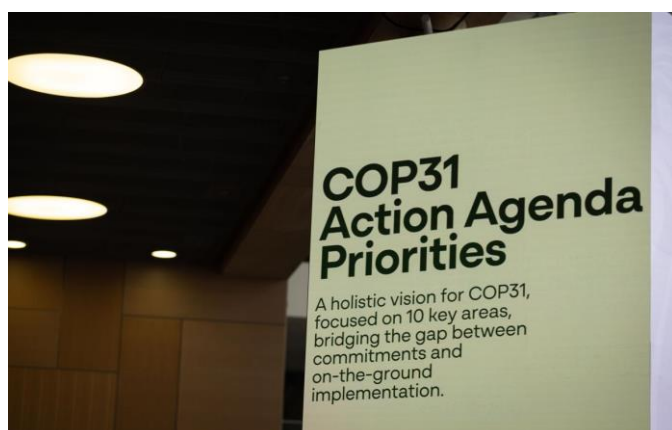
access to resources and technology for developing countries. India supported the LMDCs' position on the terms of reference for the JTWp review, particularly in limiting references to linkages and complementarity with other instruments and processes. When the Co-Chairs proposed alternative language calling for inputs to include areas of complementarity and coherence "if any," India was able to accept this compromise formulation.

On the Adaptation Fund, India aligned with the G-77/China in emphasizing that the issues of transition arrangements, Board membership, and the fifth review should be treated separately, calling for a separate decision text for each issue. India urged considering the transition first in order to ensure a swift monetization of the share of proceeds from Article 6.4 activities. This position reflected the broader concern that procedural disputes over Board membership should not delay the Fund's transition to exclusively serving the Paris Agreement and the flow of resources to support adaptation.

On the Climate Change and Trade Dialogue, India, as part of the BASIC group (Brazil, South Africa, India, China), suggested that the dialogue summaries should deliver an account of where Parties converge and differ. India supported the LMDCs' proposal for the SB 64 dialogue to focus on mapping existing measures and gaps, the SB 66 dialogue to foster corrective and cooperative measures, and the SB 68 dialogue to foster remedial approaches, including financial support commensurate with economic damage. This reflected India's concern about unilateral trade measures and their impact on developing countries' climate action.

In the closing plenary, BASIC expressed concern about the declining financial support for developing countries and called for inclusion of the climate finance work programme in the CMA 8 agenda. BASIC also called for ensuring the Just Transition Mechanism enables access to opportunity and means of implementation, increased support to developing countries to implement mitigation action, and delivery on commitments to at least triple adaptation finance. India's closing remarks, delivered through the BASIC statement, reflected a consistent emphasis on the importance of means of implementation for developing countries' climate action.

India's overall position at SB 64 was characterized by a defense of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, insistence on the provision of adequate means of implementation for developing countries' climate action, and concern about the erosion of previously agreed language on adaptation finance and the MWP's mandate. India consistently aligned with the LMDCs on procedural and substantive issues, while also asserting its own priorities on specific agenda items, particularly in relation to trade, finance, and the operationalization of the Just Transition Mechanism.



High-Level Policy Dialogue: Cross-Sector Partnerships for Water Security in a Climate Resilient World

SB64 Official Side Event | 16 June 2026 | Berlin Room, World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany



Background

The Dialogue took place at a pivotal moment in global climate governance. The SB64 session in Bonn represented the first major negotiating session since COP30 in Belém, with discussions focused on transitioning from high-level principles toward implementable support for countries. Concurrently, the COP31 Presidency (Turkey) and FAO unveiled the Turquoise Nexus Initiative, aimed at integrating food security, water management, and climate adaptation into national climate plans.

The global water crisis has reached unprecedented proportions. According to the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the planet has entered the era of "Global Water Bankruptcy" a condition where long-term water withdrawals have exceeded renewable inflows, and natural buffers such as aquifers, wetlands, glaciers, and rivers have been damaged beyond realistic prospects of full recovery. Approximately 70% of global freshwater withdrawals are used for agriculture, with over 170 million hectares of irrigated cropland facing high or very high water stress. Around 70% of major global aquifers show long-term declining trends. The loss of wetland ecosystem services alone is valued at over US\$5.1 trillion.

Against this backdrop, the Dialogue sought to address a fundamental governance failure: water policy continues to operate in silos, while climate strategies, urban planning, agriculture, energy, and ecosystem management move forward independently. The recognition that water is a "climate connector" a lever for resilience that can simultaneously drive climate adaptation, reduce disaster risk, and enable low-carbon development formed the conceptual foundation of the deliberations.



Interventions

Chair Address

Dr Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India



Dr Chaudhary provided the Government of India's perspective, situating water security within India's vast geographical diversity from the Himalayas to coastal plains. He highlighted that the impacts of climate change erratic monsoons leading to floods and droughts, glacial melt threatening river flows, and groundwater depletion stressing agriculture and ecosystems are already evident across the country.

He outlined India's climate action framework, anchored in its updated NDCs submitted in August 2022, which commit to reducing the emission intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030. Water is central to both the NDC and NAP frameworks. India's first National Adaptation Plan, submitted to the UNFCCC by September 2025, integrates water management into national planning as a dynamic, science-led, and community-informed process addressing sectoral vulnerabilities particularly in agriculture, health, disaster management, and ecosystems.

Dr Chaudhary highlighted India's flagship Namami Gange programme, which is evolving into a comprehensive basin management initiative combining pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. Under the programme, 524 projects have been sanctioned, with 355 projects (68%) completed as of February 2026. India's adaptation finance commitment has grown from 3.7% of GDP in FY16 to 5.6% in FY22, with adaptation investment needs projected at over US\$1 trillion between 2015 and 2030, with water as a top priority. On the mitigation front, India continues to enhance its carbon sink through the Green India Mission and national afforestation programmes.

Dr Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation

Dr Kumar opened the Dialogue with a compelling articulation of water as a system rather than a sector. He observed that climate impacts are increasingly being experienced through water, floods, droughts, groundwater depletion, glacier retreat, sea-level rise, and ecosystem degradation yet governance systems continue to address water, climate, biodiversity, agriculture, energy, and development in isolation.

He introduced the concept of "transversality" as essential to effective water governance, arguing that decisions taken in



agriculture, energy, urban development, and industry all shape water outcomes, just as water outcomes shape the success of those sectors. Water must be embedded from the outset into climate strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), biodiversity frameworks, infrastructure investments, and development planning.

Dr Kumar emphasised the need to govern the entire hydrological cycle including rivers, lakes, aquifers, soil moisture, evapotranspiration, groundwater recharge, wetlands, forests, and atmospheric moisture flows. He noted that resilience depends not only on managing "blue water" but also on understanding and governing "green water" the water stored in soils, vegetation, and ecosystems that sustains agriculture, regulates rainfall patterns, supports biodiversity, and underpins climate stability. Research suggests that human pressures on the freshwater cycle are approaching critical planetary limits, making water governance an Earth-system challenge.

He called for accelerating the transition from isolated projects to systemic solutions, combining ecosystem-based and engineered infrastructure ("green and grey" working together), leveraging technology and data including artificial intelligence and earth observation systems, embedding equity for women, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable communities, and rethinking finance through blended finance, public-private partnerships, water funds, and innovative risk-sharing mechanisms. He concluded: "Water is the operating system of climate resilience."

Dr Satya Tripathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet

Dr Tripathi delivered a passionate call to action centred on the imperative of incentivising climate champions at the grassroots level. He asserted that water is central to everything the survival of all species and climate change itself and that if the water problem can be solved, the climate problem can be solved.



He argued that the best ideas, initiatives, and technologies will not work unless climate champions at the bottom of the pyramid are incentivised. People making a difference every day cleaning up ponds, streams, rivers, or oceans deserve more than expressions of gratitude; they deserve tangible rewards.

Dr Tripathi shared the example of Andhra Pradesh's community-managed natural farming, which has now reached system scale. Approximately 2 million farmers, mostly women, have converted to synthetic chemical-free farming. Their work over the last decade was recognised with the Food Planet Prize, the world's largest environmental prize at US\$1.5 million. However, he argued that recognition alone is hollow unless individual farmers are rewarded.

He proposed a concrete mechanism: water credits. One acre of rice paddy, with average productivity of about 1.2 tons per acre in India, saves millions of litres of water approximately 50% savings in rice cultivation alone. A million litres is roughly equivalent to about 1,000 water credits. A water credit sells for about US\$1 in global markets, though unlike carbon credits, there is not yet a robust market. He called on global champions to engage major corporations Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Danone, Cargill, Mars, and others to negate their water footprints by rewarding farmers who are saving ecosystems and bringing back landscapes.

He noted that India alone has 120 million smallholders, and the world has 600 million smallholders. With an average family size of five, that represents about 3 billion people who could be lifted out of poverty while saving billions of gallons of water daily and restoring ecosystem health.

Dr Bjørn Hallvard Samset, Research Professor, CICERO

Dr Samset provided a scientific framing of the challenges facing the global water cycle. He noted that climate change is progressing ever more rapidly, with consequences for the water cycle becoming more apparent through changes in mean rainfall, seasons, monsoons, and extreme weather events. Science is clear that these changes will strengthen rapidly over the years and decades to come.

At the same time, society's needs are changing, and pressures on the water system are becoming ever stronger. On the scientific side, there is rapid progress in understanding the patterns of water changes how greenhouse gases, air pollution, and land-use change affect water availability. Scientists are developing tools to translate this knowledge into actionable information for policymakers and local stakeholders.

On the societal side, there is also rapid progress in climate adaptation and better usage of water resources. However, Dr Samset stressed a critical gap: there is a strong and growing need to link these efforts. The cross-sector partnership that he advocated is a stronger link between science and the tools being developed for translating new knowledge about water cycle changes and society stakeholders working with local adaptation. He emphasised that while this is always challenging, it is particularly important at this time when climate change is progressing so rapidly.



Dr Marianne T. Lund, Research Professor, CICERO

Dr Lund underscored that climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, with water emerging as the central medium through which many climate impacts are experienced. Global warming is already intensifying climate risks, affecting water security, food production, public health, livelihoods, infrastructure, and ecosystems worldwide.

She emphasised a critical scientific insight: changes in rainfall patterns and the hydrological cycle are not driven solely by greenhouse gas-induced warming but are also influenced by a complex interplay of human-induced factors, including aerosol emissions, land-use change, deforestation, urbanization, and irrigation practices. These drivers can alter precipitation patterns, monsoon systems, runoff intensity, and water availability at local, regional, and global scales.

While greenhouse gas emissions have increased precipitation contrasts and contributed to both wetter and drier conditions in different regions, aerosols have historically affected



monsoon dynamics and rainfall distribution, while land-use changes have modified evapotranspiration and regional water cycles. Given these interconnected pressures on water resources, Dr Lund stressed the need for adaptation strategies grounded in robust scientific understanding of climate-water interactions. She called for strengthened collaboration across sectors and disciplines to develop comprehensive, evidence-based approaches that enhance resilience and support effective water resource management in an increasingly uncertain climate future.

Ms Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation



Ms Tyagi, who moderated the Dialogue, provided framing remarks on the indispensable role of cross-sector partnerships. She noted that nearly 75% of the global population lives in water-insecure regions, while global freshwater demand is projected to exceed supply by up to 40% by 2030. Water-related shocks already threaten economic growth, food systems, health, biodiversity, and social stability.

She observed that water policy too often operates in parallel silos, while climate strategies, urban planning, and ecosystem management move forward independently. The next phase of progress requires countries to shift from fragmented sectoral strategies toward a shared water-climate-urban-ecosystem framework, using transversality and the water-energy-food nexus as organising principles for policy, planning, and investment. Evidence shows that when these principles are embedded through basin-level approaches, ecosystem-based solutions, and demand management, climate resilience can be enhanced across agriculture, cities, and natural ecosystems simultaneously.

Drawing on personal experience, Ms Tyagi emphasised that effective cross-sectoral partnerships evolve through clear stages initiation, formation, implementation, and review. Applied to water security, this means bringing together ministries, local governments, river-basin agencies, civil society, indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector around shared goals and transparent metrics from the outset. Equally important is monitoring and accountability. Regional observatories, open data platforms, science-driven solutions, and shared learning systems can help track progress on water, climate, and ecosystem indicators and enable timely course correction.

Ms. Milloni Doshi, Manager, Global Engagement and Partnerships at Environmental Defense Fund (EDF),

She highlighted the critical role of groundwater sustainability in building climate-resilient food and water systems. Emphasizing that nearly half of the global food supply depends on groundwater, she warned that this vital yet invisible resource is being depleted at a rate almost four times faster than natural recharge. She noted that groundwater supports over two billion people as their primary freshwater source, provides 40 percent of global domestic water supplies, sustains rivers and wetlands, and accounts for 70 percent of irrigation worldwide.



Ms. Doshi underscored the importance of leveraging data-driven solutions and innovative tools such as OpenET, developed through collaboration among EDF, NASA, Google, USGS, and academic institutions, to improve water-use efficiency and informed decision-making. She also highlighted ongoing initiatives in India, including the Water Security Toolbox, resilient groundwater governance frameworks, and OpenET implementation, while advocating for the Global Groundwater Resilience Declaration. Stressing that resilient water systems require an integrated approach, she called for stronger policy and governance, science-based data systems, community engagement, and sustainable financing to safeguard water and food security in a changing climate.

Ms. Daile (Iris) Zeng, PhD Student, University of British Columbia



She emphasized that water is one of the most visible pathways through which climate change affects people's daily lives, making water security central to climate resilience. She highlighted that water security must be addressed at the watershed level through an integrated approach that combines infrastructure development with upstream ecosystem protection, monitoring systems, and emergency preparedness. Underscoring the importance of bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and policy action, she noted that translating evidence into decision-making and public awareness into meaningful community participation remains a critical challenge. She further stressed that cross-sector partnerships involving governments, research institutions, development agencies, and local communities are essential for building resilient water systems.

Referring to reservoir management, she pointed out that renewable energy development must be carefully balanced with drinking water needs, irrigation, environmental flows, drought preparedness, livelihoods, and ecosystem health. She concluded by emphasizing that effective partnerships require shared data, clear priorities during climate-induced extreme events, and financing mechanisms that value community resilience alongside physical infrastructure, calling for a shift from fragmented sectoral approaches to basin-based and partnership-driven water governance.

Recommendations

Based on the interventions and deliberations during the Dialogue, the following recommendations emerge:

1. Embed Transversality Across All Governance Frameworks

Water must be integrated from the outset into climate strategies, NDCs, NAPs, biodiversity frameworks, infrastructure investments, and development planning. Decisions in agriculture, energy, urban development, and industry must be assessed for their water outcomes, and water considerations must inform all sectoral policies.

2. Strengthen Science-Policy-Local Stakeholder Linkages

There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between scientific understanding of water cycle changes and the practical needs of policymakers and local stakeholders. This requires developing and deploying tools that translate complex climate-water science into actionable adaptation strategies, and creating platforms for sustained dialogue between scientists, policymakers, and communities.

3. Accelerate the Transition from Isolated Projects to Systemic Solutions

The future lies in combining ecosystem-based and engineered infrastructure "green and grey" solutions working together to improve storage, reduce disaster risks, enhance ecosystem services, and increase long-term resilience at lower overall cost. Basin-level approaches and ecosystem-based solutions must become the norm rather than the exception.

4. Scale Innovative Financing Mechanisms

Blended finance, public-private partnerships, water funds, and innovative risk-sharing mechanisms can help bridge the investment gap while rewarding ecosystem protection, adaptation benefits, and social inclusion. Water credits present a promising mechanism to incentivise water conservation at scale, particularly for smallholder farmers. The global community must work to develop robust markets for water credits, drawing lessons from carbon markets but addressing their limitations.

5. Incentivise Grassroots Climate Champions

Policy and financing frameworks must be designed to reach and reward those at the grassroots level who are making a difference every day farmers adopting sustainable practices, communities restoring ecosystems, and local actors driving adaptation. Recognition alone is insufficient; tangible economic incentives are essential.

6. Address Multi-Factor Drivers of Water Cycle Change

Adaptation strategies must be grounded in robust scientific understanding of the complex interplay of factors affecting the hydrological cycle greenhouse gases, aerosols, land-use change, deforestation, urbanization, and irrigation practices. Comprehensive, evidence-based approaches are needed to address these interconnected pressures.

7. Establish Clear Stages for Partnership Development

Cross-sectoral partnerships must evolve through clear stages initiation, formation, implementation, and review with shared goals and transparent metrics from the outset. Regional observatories, open data platforms, and shared learning systems should track progress and enable timely course correction.

8. Align National and Local Platforms with Global Commitments

National and local partnership platforms must be aligned with global commitments under the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, regional water-climate frameworks, and the upcoming COP30 water and climate agendas.

Glimmers of Progress

Despite the overall disappointing outcomes, there were some areas of progress at SB 64. The agreement to select UNEP as the host of the Climate Technology Centre was a crucial achievement that ensures continued technological support to developing countries in 2027. While some noted that this effectively only extends a role UNEP has held for several years, the failure to reach agreement in Bonn would have jeopardized the provision of technical support and represented a significant setback.

Progress was also made on the Just Transition Work Programme, with Parties agreeing on the terms of reference for its review. The agreement on linkages between the Technology

Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism was described by the G-77/China as the first time in five years that concrete progress was made on this item. Parties also concluded several review processes related to capacity-building and considered progress made under several constituted bodies and work programmes.



Looking Ahead to Antalya

With only five months remaining until the next session in Antalya, Türkiye, the limited progress achieved at the June meetings left many delegates in low spirits. The prospect of starting negotiations "from scratch" on multiple agenda items, including the MWP, GGA, response measures, the GHG data interface, support for reporting, and cooperation with other international organizations, is daunting.

Those seeking glimmers of hope emphasized that the stakes are too high to lose hope. Some observed that the cooperation between Türkiye and Australia appears to be working out better than what many feared upon hearing that the two countries would be sharing the Presidency. Others found comfort in the fact that, although Antalya will be an important event, it will not be as critical as meetings further down the road, when Parties are expected to review the modalities of the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework or conclude the second Global Stocktake.

As one seasoned delegate observed, "While they have had relatively little time to prepare, there is an obvious determination to succeed, if not through negotiation tracks, then at least by fostering progress through the Action Agenda." Those willing the process to bounce back from the disappointments in Bonn will also be willing the Co-Presidents to enjoy every possible success as they navigate the potholed path ahead.

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Water Transversality: The New Frontier of Climate Resilience at SB64 Bonn

By PHN | Updated: June 23, 2026 10:15 IST

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Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary

Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

Dr. Bjorn H. Samset

Director, Center for International Climate Research

Mr. Satya S. Tripathi

Secretary General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet

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Placing Water Transversality in Global Climate Action for Resilience at SB64 Bonn

at Jun 20, 2026

PHN

Bonn [Germany], June 20: As an official side event of the 64th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) at the World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany; India Water Foundation (IWF), in partnership with CICERO (Center for International Climate Research) and AKO Foundation, convened a High-Level Policy Dialogue on 'Cross-Sector Partnerships for Water Security in a Climate Resilient World.'

The Dialogue brought together leading policymakers, scientists, researchers, and development practitioners to address one of the defining challenges of our time: placing water at the centre of climate action, sustainable development, and resilience-building. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India; Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation; Dr. Satya Tripathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet;

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Water Transversality: The New Frontier Of Climate Resilience At SB64 Bonn

The High-Level Policy Dialogue at SB64 Bonn is redefining climate resilience through water transversality, cross-sector partnerships, and integrated governance to tackle floods, droughts, water insecurity, and sustainable development challenges worldwide.

PHN
Published at: 23 June 2026 10:59 am

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Placing Water Transversality in Global Climate Action for Resilience at SB64 Bonn

By Pooja Verma | Jun 22, 2026 | #lifestyle

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Placing Water Transversality in Global Climate Action for Resilience at SB64 Bonn

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